

Green Packaging

Pre-Reading Questions



1. If a friend asked, "What has the environment to do with us?" what would your answer be?
2. What can you do to be environmentally-friendly?
3. Why is it sometimes difficult to be environmentally-friendly?

Reading Passage

Now read the passage below. You can look up the meanings of the words and phrases in bold in the Vocabulary Study section that follows.

Manufacturers are currently competing with each other to produce a form of **green** packaging. **Packaging** is an important part of marketing these days, but much of it is a threat to the **environment**. There are two reasons for this. The production of such packaging uses up a great deal of **energy** and the **cartons**, wrappers, etc are often difficult to **dispose of** when they become **waste** material.

People in most countries have become aware of the damage which modern living is doing to the environment, and many of them are concerning themselves with the **conservation** of the environment for future generations. Thus, both politicians and scientists are now looking at the issues of energy-saving and **waste disposal** with a view to making them more **environmentally-friendly**.

As far as packaging is concerned, it is vital that it is either **recyclable** or **biodegradable**. For example, instead of throwing out newspapers and glass bottles with their household rubbish, people in several countries are being encouraged to put these in special containers to allow the material to be recycled. Some household waste, such as vegetable **peelings**, is naturally biodegradable and so **decomposes** gradually until it disappears.

Man-made goods are not so easily disposed of. Goods and packaging made of plastic create waste material that is particularly difficult to get rid of. This means that huge **landfill sites** have to be dug out so as to bury the plastic waste underground, possibly causing problems for future generations.

Just as much of a problem is industrial waste, since the **effluent** from factories often contains chemicals which can lead to the **pollution** of water supplies. Waste from factories has to be **monitored** carefully in order to avoid this.

Technological advances using nuclear power have added to the waste problem. The disposal of **nuclear waste** causes particular concern because it is radioactive and so possibly dangerous to life.

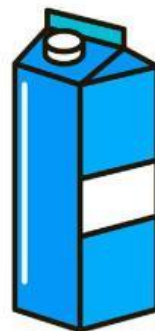
The high standard of living, which the people of many countries now enjoy, has resulted in a huge increase in waste material. This could have a terrible effect on the **ecology** of the planet. There is no doubt that urgent action must be taken to save our environment from possible **disaster**.

Vocabulary



1. **biodegradable** (adjective): made of material which will naturally decay relatively quickly because of the action of bacteria on it.

2. **carton** (noun): a container made from lightweight cardboard or plastic in which certain food or drink is sold.



3. **conservation** (noun): the act of protecting and preserving something, especially the environment. **A conserve verb.**

4. **decompose** (verb) to be broken down by the action of bacteria; to rot or decay.



5. **disaster** (noun): an unexpected event that causes a lot of damage, destruction, injury or death.

* **disastrous** (adjective): connected with or involving a disaster.

6. **dispose of** (verb): to get rid of something that you do not want.

***disposal** (noun): the act or process of disposing something





7. ecology (noun): the relationship between human, animal and plant life and its environment or the study of this.

***ecological** (adjective) relating to ecology or to the environment or relating to things that are of benefit to or protective of the environment.

8. effluent (noun): waste material in the form of liquid discharged from a sewage works, factory etc.



9. energy (noun): **1.** A supply or source of power such as electrical power, solar power, etc. **2.** Ability and power to be active so that you are able to work, get things done, etc **3.** Liveliness and enthusiasm.

10. environment (noun) the external surroundings in which people, animals and plants live * environmental (adjective.)



11. environmentally-friendly (adjective): not causing any damage to the environment.



12. **Green** (adjective): concerned with the protection and conservation of the environment.

*the **Greens** or **Green Party** is the name. given to a political party which encourages the protection of the environment.

13. **landfill site** (noun): a place where waste material is buried under layers of earth, often being excavated especially for this purpose.



14. **monitor** (verb): to check something at regular intervals in order to find out any changes or developments.

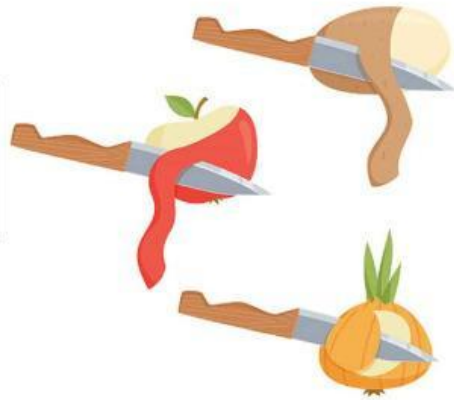
* **monitoring** (noun): the act of monitoring something

15. **nuclear waste** (noun): the radioactive waste which is left after an industrial nuclear process has been completed.



