

First Conditional Sentences

Archaeologists often learn about a culture by studying that culture's garbage. Complete the interview with an archaeologist of modern culture. Use the correct form of the words in the boxes.

grow	run out	discover	happen	change	not do	continue
be						

Q: What has motivated you to specialize in garbage, Dr. Ratner?

A: I realized that the United States is in a crisis. We now spend more than \$15 billion a year to deal with our trash, and the cost is growing. If we (1) _____ something about our garbage, this problem (2) _____ out of control very soon.

Q: What exactly do you mean by a crisis? I mean what (3) _____ if we (4) _____ as we are right now?

A: We (5) _____ of room unless we (6) _____ our ways. The dump of New York City is now twenty-five times larger than the Great Pyramid of Giza. Unless we (7) _____ an answer to this trash problem, our greatest monument (8) _____ our garbage.

find	control	pollute	help	be able to	provide	find out	not
make							

Q: Is that the major problem? I mean (9) _____ we _____ resolve the crisis if we just (10) _____ a place to put all the trash?

A: No, we won't. Space is only one of the problems. These landfills leak pollutants into the ground. We (11) _____ our groundwater unless we (12) _____ this leakage. In fact, this has already started to happen.

Q: You're studying the actual contents of a landfill right now. If you (13)

_____ what's in there, (14) _____ that _____ officials plan solutions?

A: Yes, it will. It'll help a lot. They (15) _____ the right decisions unless we (16) _____ good information. There are a lot of superstitions about what's in a landfill and what happens to it. For example, a lot of people think 30 percent of our trash comes from fast-food packaging?

Q: You mean it doesn't?

Believe	become	recycle	reduce	throw away	not reduce
have to	replace	cooperate	charge		

A: Uh-uh. That's only about one-quarter of one percent. But if we (17) _____ that plastic cups are the villains, we (18) _____ them with something a lot worse.

Q: What could be worse?

A: Paper cups. They take up just as much room, and you can't recycle them. You (19) _____ the pollution problem if you (20) _____ paper instead of plastic.

Q: But paper degrades, right?

A: Not really. Garbage doesn't degrade very quickly in a landfill. We often find forty-year-old newspapers that we can still read. Reducing all waste is our only answer.

Q: A lot of people find recycling too complicated. I mean, (21) _____ people actually _____ if they (22) _____ sort their trash instead of just dumping it?

A: If wastefulness (23) _____ very expensive, people (24) _____. For example, if we (25) _____ consumers more for

garbage disposal, they (26) _____ their trash. Seattle has increased recycling by more than 40 percent by charging more for garbage pickup

do	begin
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Q: What (27) _____ we _____ with all the plastic milk jugs if people in our city (28) _____ to recycle more?

A: We can reuse up to 90 percent of our waste. One famous clothing manufacturer is making very attractive coats from recycled right now.