

2 People didn't use to throw things away

2 READING

Read *Recycle now!* on page 76 of the Student's Book and do exercise 2. Then read more about recycling in *From aircraft to handicraft* below. Which of the recycled Airbus products do you think is the most creative?



What happens to planes when they reach the end of their flying days? Well, normally they are sold for scrap, and, until recently, about 50% of an old aircraft used to end up in landfill sites. People didn't use to worry about this much in the past, but the aviation industry is now making great efforts to reduce the amount of aircraft waste and to increase recycling.

And in a fascinating TV documentary, a group of talented designers in the UK were challenged to give new life to an old Airbus A320. Their task was to recycle every *single* part of the 45-tonne plane, and to make as many beautiful and useful things from it as possible.

The designers set to work on the Airbus in a massive workshop in Wembley, London, and they certainly rose to the challenge. They made a beautiful aluminium chair and sofa from part of the plane's wing. They created toy box benches that used to be overhead lockers in the aircraft cabin. Aircraft windows were turned into clocks, and passenger seats into stylish desk lamps and bar stools. Seat belts and fabric from the seats became attractive luggage. Pretty lampshades were made from electrical wiring, and gold jewellery was made from other electrical components. And a stunning garden office used to be part of the fuselage (the main body of the plane).

The designers managed to recycle the entire aircraft, sending nothing to landfill. They also showed that creativity and clever design can be the solution to the problem of waste, and that 'rubbish' can be a valuable resource. All profits from the sale of the new products are going to a children's charity.

3 AFTER READING

Answer the questions about *Recycle now!* on page 76 of the Student's Book. Then answer these questions about *From aircraft to handicraft*.

- 1 What used to happen to a large amount of materials from old planes?

- 2 What were the two challenges for the designers in the TV documentary?

- 3 List the 10 different recycled products mentioned in the text, and say what part(s) of the aircraft each of the items used to be.

- 4 How do we know the designers met the challenge?

- 5 What additional financial benefit of their achievement is mentioned?

Now look at *Your response* on page 76 of the Student's Book.