

Topics: Environment by Adrian Tennant

LEVEL: Pre-intermediate
AGE: Teenagers / Adults
TIME NEEDED: 90 minutes + project
LANGUAGE FOCUS: Mixed tenses, understanding vocabulary in context, topic words

LEAD-IN

Put students in pairs and ask them to match the words in the box to the correct pictures. Check the answers together.

Key a _____
 1. congestion; 2. recycling; 3. litter; 4. solar energy;
 5. allotment (a plot of land where people grow vegetables, etc.); 6. landfill

Next, put the students into small groups to talk about what they know about the issues in the pictures. Monitor and help where necessary, then have whole-class feedback.

READING 1: HEADLINES

Ask students to work in small groups and discuss what each heading might be about. Monitor and help where necessary. Finally, open it out into a class discussion and write up some of the ideas on the board.

READING 2: COUNCIL LEAFLET

Ask students to read through the texts and match the headlines to the correct story. After a few minutes, put students in pairs and get them to check their answers together before checking as a class.

Key a _____
 1. Feed the world! Well, start with your family; 2. Cycle, don't drive; 3. Cleaner streets for the town; 4. One green, one brown and one black; 5. Make money from the sun!

Next, ask the students to try to answer the five comprehension questions. Again, get students to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

Key b _____
 1. £100; 2. grow vegetables or other things, keep chickens;
 3. installing solar panels; 4. on the council website; 5. green (you could also elicit 'bottle bank')

WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Ask students to look at the five extracts from the leaflet and try to think which tense is being used. Next, ask students to look at the five tenses listed in the box and to try and match each one to the correct sentence. Tell them to work in pairs to check their answers together before checking as a class.

Key _____
 1. present simple; 2. present perfect; 3. future continuous;
 4. simple future passive; 5. future simple

Note: If students haven't learnt all five tenses before, then tell them not to worry. Looking at the sentences in context will help them to work out why each tense has been used, i.e. what time does the sentence refer to? Is the action more important than the person who does the action?

WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Focus 1: Meaning

Ask students to look back at the leaflet and find words that match the definitions. Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas together. If students get stuck, suggest they look at the next activity to see if this helps them. Check the answers as a class.

Key _____
 1. have green fingers; 2. leases; 3. marked; 4. route; 5. attempt
 6. patrolling; 7. households; 8. announced; 9. installing;
 10. subsidy

Focus 2: Topic-related words

Ask students to read the five sentences and circle the correct word in each to complete it. Encourage the students to look back at the stories in the leaflet to help them. Get the students to check their ideas with their partner before checking the answers as a class.

Key _____
 1. cycle; 2. waste; 3. solar; 4. littering; 5. green

**Topics: Environment
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Ask students to listen to a short excerpt from a local radio show. Ask them which of the stories from the leaflet it is similar to and also what the differences are between the story and the radio show. Play the recording again, if necessary, and check the answers as a class.

Key

It is similar to story 3 but the main topic is different – the radio show is about parking, whereas the story on the leaflet is about littering. Also, the radio show is about something which has already been introduced, whereas the leaflet is talking about something which is happening next week. The other differences are: traffic wardens / community wardens; £50 / £100 fine; extra information in the radio show about the mayor being fined.

Transcript:

... and in local news, last week, Townsville District Council introduced increased fines for illegal parking. Traffic wardens can now fine motorists who park in the wrong place a maximum of £50. The funny thing is that the first person to pay the fine was the mayor of the town!

SPEAKING

Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the questions together.

Afterwards, ask a few groups to report back on their discussion. You could open this out to the whole class.

PROJECT

Ask students to carry out the project for homework, either individually or in pairs / groups, and follow it up in the next lesson.

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LEAD-IN

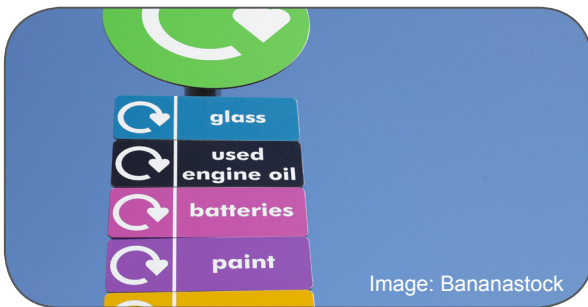
a. Look at the pictures and match the words in the box to the correct one.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| allotment | congestion | landfill |
| litter | recycling | solar energy |

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



b. In groups, discuss what you know about each of the six issues in the pictures.

