LESSON 3

SAVING THE PLANET TOGETHER



WATCH VIDEO

Section 1. Getting Started: Vocabulary and Pronunciation

Environmental Issues:

- Biodiversity
- Carbon footprint
- Climate change
- Conservation
- Deforestation
- Ecosystem
- Environmental degradation
- Greenhouse gases
- Ozone layer
- Pollution
- Recycling
- Renewable resources
- Sustainability
- Waste management
- Water scarcity

Renewable Energies:

- Biomass
- Geothermal
- Hydroelectric
- Solar power
- Wind energy

Responsible Consumption:

- Eco-friendly
- Fair trade
- Greenproducts
- Organic
- Sustainable
- Upcycling

Phrasal Verbs:

- Break down (to decompose)
- Cut down (to reduce)
- Phase out (to eliminate)
- Run out (to deplete)
- Set up (to establish)

Idiomatic Expressions:

- Be the change you want to see
- Going green
- Put your money where your mouth is
- Sow the seeds of (something) (to initiate something)

Pronunciation:

Practice the pronunciation of the words in the table below, focusing on the common sounds in each group. Repeat the words multiple times, emphasizing the specific sounds to strengthen your pronunciation skills.



Sound	Words
/eɪ/	biodiversity, renewable, resources, responsible, ecosystem, renewable
/r/	carbon, biodiversity, renewable, resources, conservation, organic
/n/	environment, conservation, renewable, consumption, sustainable

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Lesson 3 Environmental Issues

WATCH VIDEO



WARM UP

Look at the photo and answer the questions. Then, discuss your answers with a partner.

1. What environmental problems can you see in the photo?

_____

2. What do you think causes these problems?

_____

3. How do these problems affect people and animals?

_____

4. What actions can we take to protect the environment?

_____

5. Do you think governments and companies are doing enough? Why or why not?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B2 ENGLISH

VOCABULARY
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABILITY



Learn the words. Use them. Make a difference.

Understanding environmental vocabulary helps us talk about problems, solutions and actions for a better planet.

KEY VOCABULARY

Climate change	Long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns.
Pollution	The presence of harmful substances in the air, water or soil.
Deforestation	The large-scale removal of forests, usually for farming or buildings.
Waste	Materials that are no longer useful and are thrown away.
Recycle	To process used materials to make new products.
Renewable energy	Energy from natural sources that can be replaced, like wind or solar.
Conservation	The protection and careful use of natural resources.
Sustainability	Meeting our needs without harming the ability of future generations to meet theirs.
Eco-friendly	Designed to reduce harm to the environment.
Global warming	The increase in Earth's average temperature.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions about the environment.

1. What are the biggest environmental problems facing our planet today?

2. How does human activity contribute to climate change and other environmental issues?

3. What actions can individuals take to reduce pollution in their daily lives?

4. How can renewable energy sources help create a more sustainable future?

5. Do you think governments and companies are doing enough to protect the environment? Why or why not?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B2 ENGLISH

GRAMMAR FUNDAMENTALS

Talking about Environmental Issues



EXPLANATION	STRUCTURES USED	EXAMPLES
Environmental issues.	Present Simple	- Pollution **affects** our environment.
	Modal verbs (can, could, may, might, must, should)	- We **should** recycle to reduce waste.
	Even if	- **Even if** we recycle, pollution may still be a problem.
	Provided that	- I'll come to the event **provided that** it's eco-friendly.
	Phrasal verbs related to the environment	- We need to **cut down on** waste to protect the environment.
	Idiomatic expressions related to the environment	- It's time to **go green** and save the planet.

EXERCISE 1: GAP FILL EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words or phrases.

1. _____ we recycle, pollution may still be a problem.
2. We should _____ to reduce waste.
3. _____ that the packaging is recyclable, it's not always recycled.
4. Pollution _____ our health and the planet.
5. It's time to _____ and save the planet.

EXERCISE 2: TRANSFORMATION EXERCISE

Rewrite the sentences using the given words. Maintain the same meaning.

1. We need to reduce waste to protect the environment.
   We need to _____ to protect the environment.
2. Pollution can harm both humans and wildlife.
   Both humans and wildlife _____ pollution.
3. It's important to recycle paper, plastic, and glass.
   Recycling _____ paper, plastic, and glass is important.
4. Even if we recycle, pollution may still be a problem.
   Pollution may still be a problem _____.
5. We should use energy-efficient appliances to conserve energy.
   Using energy-efficient appliances _____ energy.

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B2 ENGLISH

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

Environmental Issues



Discuss the questions with your partner or group.
Share your ideas, listen to others, and express your opinions.

