

UNIT 6: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A. VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR

Exercise 1 :

Choose the correct answers to the questions.

- 1 What do you call a situation where it rains too much and water covers the land?
☐ a drought ☐ a flood ☐ a sinkhole
- 2 Which of these things might erupt?
☐ an earthquake ☐ a tornado ☐ a volcano
- 3 What do you call a situation where it doesn't rain for a long time?
☐ a drought ☐ a flood ☐ a tsunami
- 4 What do you call a storm with a violent wind?
☐ a drought ☐ a hurricane ☐ a tornado
- 5 What do you call it when strong winds blow in a circle over land?
☐ a landslide ☐ a thunderstorm ☐ a tornado
- 6 What do you call it when the land shakes?
☐ an earthquake ☐ a hurricane ☐ a volcano

Exercise 2 :

Choose the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.

- 1 A drill/ natural resources/ well is a useful thing that we get from nature.
- 2 Fissures/ Fossil fuel/ Wells are sources of energy that come from plants and animals that lived a long time ago. We mostly find them underground.
- 3 People have been digging up and burning coal/ natural gas/ petrol, a hard, black fossil fuel, for thousands of years.
- 4 Over the centuries, people have dug deeper and deeper holes under the ground to access coal. One coal fracking/ mine/ power in South Africa is nearly 4 km deep.
- 5 Everything changed in the middle of the 19th century, when people worked out how to pump hydroelectric power/ natural gas/ petroleum, a liquid fossil fuel, out of the ground.

6 One of the most important oil products is coal/ crude oil/ petrol, the liquid fuel that powers most cars. In the USA, it's called 'gasoline', or simply 'gas'.

Exercise 3 :

Complete the text. Use the words and phrases in the box.

chemical waste

chimney

collects

ground

pollution

protects

smog

When we think of _____, most of us think of dirty air. Maybe we see an image of a factory with a tall _____, pumping clouds of smoke into the sky. Or we imagine cars sitting in a traffic jam, pouring out carbon dioxide.

Over the years, this mixture of harmful gases _____ in the air. Some of it rises and burns a hole in the Earth's ozone layer, which _____ us from the sun. Some of it comes back down into our cities as _____, a dangerous mix of smoke and fog.

However, not all pollution goes into the air. For example, some factories pour _____ into rivers, where it flows into the sea. In addition, to help their crops grow, some farmers cover their land with chemicals, which remain in the _____ for years or might even flow into rivers.

Exercise 4 :

Match the sentence halves to complete the sentences.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 There's a risk of acid | ● | ● | dioxide gas. |
| 2 Cars produce a lot of carbon | ● | ● | fire near her hometown. |
| 3 Yesterday, there was an oil | ● | ● | eruption on the island again. |
| 4 Karen said there's a forest | ● | ● | leak at the power station. |
| 5 There are going to be freezing | ● | ● | rain falling this week. |
| 6 The landslide was a natural | ● | ● | disaster according to the news. |
| 7 I heard there was a radiation | ● | ● | temperatures all this week. |
| 8 There's been a volcanic | ● | ● | spill in the sea near here. |

Exercise 5 :

Complete the text. Use the words and phrases in the box.

carbon footprint

conservation

emissions

environmentally friendly

litter

lower

recycling

renewable energy

sustainable

use

I like to think I'm . I think about green issues a lot and always try to do the right thing for our planet. So, for example, I try to keep my , the amount of carbon dioxide that I cause, to a minimum. This means that I try to avoid travelling by car. Public transport produces far lower of harmful gases per passenger. If I really need to travel by car, I try afterwards to do something that will the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. For example, I give some money to my local group, so that they can plant a tree. Also, I never drop – I always throw my rubbish in the bin. I also try to make sure at least 80% of what I throw away can be reused, so I do a lot of . I'm also careful to reduce my of raw materials, which means I avoid buying things that have a high environmental cost. Of course, we still need to consume some things, like food or clothes, but it's important to make sure that how much we consume is . For example, I try to use whenever I can – such as electricity generated from solar power stations or wind turbines. However, I can't really control how my electricity is generated.

Exercise 6 :

Put the words in the correct columns to complete the table.

drought

litter

green issue

natural resource

public transport

rainbow

chimney

carbon dioxide

coal

thunder

energy

ecosystem

countable nouns

uncountable nouns

Exercise 7 :

Choose the correct words and phrases to complete the sentences.

- 1 There aren't enough/ isn't enough recycling in my town.
- 2 We don't get many/ much floods around here.
- 3 A large amount/ number of the food we buy is wasted and just gets thrown away.
- 4 We get a lot of smog because there's too many/ too much pollution.
- 5 Carbon monoxide is a/ some harmful gas.
- 6 I need to go to the gas station to buy a/ some gas or petrol, as you call it over here in the UK.
- 7 The destruction of the rainforest causes a great deal of/ a great significant amount of damage to the planet.
- 8 A large amount/ number of animal species are at risk of extinction.

Exercise 8 :

Complete the sentences. Use the words and phrases in the box.

a few

a little

few

fewer

fewest

least

less

little

- 1 There's a lot pollution now than there was a few years ago.
- 2 The old forest near my town has been almost completely cut down. There are only trees left, really not many at all.
- 3 The form of transport that generates the emissions of dangerous gases is the bicycle.
- 4 You should cycle to work instead of driving. It only takes more time.
- 5 The government is going to close down the coal mines that contain the coal, as they're no longer economical.
- 6 There are actually cars on the roads than there were five years ago.
- 7 people really understand why the world's climate is changing, and even fewer know how to stop it.
- 8 This car uses very fuel, so it's extremely environmentally friendly.

Exercise 9 : Match the replies with the first sentences to complete the conversations

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1 A: I care a lot about the environment. | ☐ | ☐ B: Neither will I. |
| 2 A: I didn't know it was so bad for the environment. | ☐ | ☐ B: Neither have we. |
| 3 A: We aren't going to drop any litter here. | ☐ | ☐ B: Neither did I. |
| 4 A: I won't drive to work tomorrow. | ☐ | ☐ B: Neither are we. |
| 5 A: We had an amazing view from our window. | ☐ | ☐ B: So did we. |
| 6 A: We've never been to the rainforest before. | ☐ | ☐ B: So do I. |
| 7 A: I'm not sure this is a good idea. | ☐ | ☐ B: So have I. |
| 8 A: I've got a great idea. | ☐ | ☐ B: Neither am I. |

Exercise 10 :

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 There are two options: Either we continue burning coal and find a way of reducing emissions by at least 90%, either/ neither/ or we simply stop burning coal altogether.

2 A: Should I put this bottle in the green bin or the black one?

B: Both/ Either/ Neither. It's glass, so it goes in the blue bin.

3 A: Which picture should we use in our report on ecosystems? This one of a coral reef or this one of a rainforest?

B: Both/ Either/ Neither. I don't mind which one you choose.

4 A: What do you think the government should focus on? Solar power or wind power?

B: Both/ Either/ Neither. I think we need to produce more energy from wind and solar power.

5 A: I think we should reduce waste.

B: Yeah, me both/ either/ too.

6 A: I don't really care about the environment.

B: No, me both/ either/ too.