



Unit 19 Environmental and social issues

Task 10

Announcer: Listen to the conversation between Betty and Stephen.

Stephen: Hey Betty, nice apples, can I have one?

Betty: I've just bought them. Take one from the pack. They taste wonderful!

Stephen: Hmm ... *(Pause, reads the information on the pack)* Do you know where these apples come from?

Betty: Well, yes from the supermarket.

Stephen: No, don't be silly, it says on the pack that they come from South-America. That's a long way! Haven't we got delicious apples in Austria as well? Why didn't you buy apples from Styria? Don't you care about your ecological footprint?

Betty: Ecological WHAT? What are you talking about, Stephen.

Stephen: Let me explain: An ecological footprint gives information about how many "Earths" we need, if all the people on this world go on living like they do at the moment. It's based on our energy consumption, waste production, eating habits etc. At the moment, we use the "Earth" one and a half times faster than nature can handle it.

Betty: So ... what, you mean buying apples from South-America, is one of the negative effects?

Stephen: Yes, think about the transport and the air pollution it involves.

Betty: Apples from Styria – well, next time I'll buy them instead, and don't worry, I'll put the packaging into the right bins, as well!