1. What do you think are the biggest environmental problems facing the planet today?
2. How do you think climate change will affect your country in the future?
3. What actions can individuals take to reduce their carbon footprint?
4. Do you think governments are doing enough to protect the environment? Why or why not?
5. How can businesses contribute to a more sustainable future?
6. Should people be willing to change their lifestyles to help the environment? Why or why not?
7. What are some effective ways to reduce pollution in cities?
8. How can we encourage more people to recycle and reduce waste?
9. Do you think renewable energy sources can replace fossil fuels completely? Why or why not?
10. What impact does deforestation have on the environment and on our daily lives?
11. How can education and awareness help solve environmental problems?
12. What do you think is the most important environmental issue for young people to focus on?
13. If you could invent one thing to help the environment, what would it be and how would it work?
14. How can we balance economic growth with environmental protection?
15. What small changes can we make today that will have a big impact on the planet in the future?

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B2 ENGLISH

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Understand. Discuss. Act for a Better Planet.

The environment affects every part of our lives. Learn about these key issues and raise your voice to inspire change!

12 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1. **Climate Change**
   Rising temperatures and extreme weather patterns affect our planet.
2. **Air Pollution**
   Harmful gases and particles in the air threaten health and ecosystems.
3. **Water Pollution**
   Contaminated water harms aquatic life and affects drinking water quality.
4. **Deforestation**
   Cutting down forests leads to habitat loss and contributes to climate change.
5. **Waste and Plastic Pollution**
   Excessive waste, especially plastic, pollutes land and oceans.
6. **Water Scarcity**
   Limited access to clean water affects millions of people worldwide.
7. **Loss of Biodiversity**
   The disappearance of species disrupts ecosystems and natural balance.
8. **Soil Degradation**
   Poor soil quality reduces food production and harms the environment.
9. **Ocean Acidification**
   Increased carbon dioxide makes oceans more acidic, harming marine life.
10. **Urbanization**
    Rapid city growth leads to pollution, habitat loss, and high resource consumption.
11. **Energy Consumption**
    Overuse of non-renewable energy sources increases pollution and emissions.
12. **Overconsumption**
    Buying more than we need leads to waste and overuse of natural resources.

MAKE A SPEECH!

Choose one of the issues from the list and prepare a speech to raise awareness and inspire action.

GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SPEECH

1. **INTRODUCE THE TOPIC**
   - Start with an interesting fact, question, or quote.
2. **EXPLAIN THE ISSUE**
   - What is the problem? Why is it important?
3. **CAUSES AND EFFECTS**
   - What causes this issue? What are its effects on people, animals, and the planet?
4. **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**
   - What actions can we take as individuals, communities, or governments?
5. **YOUR OPINION**
   - What do you think is the most effective way to solve this issue? Why?
6. **CONCLUSION**
   - End with a strong message or call to action.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Use persuasive language.
- ✓ Support your ideas with examples or facts.
- ✓ Speak clearly and confidently.
- ✓ Encourage your audience to take action!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B2 ENGLISH

LISTENING

A Sustainable Future



Listen to the conversation and answer the questions.

1 What is one significant environmental problem discussed in the conversation?

a) Air pollution
b) Deforestation
c) Endangered species
d) Excessive use of single-use plastics

2 According to Miguel, how can individuals make a difference regarding single-use plastics?

a) By ignoring the issue
b) By using more single-use plastics
c) By opting for reusable alternatives
d) By advocating for more plastic production

3 What is one benefit of transitioning to renewable energy mentioned by Miguel?

a) Increased pollution
b) Higher energy costs
c) Reduced carbon footprint
d) Depletion of natural resources

4 How can individuals adopt a more responsible approach to consumption habits?

a) By increasing resource usage
b) By wasting resources intentionally
c) By supporting eco-friendly companies
d) By purchasing more unsustainable products

5 What is the main message conveyed in the conversation?

a) Sustainable living is unnecessary
b) Environmental problems are inevitable
c) Individuals have no role in sustainability
d) Collective efforts can create a sustainable future

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B2 ENGLISH

LISTENING

Sustainable Choices



Exercise 2: Sustainable Choices

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions.

a What does Carlos emphasize about the impact of minor changes on the planet?

b How does Carlos ensure that the products he develops are environmentally conscious?

c According to Carlos, what has been a popular sustainable product developed by his company?

d What advice does Carlos give to listeners regarding making sustainable choices?

e How does Elena conclude the talk show and what message does she deliver to the listeners?

REMEMBER!

Small actions today lead to big changes tomorrow.
Be the solution, not the pollution.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



LESSON 3

READING

Climate Change

Ignoring Mother Nature's warnings

1. The majority of scientists around the world agree that humans are largely to blame for the warming of our planet. Over the past 50 years, temperatures on Earth have increased at a higher rate than ever recorded. In order to prevent excess **greenhouse gases** from trapping heat in our atmosphere, we need to change our lifestyles. By reducing our **carbon footprint** and switching to clean forms of energy, there is a chance we will be able to extend our stay on our planet.

