

UNIT 6: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A. VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR

Exercise 1 :

Choose the correct answers to the questions.

1 What do you call a situation where it rains too much and water covers the land?

a drought a flood a sinkhole

2 Which of these things might erupt?

an earthquake a tornado a volcano

3 What do you call a situation where it doesn't rain for a long time?

a drought a flood a tsunami

4 What do you call a storm with a violent wind?

a drought a hurricane a tornado

5 What do you call it when strong winds blow in a circle over land?

a landslide a thunderstorm a tornado

6 What do you call it when the land shakes?

an earthquake a hurricane a volcano

Exercise 2 :

Choose the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.

1 A drill/ natural resources/ well is a useful thing that we get from nature.

2 Fissures/ Fossil fuel/ Wells are sources of energy that come from plants and animals that lived a long time ago. We mostly find them underground.

3 People have been digging up and burning coal/ natural gas/ petrol, a hard, black fossil fuel, for thousands of years.

4 Over the centuries, people have dug deeper and deeper holes under the ground to access coal. One coal fracking/ mine/ power in South Africa is nearly 4 km deep.

5 Everything changed in the middle of the 19th century, when people worked out how to pump hydroelectric power/ natural gas/ petroleum, a liquid fossil fuel, out of the ground.

6 One of the most important oil products is coal/ crude oil/ petrol, the liquid fuel that powers most cars. In the USA, it's called 'gasoline', or simply 'gas'.

Exercise 3 :

Complete the text. Use the words and phrases in the box.

chemical waste chimney collects ground pollution protects
smog

When we think of [redacted], most of us think of dirty air. Maybe we see an image of a factory with a tall [redacted], pumping clouds of smoke into the sky. Or we imagine cars sitting in a traffic jam, pouring out carbon dioxide.

Over the years, this mixture of harmful gases [redacted] in the air. Some of it rises and burns a hole in the Earth's ozone layer, which [redacted] us from the sun. Some of it comes back down into our cities as [redacted], a dangerous mix of smoke and fog.

However, not all pollution goes into the air. For example, some factories pour [redacted] into rivers, where it flows into the sea. In addition, to help their crops grow, some farmers cover their land with chemicals, which remain in the [redacted] for years or might even flow into rivers.

Exercise 4 :

Match the sentence halves to complete the sentences.

1 There's a risk of acid	[redacted]	[redacted]	dioxide gas.
2 Cars produce a lot of carbon	[redacted]	[redacted]	fire near her hometown.
3 Yesterday, there was an oil	[redacted]	[redacted]	eruption on the island again.
4 Karen said there's a forest	[redacted]	[redacted]	leak at the power station.
5 There are going to be freezing	[redacted]	[redacted]	rain falling this week.
6 The landslide was a natural	[redacted]	[redacted]	disaster according to the news.
7 I heard there was a radiation	[redacted]	[redacted]	temperatures all this week.
8 There's been a volcanic	[redacted]	[redacted]	spill in the sea near here.

Exercise 5 :

Complete the text. Use the words and phrases in the box.

carbon footprint

conservation

emissions

environmentally friendly

litter

lower

recycling

renewable energy

sustainable

use

I like to think I'm **environmentally friendly**. I think about green issues a lot and always try to do the right thing for our planet. So, for example, I try to keep my **carbon footprint**, the amount of carbon dioxide that I cause, to a minimum. This means that I try to avoid travelling by car. Public transport produces far lower **emissions** of harmful gases per passenger. If I really need to travel by car, I try afterwards to do something that will **lower** the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. For example, I give some money to my local **environmental organization** group, so that they can plant a tree. Also, I never drop **litter** – I always throw my rubbish in the bin. I also try to make sure at least 80% of what I throw away can be reused, so I do a lot of **recycling**. I'm also careful to reduce my **use** of raw materials, which means I avoid buying things that have a high environmental cost. Of course, we still need to consume some things, like food or clothes, but it's important to make sure that how much we consume is **sustainable**. For example, I try to use **renewable energy** whenever I can – such as electricity generated from solar power stations or wind turbines. However, I can't really control how my electricity is generated.

Exercise 6 :

Put the words in the correct columns to complete the table.

drought

litter

green issue

natural resource

public transport

rainbow

chimney

carbon dioxide

coal

thunder

energy

ecosystem

countable nouns**uncountable nouns****Exercise 7 :**

Choose the correct words and phrases to complete the sentences.

- 1 There aren't enough/ isn't enough recycling in my town.
- 2 We don't get many/ much floods around here.
- 3 A large amount/ number of the food we buy is wasted and just gets thrown away.
- 4 We get a lot of smog because there's too many/ too much pollution.
- 5 Carbon monoxide is a/ some harmful gas.
- 6 I need to go to the gas station to buy a/ some gas or petrol, as you call it over here in the UK.
- 7 The destruction of the rainforest causes a great deal of/ a great significant amount of damage to the planet.
- 8 A large amount/ number of animal species are at risk of extinction.

Exercise 8 :

Complete the sentences. Use the words and phrases in the box.

a few

a little

few

fewer

fewest

least

less

little

1 There's a lot pollution now than there was a few years ago.

2 The old forest near my town has been almost completely cut down. There are only trees left, really not many at all.

3 The form of transport that generates the emissions of dangerous gases is the bicycle.

4 You should cycle to work instead of driving. It only takes more time.

5 The government is going to close down the coal mines that contain the coal, as they're no longer economical.

6 There are actually cars on the roads than there were five years ago.

7 people really understand why the world's climate is changing, and even fewer know how to stop it.

8 This car uses very fuel, so it's extremely environmentally friendly.

Exercise 9 : Match the replies with the first sentences to complete the conversations

1 A: I care a lot about the environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: Neither will I.
2 A: I didn't know it was so bad for the environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: Neither have we.
3 A: We aren't going to drop any litter here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: Neither did I.
4 A: I won't drive to work tomorrow.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: Neither are we.
5 A: We had an amazing view from our window.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: So did we.
6 A: We've never been to the rainforest before.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: So do I.
7 A: I'm not sure this is a good idea.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: So have I.
8 A: I've got a great idea.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B: Neither am I.

Exercise 10 :

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1 There are two options: Either we continue burning coal and find a way of reducing emissions by at least 90%, either/neither/or we simply stop burning coal altogether.

2 A: Should I put this bottle in the green bin or the black one?

B: Both/ Either/ Neither. It's glass, so it goes in the blue bin.

3 A: Which picture should we use in our report on ecosystems? This one of a coral reef or this one of a rainforest?

B: Both/ Either/ Neither. I don't mind which one you choose.

4 A: What do you think the government should focus on? Solar power or wind power?

B: Both/ Either/ Neither. I think we need to produce more energy from wind and solar power.

5 A: I think we should reduce waste.

B: Yeah, me both/ either/ too.

6 A: I don't really care about the environment.

B: No, me both/ either/ too.