

Unit 8: Saving the world

1

Language: Climate change

You are going to read a text about climate change. Some words are missing from the text. Use the words in brackets to complete each gap (1–14). Write your answers in the spaces below. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Climate change, (0) _____ (drive) predominantly by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, is one of the most pressing challenges facing our planet today. Its (1) _____ (catastrophe) impacts, including rising temperatures, sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and ecosystem disruptions, (2) _____ (necessary) urgent and collective action to lessen its effects.

To combat climate change, a multi-faceted approach is imperative. Firstly, transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power is crucial. These sources are (3) _____ (sustain) and produce minimal greenhouse gases, thus reducing our (4) _____ (rely) on fossil fuels. Additionally, improving energy (5) _____ (efficient) in industries, transportation, and (6) _____ (build) can significantly lower emissions.

Furthermore, protecting and (7) _____ (restore) ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and oceans plays a vital role. These (8) _____ (nature) systems act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Reforestation efforts contribute to offsetting carbon (9) _____ (emit) while enhancing biodiversity.

Individual (10) _____ (act) also matter. Adopting sustainable practices in (11) _____ (day) life, such as reducing meat consumption, minimising single-use plastics, and conserving water, collectively make a substantial impact. Advocacy for policy changes, public (12) _____ (aware) campaigns and international cooperation are crucial in driving (13) _____ (system) change.

In conclusion, (14) _____ (address) climate change demands a comprehensive strategy encompassing renewable energy adoption, ecosystem preservation, and individual behavioural shifts. By embracing these approaches collectively, we can forge a path towards a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

0 _____ driven
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____

8 _____
9 _____
10 _____
11 _____
12 _____
13 _____
14 _____

2

Language: Saying if actions are justified

Replace the underlined parts of the sentences with these adjectives.

crucial feasible inevitable justified pointless worthwhile

1 If we continue to burn fossil fuels, further melting of the polar ice caps is certain to happen.

2 It's quite possible to make improvements to the way we use energy.

3 Reducing household energy costs by insulating walls and attics is essential.

4 The continued use of incandescent light bulbs isn't really excusable.

5 Importing food by plane is useless, even harmful, due to the high cost and CO2 emissions.

6 However, growing our own vegetables in gardens or allotments is valuable.

3

Read the web postings. Then complete them with the correct expressions.

achieve no difference no point no real justification no sense nothing we can do worth

Energy Forum: Action, Not Inaction

Basically, if the industrialised nations cooperate, they can (1) _____ a lot. Otherwise, we're in trouble. **There's** (2) _____ for avoiding the issue or blaming another nation's practices. Time-wasting and playing the blame-game **makes** (3) _____ at all in these 'perilous' times. *Fatima*

There's (4) _____ in just saying global warming is inevitable. I refuse to believe **there's** (5) _____ to reverse the current trend. We have lots of options. Although critics might say that what we do at home **makes** (6) _____, I think every bit helps. For one thing, **it's certainly** (7) _____ considering alternative sources of energy, like solar panels on your roof, a biomass boiler or even a small wind turbine. *Serge*

4

Listening: Meat consumption and the environment

Listen to the interview about the effect of meat consumption on the environment from exercise 31, page 105 again. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, complete the questions (1–6) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

0	In 2021 people in OECD countries consumed, on average, 72 kilos of _____.	meat and animal products
1	Raising livestock consumes a lot more water than _____.	
2	Cattle-rearing and the production of animal feed, also for European markets, are the main reasons for _____.	
3	According to Beth Willis, we should all _____.	
4	The UK's National Health Service aims to reduce the use of meat for staff and _____.	
5	The German Federal Environment Agency recommends eating less meat at _____.	
6	Following the Planetary Health Diet is not only good for your health, but also good for _____.	

5

Writing: An article discussing the climate crisis

You are working on a project that aims to raise awareness about climate change and environmental protection. To increase your reach, you want to take part in next year's European Youth Event. To get a slot as a speaker, you have to submit an article presenting your topic. In your article you should:

- give examples of current events where the effects of climate change are already visible
- outline ideas on what governments and businesses can do to reduce their ecological footprint
- speculate how people could be motivated to help protect the environment

Write around 250 words.

Key

exercise 1

1 catastrophic, **2** necessitate, **3** sustainable, **4** reliance, **5** efficiency, **6** buildings, **7** restoring, **8** natural, **9** emissions, **10** actions, **11** daily, **12** awareness, **13** systemic, **14** addressing

exercise 2

1 inevitable, **2** feasible, **3** crucial, **4** justified, **5** pointless, **6** worthwhile

exercise 3

1 achieve, **2** no real justification, **3** no sense, **4** no point, **5** nothing we can do, **6** no difference, **7** worth

exercise 4, Listening: Meat consumption and the environment

1	growing/cultivating wheat/grain / agricultural production / agriculture
2	the destruction of rainforests / destroying Amazon rainforests
3	stop eating meat
4	in hospitals / in care facilities
5	the/a national level
6	the planet / our planet