2. Despite **freakish** weather like heat waves, droughts, and hurricanes, **tackling** climate change has not been a priority for some world leaders. As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump said he was not a big believer in man-made climate change. Some of his supporters, including a handful of scientists, were even accused of taking part in a climate **cover-up.** Those who benefit financially from oil, gas, and coal industries often deny the need for clean energy alternatives. By **casting doubt** on science, a few **skeptics** have caused a large number of people to question whether man-made climate change even exists. Ignoring a **time-sensitive** topic like the environment creates a vicious cycle. If the public doesn't rate the environment as a major concern, world leaders won't either.

3. Environmentalists always said that the first place humans would see **undeniable** evidence of global warming would be in the Arctic. In 2012, the summer sea ice in the Arctic was at a record low. Ice experts have warned that sea ice in the Arctic will likely be nonexistent within a few years. Instead of being concerned by these dangerous signs of global warming, some business thinkers are already considering potential opportunities. After all, open waters will lead to new shipping channels. We'll need stronger sunscreen products, too.

4. Climate change affects the whole planet, yet the world's leaders can't agree on what to do about it. Many leaders from have-not countries think they should be **off the hook.** They don't believe their people contributed to the problem, and they want wealthy nations to fix it. Developed nations aren't always as wealthy as they look. They're in debt, at war, and addicted to consumption. On May 24, 2019, hundreds of thousands of students walked out of schools around the world in a global climate strike protesting inaction by their governments. Will today's youth spark a climate revolution?

B-2 CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. What does the text say are the main causes of global warming?

2. Why do you think some people still deny that climate change is man-made?

3. What are some opportunities mentioned in the text that might come from climate change?

4. Do you agree that wealthy countries should take more responsibility for climate change? Why or why not?

5. What actions can young people like students take to create change in their communities?

LIVEWORKSHEETS



LESSON 3

READING

DEFORESTATION

Do we need a clear-cut plan?

1. Deforestation refers to the **destruction** and **conversion** of forests. Humans are largely responsible for the loss of forests. The cleared land is used for farming, housing, businesses, mining, and roads. The resources are used for building materials, fuel, medicine, food, and paper. According to some estimates, up to half of the world's tropical rain forests have already been cleared for these purposes.

2. The majority of the earth's plants and animals live in forests. Deforestation disrupts the food chain. What will come of the remaining species if we **eliminate** their **habitat**? According to some experts, we will soon find out. Based on the current rate of deforestation, the world's rain forests could vanish within 100 years.

3. How did humans let this happen? Survival is the main reason. Converting forests to agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation. Farmers use **clear-cutting** to make land available for livestock and crops. They rely on the income and the resources for survival. For many years, farmers were unaware of the **impact** of deforestation. Consumers are also to blame. Do you ever think about the trees that were lost so that you could enjoy your daily coffee, tea, rice, or peanuts? We are all contributors to deforestation.

4. Humans in many parts of the world are feeling the effects of deforestation. Can the damage be undone? New **restrictions** on clear-cutting have been introduced in some of the most heavily forested nations, including Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. Governments are focusing on **reforestation** methods, and are exploring ways to reverse the damage. Planting mixed forests that are less **susceptible** to disease is one method. Learning how to prevent soil erosion is also crucial.

5. When a tree falls, it releases **carbon** into the atmosphere. What does this mean for global warming? According to some scientists, approximately 20% of global **carbon emissions** result from deforestation. That's more than the carbon emissions of all of the vehicles in the world!

Let's Discuss!

1. What are the main causes of deforestation mentioned in the text?
2. How does deforestation affect plants, animals, and the food chain?
3. Why do you think people still continue to deforest forests even knowing the impact?
4. What solutions are mentioned in the text to reduce or reverse deforestation?
5. How is deforestation connected to global warming and climate change?

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Lesson 3

Reading

GARBAGE SOLUTIONS

Don't throw your junk in my backyard.

1. Garbage collection is less **frequent** than it used to be. Many cities have **restrictions** on how many bags you can put out at the curb. Recycling and **compost** programs reduce the need for garbage collection. In some cities, you can even recycle diapers. The goal is to reduce or **eliminate** the need for **landfills**.

2. Did you know the garbage industry is **profitable**? Some cities, such as San José, sell their garbage to other countries. Garbage pickers make a living out of sorting through trash. Many people think old dumps should be reopened and **mined** for **treasures** such as metal. Nobody wants to live near a landfill, though.

