

01

Unit 8: Saving the world

READING

The challenges of going green

Read the text about the challenges of going green. First decide whether the statements (1–7) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (\boxtimes) in the correct box. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write <u>the first four words</u> of this sentence in the space provided. There may be more than one correct answer; write down <u>only one</u>. The first one (0) has been done for you.

The challenges of going green

After hundreds of years it seems that the human race has finally grasped that the planet's environment cannot continue to be corrupted any further. Already we suffer from the severe consequences, such as climate change, ozone layer depletion, extreme weather conditions, and destruction of the ocean's flora and fauna. However, this might only have been the start of a chain of events, if no action is taken to end this vicious circle of devastation.

These problems can mostly be traced back to an increase in energy consumption. The demand for all forms of energy, which has exploded over the past decade due to the rise of the world's population as well as its industry, has become almost impossible to meet for even the biggest energy corporations, due to the declining supply of natural resources. As a result, scientific research has focused on the development of alternative forms of energy production. The main problem lies in the fact that there is no consensus of which type of alternative solution should be favoured among scientists.

Among the various choices for clean energy production, three methods are most commonly used: wind, water, and solar energy. While in some cases the regional landscape and weather conditions are the determining factors, at other times economic aspects might influence the decision. Experts often opt for a combination of methods in order to secure energy supply at all times.

Even though several methods have been implemented and are being used successfully around the world, many governments are reluctant to rely on those solutions entirely. Apparently they fear economic drawbacks which might only show once large sums have been invested into these new industries. There is also no guarantee that investments made into alternative energies will produce the expected results. It might well be that seemingly promising methods produce less energy than consumed or prove to be less cost-efficient than thought. Additionally, turning back at this point might not be possible any more, which could result in the dependence of these governments on other states in matters of energy production.

Apart from all those factors, the main challenge lies in making all of the parties involved understand the urgency of responding to the situation. Although the human race will still be able to rely on fossil fuels for some time, they will cease to be available to us at some point. The energy crisis is likely to become more and more of an issue, since resources will not be running out everywhere at the same time. Even in the best of cases scientists, governments, and energy corporations will have to cooperate for years to come up with suitable alternative solutions which can ultimately ensure the growing energy demand will be met. Failure to react now could easily result in a world-wide political and economic crisis.

As of now, there are small steps being taken to improve the current situation. In various countries governments are investing in the research of alternative energy and implement programmes aimed at reducing our negative impact on the environment. The sincerity with which these actions are taken will determine whether they will be successful and whether we can stop ourselves from going down a road that will ultimately lead to our ruin.



	Statements	т	F	First four words
0	Most people have understood that we cannot damage the environment any longer.	x		After hundreds of years
Q1	The problems we experience are very likely to have only been the beginning.			
Q2	Most energy corporations can no longer supply enough energy.			
Q3	Most scientists do not agree on which form of alternative energy is the best one.			
Q4	The location of a country influences its choice of energy production methods.			
Q5	Many countries refuse to use alternative forms of energy entirely.			
Q6	Countries using alternative forms of energy production might overestimate the success of these methods.			
Q7	Actions towards using alternative energy will have to be taken within the next few years to avoid severe consequences.			

English Unlimited 4/5

VOCABULARY 02 Airplanes and environmental concerns

Read through the text and choose the correct answer (A or B) for each gap (1-9) in the text.

Airplanes and environmental concerns

One of the consequences of global economic growth is the **(Q1)** ... increase in air travel. While airlines are **(Q2)** ... satisfied with the steadily growing numbers of passengers taking to the skies and the transportation taken care of via airplanes, there are at the same time more and more **(Q3)** ... concerns.

Airplane emissions have been identified as (Q4) ... contributing to the greenhouse effect and therefore to climate change. Experts expect a (Q5) ... 50% rise in carbon dioxide emissions by the middle of the 21st century. Compared to cars, the (Q6) ... emissions coming from airplanes contribute to climate change three times as much because planes emit their gases (Q7) ... in the atmosphere.

(Q8) ..., the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement on climate change, does not set any restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions caused by air travel, although planes are (Q9) ... for emitting 600 million tons of CO_2 every year.

- Q1 A constant B constantly
- Q2 A incredible B incredibly
- Q3 A environmental B environmentally
- Q4 A critical B critically
- Q5 A dramatic B dramatically
- Q6 A enormous B enormously
- Q7 A high B highly
- Q8 A interesting B interestingly
- Q9 A responsible B responsibly



VOCABULARY 03 The benefits of cycling

Read the text on the benefits of cycling. Some words are missing. Use the words in brackets to form words that fit in the gaps (1–5). Write your answers in the spaces provided at the end of the text. The first one (0) has been done for you.

The benefits of cycling

As opposed to going by car, the benefits cycling has to offer are far (0) ... (reach). First of all, cycling does not add to the (Q1) ... (pollute) problem. In fact, it is an entirely clean form of (Q2) ... (transport). Instead of fuel, it burns calories. It also does not cause any noise pollution like cars and other motor vehicles do.

Second of all, cycling is good for your whole body. It is all about toning and firming your body. A woman of average **(Q3)** ... **(weigh)** can, for example, burn about 240 calories in only 30 minutes of cycling. If you have the chance to go cycling with a like-minded person, do it. Not only is it more fun to go cycling with friends, it can also be extremely **(Q4)** ... **(motivate)**.

Even if you only cycle at a leisurely pace, your body will react to it by **(Q5)** ... **(release)** endorphins, hormones that let us experience euphoria.

0	reaching
Q1	
Q2	
Q3	
Q4	
Q5	



Answer key

READING 01 The challenges of going green

- **0–T** After hundreds of years
- **Q1–T** However, this might only
- **Q2–F** The demand for all
- Q3–T The main problem lies
- **Q4–F** While in some cases
- **Q5–F** Even though several methods
- Q6–T It might well be
- Q7-F Failure to react now

VOCABULARY 02 Airplanes and environmental concerns

Q1 A constant B constantly Q2 A incredible **B** incredibly Q3 **A environmental** B environmentally Q4 A critical **B** critically A dramatic Q5 B dramatically Q6 A enormous B enormously Q7 A high B highly Q8 **B** Interestingly A Interesting A responsible B responsibly Q9

VOCABULARY 03 The benefits of cycling

As opposed to going by car, the benefits cycling has to offer are far (0) **reaching (reach)**. First of all, cycling does not add to the (Q1) **pollution (pollute)** problem. In fact, it is an entirely clean form of (Q2) **transportation (transport)**. Instead of fuel, it burns calories. It also does not cause any noise pollution like cars and other motor vehicles do.

Second of all, cycling is good for your whole body. It is all about toning and firming your body. A woman of average (Q3) weight (weigh) can, for example, burn about 240 calories in only 30 minutes of cycling. If you have the chance to go cycling with a like-minded person, do it. Not only is it more fun to go cycling with friends, it can also be extremely (Q4) motivating (motivate).

Even if you only cycle at a leisurely pace, your body will react to it by (Q5) releasing (release) endorphins, hormones that let us experience euphoria.