

How coconuts are starting to fuel parts of Papua New Guinea

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

Article summary: This article discusses using coconut biodiesel as an alternative energy source.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Past simple v present perfect

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to get students thinking about alternative fuel or energy sources. Ask students to work in pairs and fill out the mind map. Check answers as a class.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to work individually or in pairs and complete the sentences using key words from the text. Tell them all the words in the article so they can see them in context if they are unsure about their meaning. Allow some minutes for students to check answers in pairs or groups of three before checking with the whole group.

Key:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. cargo | 6. renewable |
| 2. alternative | 7. widely |
| 3. estate | 8. profitable |
| 4. dependence | 9. sustainable |
| 5. investors | 10. shift |

- b. Ask students to work in pairs again to complete the sentences using words from the previous exercise.

Key:

1. profitable
2. renewable
3. alternative
4. investors
5. shift

3. Comprehension check

- a. Students first read the statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the article. Students correct the false sentences to make them true.

Key:

1. False. They have become less valued in international markets over the years.
2. True
3. False. Production is growing.
4. True
5. True
6. False. Getting volume and quality to levels at which it may be exported could take years and significant investment, but with local government support, it should be possible.

4. Key language

- a. Ask students to look at the sentences from the article and answer the questions in pairs.

Key:

1. was, began, developed; decades ago, in 2007
2. has become (x 2); over the years (x 2)

- b. Students work in pairs again to complete the sentences with the correct verb form in brackets (Past Simple or Present Perfect). Remind them to pay attention to the words and phrases that can help them decide.

Key:

1. started (in 2004)
2. told (many years ago)
3. has worked (or has been working) (for three years now)
4. have bought (or have been buying) (since 2022)
5. learnt (last month).

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the statements from the article and provide reasons for their opinions, referring to their own experiences whenever possible.

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6. In your own words

- a-b. This task can be assigned as homework individually or in pairs. Ask students to do some online research, gather information about another renewable energy source, and prepare a presentation, including its benefits and challenges.