

"Invisible" helmet for cyclists invented

14th November, 2013



Two Swedish design students have invented a totally new kind of bicycle helmet. People are saying it's invisible because you cannot see it on a cyclist's head. The "invisible" helmet is really a kind of airbag. It is inside a large collar. People wear it around their

neck like a scarf. When the cyclist falls off his/her bike, the collar quickly fills with gas and an airbag surrounds the head. The two students, Anna Haupt and Terese Alstin, wanted to change the way people cycle. They said: "Bicycle helmets have always been the same. They're so bulky, like a hard mushroom on your head." They called their new invention the Hövding. The pair said it looks so fashionable that "people would be happy to wear it".

The inventors started research and development on the Hövding in 2005. They examined thousands of cycling accidents. They wanted to find out how to make the safest helmet. They then teamed up with a Swedish airbag company called Alva. Today, the Hövding company has a staff of 17 employees. They hope their helmet will change how people all over the world cycle. In their video, Haupt and Alstin said: "Cars are so yesterday. Bikes are the future." They also said their invention would make them millionaires. People can only buy the Hövding helmet online in Europe. It sells for around \$530. The company did not say when it would be available in the rest of the world.

Source: <http://www.hovdding.com>

Writing

It should be illegal to ride a bicycle without wearing a helmet. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

design / bicycle helmet / invisible / airbag / scarf / cyclist / bulky / mushroom / inventors / research / accidents / employees / cars / millionaires / online / available

True / False

- The two inventors of the helmet are from Norway. T / F
- The helmet is really a collar with an airbag inside it. T / F
- When a cyclist falls off his/her bike, he/she quickly fills with air. T / F
- The new helmet was designed to look like a bulky mushroom. T / F
- The inventors started work on their helmet more than five years ago. T / F
- The two women teamed up with a cycling goods company. T / F
- The women believe they will become millionaires from their helmet. T / F
- People in Europe can buy the helmet today, but not those in the USA. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. invented | a. collaborated |
| 2. quickly | b. big |
| 3. surrounds | c. on sale |
| 4. bulky | d. created |
| 5. fashionable | e. workers |
| 6. examined | f. stylish |
| 7. teamed up | g. speedily |
| 8. employees | h. looked at |
| 9. buy | i. encircles |
| 10. available | j. purchase |

Discussion – Student A

- Do you ever worry about having a cycling accident?
- Should the designers now work on an airbag suit for cyclists?
- What do you think of the idea of airbag knee pads and elbow pads?
- How safe do you think the invisible helmet is?
- Do you agree that "cars are so yesterday"?
- How will the Hövding helmet change cycling around the world?
- Do you want a Hövding helmet?
- What questions would you like to ask the designers, Anna and Terese?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. a totally new kind | a. like a scarf |
| 2. it's invisible because | b. rest of the world |
| 3. People wear it around their neck | c. development |
| 4. the collar quickly fills with gas and an | d. of bicycle helmet |
| 5. They're so bulky, | e. accidents |
| 6. research and | f. airbag surrounds the head |
| 7. thousands of cycling | g. for around \$530 |
| 8. Cars are so | h. you cannot see it |
| 9. It sells | i. yesterday |
| 10. available in the | j. like a hard mushroom |

Discussion – Student B

- How useful are bicycle helmets?
- Would you choose to wear a bicycle helmet or not wear one?
- How dangerous is cycling and what are the dangers?
- What do you think of the "invisible" helmet?
- Why does such good design always come out of Sweden?
- Would you choose to wear the Hövding helmet of a normal helmet?
- Is it important for a helmet to be fashionable?
- What changes would you make to a normal bicycle helmet?

Spelling

- Two Swedish niesdg students
- a altltyo new kind of bicycle helmet
- It is inside a large aollrc
- an airbag ndsursour the head
- They're so ykblu
- it looks so snhofblaeia
- The vosreintn started research
- thousands of cycling ictdncae
- find out how to make the efasts helmet
- a staff of 17 ymelsoeep
- make them mianrilesoil
- iealaalby in the rest of the world

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. h	7. a	8. e	9. j	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Bicycle helmet

You think bicycle helmets are the best things to make invisible. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these to be invisible (and why): electrical wires, wrinkles or e-mails sent by mistake.

Role B – Electrical wires

You think electrical wires are the best things to make invisible. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these to be invisible (and why): bicycle helmets, wrinkles or e-mails sent by mistake.

Role C – Wrinkles

You think wrinkles are the best things to make invisible. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these to be invisible (and why): electrical wires, bicycle helmets or e-mails sent by mistake.

Role D – E-mails sent by mistake

You think e-mails sent by mistake are the best things to make invisible. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these to be invisible (and why): electrical wires, wrinkles or bicycle helmets.

Speaking - Invisible

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best things to be invisible at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • electrical wires | • insects |
| • tanks | • trash / garbage cans |
| • wrinkles | • e-mails sent by mistake |
| • fat | • buildings |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.