16. **packaging** (noun): the materials in which objects are wrapped before they go on sale.

17. **peelings** (noun plural): pieces of fruit or vegetable skin that are cut off as being unwanted. A peel verb to remove the skin from a piece of fruit or vegetable.



18. **pollution** (noun): the act or process of causing something, such as the environment, air or water, to become dirty, harmful or unfit for use.
* **pollute** (verb): to cause something to be dirty, harmful or unfit for use.
* A **pollutant** (noun) something which pollutes.

19. **recycle** (verb): to put material or an object through some kind of process that allows it to be used again.

* A **recyclable** (adjective) of material, can be recycled.



20. **waste** (noun) :1 unwanted material which remains after something has been used. 2 unnecessary, extravagant, wrong or unwise use of something.

* **waste** (verb) to use something in an unnecessary, extravagant, wrong or unwise way.

21. **waste disposal** (noun): the act or process of getting rid of waste.



Vocabulary Building

A) Match each word in Column A with **its meaning in Column B. Write the corresponding letter in the box next to the word.**

Column A	Letter	Column B
1. Currently	g	a. supply of power
2. environment		b. products
3. energy		c. used again
4. dispose of		d. surroundings
5. recycled		e. is not there anymore
6. disappears		f. harmful
7. goods		g. new
8. dangerous		h. remove

B) Match each word in Column A with **its opposite meaning in Column B. Write the corresponding letter in the box next to the word.**

Column A	Letter	Column B
1. difficult	b	a. solutions
2. future		b. easy
3. throwing out		c. discouraged
4. encouraged		d. taken away from
5. problems		e. suffer from
6. often		f. past
7. added to		g. collecting
8. enjoy		h. seldom

C) Choose the most appropriate word, provided in italics, to complete each of the sentences.

(Packaging - waste material – pollution – disaster)

- 1 Most modern cities face heavy _____.
2. The _____ caused by the floods led to much suffering.
3. Most things that we buy will have a lot of _____.
4. _____ is difficult and expensive to get rid of.

Read and Understand

A Write whether each of the sentences below is True or False.

1. The environment suffers when there is heavy packaging of the things we buy. (_____)
2. Politicians and scientists are not giving any attention to the problems of the environment. (_____)
3. Newspapers and glass bottles can be recycled. (_____)
4. It is difficult to get rid of plastic goods. (_____)
5. Rich countries take care to cut down on waste. (_____)

B Answer these questions in full sentences.

1. What are the two reasons that packaging is harmful to the environment?

2. Which groups of people are looking at the issues of the environment?

3. What are the important qualities for packaging to be green?

Spot the Error

A) In each sentence below, you will find an error with the subject-verb agreement (concord). Underline the error and rewrite the sentence by using the correct concord.

Example:

Sentence with error: In a modern society, **people enjoys** a high standard of living.

Corrected sentence: In a modern society, **people enjoy** a high standard of living. (people is a plural noun. Therefore, you cannot add "s/-es" to the verb!! 😊)

1. Too much packaging harm the environment in two ways.

2. Future generations will suffer unless people today conserves the environment.

3. The writer advises that every household do its part by recycling.

4. Usually people gets rid of waste by dumping it into landfills.

5. Nuclear waste are dangerous because it is radioactive.

Your View – Writing

1. I think green packaging should be carried out because _____

OR I think green packaging should not be carried out because _____

2. I think people harm the environment by _____

3. I want to help the environment because _____

Answer Key:

Vocabulary Building

A. 1G-2.D-3.A-4. H-5.C-6.E-7.B-8.F

B. 1 B - 2. F - 3. G - 4. C - 5. A - 6. H - 7. D - 8. E

C. 1. Pollution - 2. Disaster - 3. Packaging - 4. Waste material **Read and Understand**

A. 1. True - 2. False - 3. True - 4 True - 5 False

B. 1. One reason is that packaging uses up energy. Another reason is that the materials used in packaging are difficult to dispose of.

2. Politicians and scientists are looking at these issues.

3. For packaging to be green, it should be either recyclable or biodegradable.

Spot the Error

1. Too much packaging harms the environment in two ways.

2. Future generations will suffer unless people today conserve the environment. 3 The writer advises that every household does its part by recycling.

4. Usually people get rid of waste by dumping it into landfills.

5. Nuclear waste is dangerous because it is radioactive.

Writing

STUDENTS' OWN ANSWERS