

## Lithium (B2)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. Which of the devices that you use frequently have batteries in them?
2. Are they single-use batteries or rechargeable batteries?
3. Do you know whether any of them are lithium batteries?

### B – Listen and answer

*Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.*

1. The word *lithium* comes from a \_\_\_\_\_ word meaning ‘\_\_\_\_\_’.
2. It is extremely light and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The lithium on Earth was produced by the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. It was discovered by a Swedish chemist in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Scientists began working on a rechargeable lithium battery during the \_\_\_\_\_ crisis of the '70s.
6. The three countries with the largest reserves of lithium are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and Argentina.
7. One of the problems with lithium is that it's difficult to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In the EU, new petrol and diesel cars will be banned from \_\_\_\_\_ onwards.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. Why is the use of lithium-ion batteries expected to grow in the near future?
2. What lithium safety issue is mentioned in the article?
3. When was the first rechargeable lithium battery produced?
4. Why did it take so long for the use of this kind of battery to become widespread?
5. What are the two methods used to extract lithium?
6. Why are both considered controversial?
7. Why are electric vehicles still too expensive for most people?
8. What positive developments does the article foresee in the future?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)*

1. Last summer the grass in our local parks turned brown because of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We bought a special \_\_\_\_\_ to keep pigeons off our balcony, but it was a waste of money.
3. When I saw James a few minutes ago, he frowned at me. Is he angry or just in a bad \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Don't forget you promised to help us with the project. We're \_\_\_\_\_ you.
5. In the EU, the sale of single-use plastic cups, plates and cutlery has been \_\_\_\_\_ since 2021.
6. The robbers \_\_\_\_\_ to kill the shopkeeper unless he handed them the money from the till.

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: The word *lithium* originates from Greek.

**DERIVED** The name *lithium* is derived from a Greek word.

1. Lithium is soft enough to cut with a knife

BE Lithium is so soft \_\_\_\_\_ with a knife.

2. In 1855, enough pure lithium was produced for measurement.

SUITABLE In 1855 pure lithium was produced \_\_\_\_\_ for measurement.

3. Only in 2019 was lithium-ion technology optimised.

NOT It \_\_\_\_\_ that lithium-ion technology was optimised.

4. Demand for lithium is on the point of skyrocketing.

SET Demand for lithium \_\_\_\_\_ skyrocket

5. Most people can't afford EVs because they are still very expensive.

TOO EVs are still \_\_\_\_\_ to afford.

6. Some types of depression are treated using lithium, too.

TREATING Lithium \_\_\_\_\_ some types of depression.

### F – Talk about it

*In pairs or groups.*

1. What are the advantages of electric vehicles?

2. Are there any disadvantages?

3. Are there many electric vehicles in your town or area?

4. Are they mostly private vehicles, or also public transport and car-sharing vehicles?

5. Where are the charging points? Are there enough?

## **Answers**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. Greek – stone 2. soft 3. Big Bang 4. 1817 5. oil 6. Chile – Australia 7. recycle  
8. 2035

### **C – Read and answer**

1. Because these batteries are critical to the clean energy transition and they power the most-used electronic devices. 2. The issue of lithium fires, which are very difficult to put out. 3. It was produced in 1991. 4. Because the technology for its development needed to be optimised.  
5. The two methods are ore mining and extraction from salt deserts. 6. Mining is controversial because it damages the environment and makes use of chemicals. Extraction from salt deserts is controversial because locals say it can cause droughts. 7. Because the lithium used to produce their batteries is expensive. 8. The article foresees the discovery of more environmentally-friendly sources of lithium, better techniques for its extraction as well as battery recycling programmes.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. drought 2. device 3. mood 4. relying on 5. banned 6. threatened.

### **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. (that) it can be cut 2. in a suitable quantity/amount (*or*: in suitable quantities/amounts)  
3. was not until/till 2019 4. is set to 5. too expensive for most people 6. is also used in/for treating