

# Language for ...

## the environment

### 1 Warmer



**a.** You are going to find out about either Earth Day or World Environment Day. Use the internet to find answers to the following questions:

- What is Earth Day / World Environment Day, and when is it?

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- In what year was the first Earth Day / World Environment Day?

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- What is the theme of Earth Day / World Environment Day this year?

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Now partner with someone from the other group and tell them what you have found out.

**b.** What four words do you think best summarize *Earth Day / World Environment Day*?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2 Listening

- a. ☉ Listen to Derek and Lizzie talking about what they do to protect the environment. What do neither of them do?

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. ☉ Listen again and decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. Lizzie is sometimes unsure about what can and can't be recycled.
2. Derek lives in a house with a garden.
3. Derek and Lizzie both think recycling is easy where they live.
4. Derek drives to work.
5. Lizzie will book flights in the future.
6. Derek thinks that local governments should do more to help people recycle.
7. Lizzie thinks that the effects of plastic pollution can be dealt with quickly.

- c. ☉ Listen again and complete what the speakers say with the correct words.

1. Derek: 'I \_\_\_\_\_ my typical food waste from paper, and that sort of thing.'
2. Lizzie: 'When I go to the supermarket I try not to take those little \_\_\_\_\_ ...'
3. Derek: '... there's just one \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and everything goes in that.'
4. Lizzie: 'You've got a separate bin for your recycling products to your \_\_\_\_\_.'
5. Derek: '... when they do send you products that you've bought online there's a huge amount of \_\_\_\_\_.'
6. Lizzie: '... we've happily used plastic and not really thought about the impact of \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ every day.'

- d. Match these words from the audio (1-6) with the words with a similar meaning (a-f).

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. promote         | a. plan       |
| 2. straightforward | b. encourage  |
| 3. debate          | c. reduce     |
| 4. policy          | d. discussion |
| 5. mitigate        | e. effect     |
| 6. impact          | f. easy       |

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### 3 Language in use

- a. Read the comments from Silvia and Beth and then choose the best option to complete the statements below.

**Sylvia:**

I love going on holiday abroad, and all that stuff about climate change is not going to stop me buying cheap flights. There's also no way I would cycle or walk to work – I live quite near to the office but a five-minute journey by car is so much quicker and more convenient. I also buy exactly what I want from the supermarket. I really enjoy cooking, so I just get the things I need, whatever the time of year – the fact that a vegetable travelled right across the world really doesn't worry me. I do my best to recycle stuff but, I have to be honest, sometimes I'm lazy and things end up in the bin. One thing I really must do though is stop leaving lights on everywhere ...

**Beth:**

My flatmate and I are trying to be much greener. We're throwing much less food and rubbish away and trying to recycle and reuse as much as possible. We're also trying to remember to switch lights and our laptops off when we're not using them, which saves us money, too! When I go to the supermarket, I try not to use plastic bags and I've started to think a bit more carefully about packaging and where food comes from. It's too far for me to walk to work, so I usually cycle, and if the weather is bad I get the bus – in fact I'm thinking of selling my car because I don't use it very much these days.



1. Beth / Silvia has to buy petrol regularly.
2. Beth / Silvia has reduced her electricity bill.
3. Beth / Silvia takes her own shopping bags to the supermarket.
4. Beth / Silvia often uses public transport.
5. Beth / Silvia thinks that air travel is more important than the environment.
6. Beth / Silvia buys vegetables that are grown in other countries.
7. Beth / Silvia doesn't usually throw reusable things, like plastic bottles, away.

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**b Who has the biggest environmental footprint, Silvia or Beth? Think about what you did in the past month – who were you most like?**

**c Match the words to make phrases often used when talking about the environment.**

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. landfill  | a. layer     |
| 2. global    | b. resources |
| 3. renewable | c. change    |
| 4. household | d. warming   |
| 5. ozone     | e. site      |
| 6. climate   | f. energy    |
| 7. natural   | g. waste     |

**d Now complete the sentences below with phrases from exercise c. In one sentence, two answers are possible.**

1. More than 80 per cent of the city's plastics, paper and general rubbish is still dumped in the local \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We've made a real effort to be more green and are now recycling almost all of our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Wood, oil and other \_\_\_\_\_ are rapidly running out and cannot easily be replaced.
4. Could \_\_\_\_\_ such as wind and solar power be the solution to the problem?
5. Pollution in the air has caused holes to appear in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Scientists universally agree that carbon dioxide pollution is a major cause of \_\_\_\_\_.

## 4 Communicate - 'green living'



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### Research and prepare a presentation.

Look again at these questions from the audio. Now use them to interview two of your classmates about their environmental footprints. How do their recycling and other habits compare with your own? Are there things that others do that you don't? Or vice versa?

Do you recycle your rubbish?

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

Do you compost your food waste?

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

Where you live, is it easy or difficult to recycle?

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

Do you think about your environmental footprint? Does this affect what you buy or do?

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

Do you think we're doing enough to protect the environment?

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

Share your survey results with someone else in the class. Together, create a presentation about 'green living' – what are some members of the class doing to protect the environment? Include a summary of useful tips, and add your thoughts on what more could be done by yourselves, people generally, or governments, organizations, etc.

### 5 Discuss - upcycling

Do you know what *upcycling* is? Have you ever bought an *upcycled* product?

#### Red Words

attitude\*\*\*

behaviour\*\*\*

damage\*\*\*

environment\*\*\*

environmental\*\*\*

green\*\*\*

plastic\*\*\*

pollution\*\*\*

protect\*\*

recycle\*

reduce\*\*\*

waste\*\*\*