READING 1: HEADLINES

Read the headlines. Which aspect of the environment do you think each one is about?

ONE GREEN, ONE BROWN
AND ONE BLACK

FEED THE WORLD!
WELL, START WITH
YOUR FAMILY

MAKE MONEY
FROM THE SUN!

CLEANER STREETS FOR THE TOWN

CYCLE, DON'T DRIVE

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READING 2: COUNCIL LEAFLET

a. Read the leaflet below and match the headlines from the previous exercise to the correct story.

Do something for your local environment

In this issue, we look at things we can do for our local environment.

1. _____
Do you want to grow your own vegetables or keep a few chickens? Do you think you have green fingers? There are almost one hundred allotment sites available on three-year leases. All the sites are available on a first come, first served basis. Interested? Then give us a call.

2. _____
Do you drive to work? Could you cycle? We have built lots of new cycle lanes in the last two years. They are clearly marked and you can find a complete route map on our website. Remember, cycling is not only good for the environment but will also help you stay healthy.

Townsville
District Council



3. _____
In the last few weeks, lots of new bins have been placed along the high street in an attempt to keep our town tidy. Our community wardens will be patrolling the streets and will fine anyone who drops litter. The fine for littering is £100.

4. _____
Starting this month, we're introducing a new system of recycling. Households will be given three bins. The green one is for recyclable rubbish, such as paper, plastic, glass and card; the brown one is for garden and food waste and the black bin is for all other rubbish. New collection times will be announced soon.

5. _____
You can save money on your energy bills by installing solar panels on the roof of your house. For the next six months, we are offering a subsidy of up to £1,000 to people who want to fit the panels on their roof.

Any questions? Call 0908 551 273 and speak to Sam Davies or Olayinka Direto or visit www.townsvillegoesgreen.gov.uk for more information.

b. Read the texts again and answer these questions.

1. How much is the fine for dropping litter?
2. What can you do on an allotment?
3. What will the council give you money for?
4. Where can you find a cycle route map?
5. Which bin do you use if you want to throw away bottles?

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WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Match the tenses from the box to the extracts from the texts.

future continuous future simple present simple
simple future passive present perfect

1. There are almost a hundred allotment sites available ...
2. We have built lots of new cycle lanes ...
3. Our community wardens will be patrolling the streets ...
4. Households will be given three bins.
5. ... we are offering a subsidy of up to £1,000 ...

WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Focus 1: Meaning

Find words and phrases from the council leaflet to match with these definitions.

1. be good at growing flowers and plants (three words)
2. legal contracts where you agree to pay to use someone else's building or land for a particular length of time
3. to show the position of something
4. the roads or paths that you use when you go from one place to another
5. an effort to do something
6. moving regularly around a place to prevent trouble or crime
7. the people who live in a house or flat
8. made a public statement about a plan or decision
9. putting a piece of equipment somewhere and make it ready for use
10. an amount of money that the government or another organization pays to help reduce the cost of a product or service

Focus 2: Topic-related words

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Have you tried the new *cycle / recycle* lane? I feel much safer on the road now.
2. My dad has a bin in the garden to throw in all his food *rubbish / waste*.
3. Lots of people are taking advantage of the offer and are having *solar / sun* panels fitted.
4. *Littering / Rubbishing* is a real problem in many towns.
5. My mum's really good in the garden. We all think she has *green / growing* fingers.

LISTENING

Listen to the short excerpt from a radio show and answer the questions below.

1. How many differences between the story in the leaflet and the story mentioned in the radio show did you hear?
2. What were they?

SPEAKING

Discuss these questions in groups.

1. Which environmental issues are important where you live? Why?
2. Has anything been done about any of the issues? Explain your answer.

PROJECT

Find out about environmental issues in your local area. Can more be done to help? Think of at least three ideas to improve your local environment.