Unit 8

1 **Match the words/phrases (1–6) with their definitions (a–f).**

1 fossil fuel	**a** equipment that collects the sun's energy to make electricity
2 renewable	**b** a large factory where an industrial process happens
3 solar panel	**c** able to replace itself naturally or easily
4 turbine	**d** a source of energy like oil or gas that was formed millions of years ago from dead plants
5 battery	**e** a large machine that produces power by using wind to turn a wheel
6 plant	**f** an object that provides electricity for something such as a smartphone or car

2 **Read the article quickly. Match the figures in the box with the information.**

7	45	50	85	318	930

1 global investment in fossil fuels last year ($bn)
2 global investment in renewable energy last year ($bn)
3 typical price of a barrel of oil between 2005 and 2014 ($)
4 China's share of total global investment in solar power (%)
5 number of green cars that the Chinese government wants by 2025 (million)
6 Asia's share of energy use in the world in the next 20 years (%)

3 **Read the article again and decide if these statements are *true* (T) or *false* (F).**

1 The world is rapidly changing to renewable energy like solar and wind.
2 The fall in the price of oil to $50 a barrel was good for green energy.
3 The most difficult part of solar energy is installing the solar panels in hot, dry deserts.
4 China is an expert in the study of batteries.
5 Many consumers do not like electric vehicles because they have to connect the car to an electricity supply every few days.
6 Tesla does not have battery farms outside of the USA.
7 Tesla is working with a Chinese company to build a huge battery plant in Qinghai province.
8 In the future, Asia might use little of the world's energy.

4 **Look at the phrases in bold in the article. Then choose the meaning (a or b) of each phrase.**

1 **a** not using as many fossil fuels as before
b not being able to find enough fossil fuels
2 **a** Green energy is now more expensive in relation to oil.
b Green energy is now cheaper in relation to oil.
3 **a** very easy
b quite easy, compared to other things
4 **a** China is in front of another country, and is going faster and faster.
b China is behind another country, but is going fast and will soon be at the same level.
5 **a** The amount of electricity and other forms of power that people want.
b When there isn't enough electric power and so people ask the government for more.

5 **Fill in the missing letters to make words from the article.**

1 The fi_____es show that the world is slowing shifting from fossil fuels.
2 The price of oil fe_____ to around $50 a barrel.
3 China holds 45 percent of the total global invest_____ in solar power.
4 Electric vehicles are a major green business opp_____unity of the future.
5 The market for EVs will be limi_____ .
6 The f_____us of the world economy is slowly moving to the Asia-Pacific.

6 **Sofia is giving some advice to her friend Miguel. Complete what she says using *should*, *shouldn't* and *could*.**

1 Miguel, your car is so old. It keeps breaking down. You really _____ drive it anymore.

2 Miguel, you know you were talking about electric cars the other day? And you said they were too expensive? Well, how about asking your parents to help with the money? Or maybe you _____ get a loan from the bank?

3 Miguel, an electric car would be perfect for you. You only drive a short distance to work. I really think you _____ think about buying one.

China now the leading player in green energy

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a new energy report. The figures in it show that the world is [1]**slowly shifting from fossil fuels** such as oil, gas and coal, to renewables such as solar and wind. But the pace of change is slower than you might think. Last year, businesses invested $930bn in fossil fuels, while investment in renewables was much less, at $318bn.

One reason why green energy is not growing so fast is the price of oil. From 2005 to 2014, oil was around $85 a barrel, but after that it fell to around $50 a barrel. Of course, this created problems for companies like ExxonMobil, Shell and Chevron. But it also created problems for [2]**green energy, which is now less competitive**.

Another issue for green technology is batteries. It [3]**is relatively easy** to place tens of thousands of solar panels in a hot desert area, or hundreds of wind turbines just off the coast. The problem is storing the energy that is produced in batteries. China has become a world leader in research into battery technology, and is a clear leader in green energy more generally. For example, China holds 45 percent of the total global investment in solar power, according to the IEA report.

It is a similar story with electric vehicles (EVs), a major green business opportunity of the future. The car itself is not so difficult to build, but the market for EVs will always be limited if cars need recharging every few days. Tesla has giant EV battery farms in California and South Australia, but [4]**China is catching up**. BYD, China's largest EV maker, has opened a huge battery plant in Qinghai province. As part of its long-term plans, the Chinese government is hoping for 7 million eco-friendly cars by 2025.

It is well known that the focus of the world economy is slowly moving to the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. The IEA report confirms this – Asia could