READING
Climate Change

Exercise 1

Read a student's essay. Match the paragraphs A—D with function 1—6. There are two extra functions you do not need.

'There is no such thing as climate change. Environmental scientists have been lying to us.'

A

All around the world, we hear stories of terrible weather becoming even worse. For instance, while forests in Australia are on fire, fields in Egypt are covered in snow. Environmental scientists explain that events such as these are due to climate change. They say that if we cannot protect the environment from pollution, we will definitely destroy the Earth, and everything and everyone that lives on it. Despite this, there are still many people who say that scientists have been lying to us and there is no such thing as climate change. This essay will look at both sides of the argument to see who is telling the truth.

B

First of all, it is necessary to remember that scientific opinion has changed many times since the end of the Second World War. For example, in the 1950s, average temperatures in many countries seemed to be rising. Some of the world's best scientists said that this proved that the world was becoming hotter. However, in the early 1970s the world began to freeze. Many countries had the worst winters they had ever known. As a result, scientists made new predictions: the world was not becoming hotter, but much colder. After the freezing winters of the 1970s, world temperatures began to rise again in the 1980s and 1990s. Scientists changed their predictions again and decided that the world was now becoming too hot.

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C

Some people have said that these examples prove that climate change does not exist. And it is true that scientists have made mistakes. However, I don't believe this means that they are wrong about climate change. Even with advanced technology, it is very difficult to make predictions about the future of weather. The environment is very complex. It consists of billions of creatures and we should also remember that natural environments such as jungles, deserts and mountains are also alive. Therefore it is hard for environmental scientists to make accurate predictions about the weather because all living things change all the time. So although scientific predictions can sometimes be wrong, it does not mean that climate change is not real.

D

In conclusion, environmental scientists have not invented climate change. They have made mistakes but the important point is not whether the world s becoming hotter or colder but that the climate is becoming worse. We have an opportunity to prevent climate change and take action.

Paragraph A	**1.** To describe the consequences of climate change
Paragraph B	**2.** To describe weather problems
Paragraph C	**3.** To give the student's own opinion
Paragraph D	**4.** To introduce the main topic and explain the purpose of the essay
	5. To show why climate change might be true
	6. To show why climate change might not be true

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