

LISTENING-READING PRACTICE – THE ENVIRONMENT

LISTENING 1

Why is it so important that we limit the rise in temperature to 1.5°C? Watch this video to find out.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. a heatwave
2. a species
3. carbon
4. a coral reef
5. an impact
6. a greenhouse gas
7. global
8. to suck something out

Definition

- a. relating to the whole world
- b. a rock-like structure under the sea which provides a home for many fish and other sea animals
- c. a period of time when the weather is much hotter than usual
- d. a group of animals or plants which are the same and can reproduce with each other
- e. a chemical substance that is found in all living things and especially in coal, oil, etc.
- f. to pull something out with great force
- g. a powerful effect
- h. a gas (such as carbon dioxide) that scientists think is making the Earth get hotter

Task 1

Write the statements in the correct groups.

plant trees	6 per cent of insect species will disappear	18.5 per cent of people will be affected by heatwaves
some coral reefs will disappear	buy less meat, especially beef	buy fewer new clothes
18 per cent of insect species will disappear	walk or ride a bike	all coral reefs will disappear
		37 per cent of people will be affected by heatwaves

What will happen with a 1.5°C rise	What will happen with a 2°C rise	What we can do to help

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

twice	billions	average	high	by
half	compared	major	to	of

1. Today, the temperature of the planet is about 15°C.
2. Scientists think that temperatures may rise 3–5°C by 2100.
3. Although a degree doesn't seem very much, it could make a big difference.
4. Eighteen per cent insects on Earth will disappear if the temperature rises by 2°C.
5. This is to six per cent disappearing at 1.5°C.
6. If there is a 2°C rise, the number of people will be affected by heatwaves.
7. We will be in a better situation if we limit the rise 1.5°.
8. We need to plant of trees.
9. Beef production generates a amount of greenhouse gases.
10. The fashion industry is a source of greenhouse gases.

LISTENING 2.

Watch the video and choose the correct answer.

1) According to the speaker, greenhouse gases are produced by...

- a) heat from the sun
- b) the actions of people
- c) the sun's rays, and also the actions of people
- d) the video doesn't say

2) Which of these things is a greenhouse gas?

- a) carbon monoxide
- b) carbon dioxide
- c) oxygen
- d) the video doesn't say

3) Which of these ways to generate power provides a clean source of energy?

- a) gas
- b) oil
- c) wind power
- d) they are all clean sources of energy

4) Which of these things can help reduce levels of carbon dioxide?

- a) driving to work
- b) heating with coal instead of gas
- c) using public transport
- d) leaving your TV on standby, rather than switching it off

5) Which of these predictions about climate change does the video make?

- a) If the planet gets warmer, then polar bears will become extinct
- b) If the planet gets warmer, then we can expect more floods
- c) if the planet gets warmer, then fuel will become less expensive
- d) if the planet gets warmer, then sea levels will rise

6) The word extinct means...?

- a) to become scarce or rare
- b) in need of protection
- c) to become endangered
- d) something that has died out, and no longer exists

7) Choose the best answer to complete this statement:

If the planet continues to heat up, ___ ___ ___ expect to experience more extreme weather.

- a) then will we
- b) then can we
- c) then we can
- d) then should we

8) Which of these things isn't mentioned in the video?

- a) wave energy
- b) car pooling
- c) coral reefs
- d) heat waves

READING

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. a conference
2. make or break
3. to postpone
4. funds
5. to go on strike
6. to adapt
7. emissions
8. on track

Definition

- a. an important situation which will lead to either success or failure
- b. a programme of talks or meetings about a particular issue
- c. to decide to do something later than you had originally planned
- d. harmful gases that are sent into the air, e.g. from factories or vehicles
- e. to change and become better able to live in your environment
- f. money that is used for a specific purpose
- g. making good progress towards a goal
- h. to stop doing something (e.g. work or study) because you want to draw people's attention to an issue you are suffering from

COP26

Introduction

Climate change is causing problems all over the world. Compared with 40 years ago, we have almost five times more floods, droughts, heatwaves and other natural disasters today. And some of the poorest people in the world are the ones most in danger from climate change. That's why the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres recently said, '2021 is a make or break year to confront the global climate emergency.' Action needs to be taken now to reduce climate change – before it is too late.

What is COP26?

COP26 is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference. These events are also known as 'COPs', which stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. At COP26, world leaders, scientists and environmental campaigners will work together and plan action against climate change to protect people and the planet.

COP26 will be held from 1 to 12 November 2021, in Glasgow, Scotland. It should have taken place in 2020, but it was postponed for a year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

What does COP26 hope to achieve?

The event has four goals.

1. **To get countries to set higher targets for reducing emissions.** Countries will need to reduce the use of fossil fuels, protect trees and forests, use more electric vehicles and invest in clean energy.
2. **To help countries to adapt to the changing climate.** Countries will need to protect their natural environment and find ways to protect people from climate problems, such as by building defences against natural disasters.
3. **To raise funds.** Countries will need money to achieve goals 1 and 2.
4. **To work together.** The climate emergency can only be solved if countries work together. Countries will need to agree how to do this and then take action quickly.

The 2015 Paris Agreement

Six years ago, at COP21, the Paris Agreement was signed. The goal is to keep global warming below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement was important because it was the first ever legal agreement bringing countries together to act. Since then, 190 countries have joined the Paris Agreement. However, time is running out. Not enough has been done, and COP26 is seen as a last opportunity to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. COP26 will try to get climate action on track.

How are young people getting involved?

Young people are at the front of the movement for climate action. School students around the world went on strike in 2019 to call for more urgent action, and Greta Thunberg has spoken to world leaders about it.

Before COP26 in Glasgow, there will be a COP26 Youth Summit from 28 to 30 September in Milan, Italy. About 400 young people from 197 countries will attend. Some will travel to Milan, and others will attend online. The young people will work together in groups to develop proposals for climate action.

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Natural disasters are more common today than 40 years ago.	True	False
2. Only politicians will go to COP26.	True	False
3. The COP26 conference was supposed to happen in 2019.	True	False
4. Countries need to work harder and faster to reduce climate change.	True	False
5. The Paris Agreement has been a total success.	True	False
6. At the COP26 Youth Summit in Milan, young people will mainly listen to politicians' proposals about how to solve the climate emergency.	True	False

Task 2

Write a number (1–5) to put the events in the correct order from the first to the last.

- _____ School students went on strike.
- _____ The Paris Agreement was signed.
- _____ COP26 will be held.
- _____ COP26 was postponed.
- _____ The COP26 Youth Summit will be held.

Task 3

Complete the sentences.

warming	leaders	disasters	change
goals	break	emissions	proposals

1. The conference is about the issue of climate
2. António Guterres said that '2021 is a make or year to confront the global climate emergency.'

3. COP26 is a last opportunity for countries to meet the of the Paris Agreement.
4. International will come together at COP26 to discuss the action needed.
5. The aim is to limit global to below 2°C.
6. Countries need to cut CO₂
7. Countries also need to protect their people from natural
8. At the Youth Summit, young people will develop for action.