

# Listening: What a waste!

**1-SPEAKING.** Describe the photo. Use the words below to help you.



verbs not need throw away  
nouns egg fruit rubbish bin vegetables  
adjectives fresh old

**2-** Complete the text about “freeganism” with the words below. Do you find any of the information surprising?

angry clothes food fruit hungry  
meal rubbish bin shape

## FREEGANISM

In the UK, we throw away seven million tonnes of <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and drink every year. Supermarkets throw away food that is past its sell-by date, and they also throw away <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and vegetables that are the wrong <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ or size! We also waste a lot of food at home because we buy too much, or cook too much for a <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. And 35% of school lunches go straight into the <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ too!

Freegans are very <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about this. They try not to waste anything. They collect good food that supermarkets throw away, and they eat it or give it to people who are <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Freegans recycle and reuse other things too – for example, <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and furniture. They want to change the way we live.

**3- Read the **LEARN THIS!** Box. Listen and underline the “content words” in these sentences. (Audio 2.19)**

**LEARN THIS! Unstressed words**



- a** We usually stress the important ‘content words’ in sentences (e.g. nouns, names, main verbs, adjectives, question words).  
Tom is in the kitchen.  
Where is the knife?
- b** Less important ‘functional words’ are often unstressed (e.g. prepositions, modal verbs, articles, conjunctions, the verb *be*, pronouns, possessive adjectives).
- c** The vowel sound in unstressed words sometimes changes to a schwa sound /ə/.  
/frɒm/ > /frəm/

- 1 Where’s the bread?
- 2 Can you pass me the salt?
- 3 Dan is in the café.
- 4 His sister, Sophie, can cook.
- 5 What’s the name of this song?
- 6 Sushi is from Japan.

**4- Read the **LISTENING STRATEGY**. Then listen. How are the italicised unstressed words pronounced? (Audio 2.20)**

**Listening Strategy**

Unstressed words can be difficult to catch in natural speech. Being able to recognise the unstressed form of words will help you to understand them when you hear them.

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Pizza’s <i>from</i> Italy.  | 5 I’m going <i>to</i> the café. |
| 2 Here <i>are</i> two apples. | 6 salt <i>and</i> pepper        |
| 3 Where’s <i>your</i> cup?    | 7 Here’s <i>some</i> cheese.    |
| 4 I <i>can</i> help you.      | 8 This apple is <i>for</i> you. |

**5- Listen to an interview with a freegan. Only one of these sentences is correct. Which one? (Audio 2.21)**

- 1 Adam eats food from rubbish bins outside shops.
- 2 Adam gives food to homeless people.
- 3 Adam doesn’t like spending money on food.

**6- Listen and complete the sentences. How many unstressed words are there in each gap?**  
(Audio 2.22)

- 1 Adam \_\_\_\_\_ freegan \_\_\_\_\_ Luton \_\_\_\_\_ UK.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ collects food \_\_\_\_\_ supermarkets \_\_\_\_\_  
restaurants.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ collects \_\_\_\_\_ food three \_\_\_\_\_ four times  
\_\_\_\_\_ week.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ collect \_\_\_\_\_ food \_\_\_\_\_ dark.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Adam's friends \_\_\_\_\_ freegans.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ never come \_\_\_\_\_ house \_\_\_\_\_ meal.

**7- SPEAKING. Say if you agree or disagree with the statements below. Give reasons for your opinions.**

- 1 Freeganism is disgusting.
- 2 Freeganism isn't safe.
- 3 Freeganism is a good idea.
- 4 Freegans should buy food, not take it.
- 5 Shops and restaurants should throw away less food.

I agree / don't agree that ...