3. Environmentalists hope that landfills will one day become **obsolete**. One alternative to dumping is to use garbage as fuel. This might have **reverse effects**. Would you bother to recycle if it wasn't necessary? What if all garbage bags were clear? Perhaps our habits would change if everyone could see our trash.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. What are some garbage collection restrictions in your community in Costa Rica? _____
2. How effective are recycling and compost programs in Costa Rica? _____
3. Do you think Costa Rica should sell its garbage to other countries? Why or why not? _____
4. What types of "treasures" (materials) could be found in old dumps in Costa Rica? _____
5. How could turning garbage into fuel help Costa Rica? What might be the problems? _____
6. Should landfills be eliminated in Costa Rica? What alternatives do we have? _____
7. How would clear garbage bags change people's behavior in Costa Rica? _____
8. What actions can young people in Costa Rica take to reduce garbage and protect the environment?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LESSON 3
B2 ENGLISH

READING

Read. Think. Reflect.



Read the following article and think about your own energy consumption habits.

"Powering Up: The Rise of Renewable Energy for a Brighter Future"

In today's world, where TikTok trends go viral in seconds and Instagram influencers dominate our feeds, it's easy to get caught up in the fast-paced whirlwind of social media. But amidst the hustle and bustle, there's a quieter revolution taking place one that's not just trending, but transforming our planet for the better. We're talking about renewable energy, and it's not just for tree-huggers anymore.

Picture this: instead of relying on dirty, old fossil fuels like coal and oil to power our homes and gadgets, we're tapping into the endless power of the sun, wind, water, and earth. Yep, you heard that right—Mother Nature's got our back, and she's serving up clean, green energy like never before.

So, what's the deal with renewable energy, anyway? Well, for starters, it's way better for the planet. Unlike fossil fuels, which pump out nasty greenhouse gases and trash our air and water, renewable energy sources are clean and green. Solar panels soak up sunlight and turn it into electricity, while wind turbines catch the breeze and spin it into power. And let's not forget about hydroelectric dams, which harness the energy of flowing water, or geothermal plants, which tap into the heat beneath the earth's surface. It's like magic, but better because it's real.

But here's the best part: renewable energy isn't just good for the planet—it's good for us, too. Think about it: cleaner air means fewer asthma attacks and respiratory problems. Plus, by ditching fossil fuels, we're cutting down on the carbon pollution that's driving climate change and making extreme weather events more frequent and severe. Translation? A safer, healthier world for all of us to enjoy.

And the cool thing is, renewable energy is blowing up faster than a viral dance challenge. In the past decade alone, the amount of renewable energy capacity has more than quadrupled, with solar and wind leading the charge. You've probably seen solar panels popping up on rooftops in your neighborhood or giant wind farms sprouting up in the countryside. It's like the energy revolution is happening right before our eyes, and we're all part of it.

But hey, we're not out of the woods just yet. Transitioning to renewable energy isn't as easy as flipping a switch. There are still challenges to overcome, like figuring out how to store energy when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing, or making sure everyone has access to clean energy, not just the privileged few. Plus, there are powerful interests ahem, Big Oil who aren't too keen on giving up their stranglehold on the energy market.

But here's the thing: we're young, we're smart, and we're not afraid to shake things up. Whether it's rallying for clean energy policies, supporting renewable energy startups, or just spreading the word on social media, we've got the power to make a difference. So let's roll

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B2 ENGLISH

READING

Read. Think. Reflect.



Read the following article and think about your own energy consumption habits.

READING COMPREHENSION

Answer the questions based on the article.

1. What is the main idea of the article?

2. According to the article, what are some renewable energy sources mentioned?

3. How does renewable energy benefit the environment?

4. What health benefit is mentioned as a result of cleaner air from renewable energy?

5. What evidence does the article give to show that renewable energy is growing rapidly?

6. What challenges are mentioned in the transition to renewable energy?

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

Discuss the questions with a partner or in a group.

1. What do you think is the most important benefit of using renewable energy?

2. What changes in your daily life could help reduce energy consumption?

3. Do you think governments are doing enough to promote renewable energy? Why or why not?

4. What role do young people have in supporting a cleaner and greener future?

5. What other renewable energy sources or innovations do you think will be important in the future?

REMEMBER!
Small actions today lead to big changes tomorrow.
Be the solution, not the pollution.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LESSON 3

WRITING

Make Your Voice Count!



Now that we are saving the planet together. Write an email to convince your local government to start using and promoting a responsible energy consumption.



Imagine you are a young activist passionate about renewable energy and sustainability. Write a persuasive email to your local government officials urging them to prioritize renewable energy initiatives in your community. In your letter, explain the environmental benefits of renewable energy and how it can positively impact the lives of residents. Use examples from the article to support your arguments and suggest specific actions that the government can take to promote renewable energy adoption.

FROM:

SUBJECT: URGENT ACTION NEEDED: PRIORITIZE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Dear Local Government Officials,

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to seeing positive steps towards a cleaner, greener future for our community.

Sincerely,

_____

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