



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Do you know what kinds of markets there are in your town/neighbourhood?
- 2 What do they sell? Who goes there?
- 3 Do you like going to markets?
- 4 Do you think markets are cheaper than shops?
- 5 Are markets more fun to visit than shops?

Henry Mayhew (1812–1887) wrote about the people who lived and worked in London in the Victorian period. This extract is from a chapter where he describes the markets and shops of London. He writes about the very busy Saturday market and then describes the Sunday markets.

- 1 As you read the text, try to think how the market looks.

'The Sunday Markets' (1865)

Henry Mayhew

For a few hours on Sunday morning, the noises of the Saturday night market are repeated. Because many workers are **paid** late on the Saturday night, the Sunday market is the only chance of getting the Sunday dinner.

- 5 Of all these Sunday-morning markets, the Brill, perhaps, is the busiest scene. The streets in the neighbourhood are quiet and empty. The shops are closed and the people you see are dressed in their **shiny** Sunday clothes. There are no taxis or buses and men walk safely in the road.
- 10 As you enter the Brill, the market is quiet, but with each step it gets louder with noisy shouting until, at last, you hear the **confusion** of a thousand voices talking at once. The road and footpath are **crowded**, the men are standing in groups, smoking and talking; while the women run
- 15 around shopping for vegetables and meat. Only a few of the shops are closed and the **butcher** and baker are **surrounded** by customers The **pavement** is green with the leaves of vegetables, boys are running home with their



- breakfast in a piece of paper, suddenly the church **bells**
- 20 ring. The cries grow louder, the confusion greater. People run about and push because in half an hour the market will close. Soon the butcher closes his window but leaves the door open; the policemen in their clean gloves come round and make the street-sellers leave, and as the clock strikes
- 25 eleven the market finishes, and the Sunday rest begins.

GLOSSARY

paid	given money for the work you did
shiny	very bright or clean
confusion	a situation that is confusing because there is a lot of noise and activity
crowded	very full of people
butcher	someone who prepares and sells meat
surrounded	have a lot of people or things near you
pavement	a path by the side of the road people walk on
bells	hollow metal objects that make a ringing sound

