

# Total English

## Advanced

### Solar power!

1 Go to <http://home.clara.net/darvill/altenerg/index.htm>. Click on 'Solar' on the left and answer the following questions.

- How much of the sun's energy actually hits the earth? (an exact figure not needed)
- Click on 'How it works' at the top of the page. What do solar cells do?
- Give an example of something which operates using a solar cell.
- How does solar water heating work?
- How does solar water heating save on gas and electricity in the home?
- Which world locations are particularly suitable for solar water heating?
- How do solar furnaces manage to produce very high temperatures?
- How does the Solar One Power Station in California make electricity?
- What is the disadvantage of solar power in countries like the UK?

2 Scroll back to the top of the page. Work with a partner and choose three of the forms of power on the left. Write three facts about each form of power below.

Power: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Power: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Power: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Total English

Advanced

## *Solar power!*

### **TEACHER'S NOTES:**

**Aim:** to use the Internet to explore the theme of power. This webquest is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 6.

**Time:** 40 minutes

**Materials:** a copy of the worksheet for each student

- 1 Ask students what they know about alternative forms of power. Can they list any – e.g. solar, wind, hydro?

Now check that they have logged on to the correct website. Students can answer questions in pairs or alone. Elicit answers from the class.

**Answers (correct at time of going to press):** a) a tiny fraction; b) They convert light directly into electricity; c) a calculator; d) Heat from the sun is used to heat water in glass panels on a roof; e) If the water is heated up by the sun, then gas and electricity is not needed to heat the water; f) Sunny places like California and Australia; g) a huge array of mirrors concentrates the sun's energy into a small space; h) It uses the sun's heat to make steam which in turn drives the generator; i) Because the UK is not a particularly sunny climate not that much solar power can be produced so the UK tends to use it for low-power applications.

- 2 Students scroll back to the top of the page and read through the other sources of power on the left hand side of the page. Tell them to work with a partner and choose three forms of power. Students write three facts about each one. Monitor while they work in case they have any questions. Ask students to read out their facts to the pair next to them.



Copyright © 2007 Pearson Education.  
All rights reserved. [www.longman.com/totalenglish/](http://www.longman.com/totalenglish/)

