

## First Conditional Sentences

Archaeologists often learn about a culture by studying that culture's garbage. Complete the interview with an archaeologist of modern culture. Use the correct form of the words in the boxes.

grow	run out	discover	happen	change	not do	continue
be						

Q: What has motivated you to specialize in garbage, Dr. Ratner?

A: I realized that the United States is in a crisis. We now spend more than \$15 billion a year to deal with our trash, and the cost is growing. If we (1) \_\_\_\_\_ something about our garbage, this problem (2) \_\_\_\_\_ out of control very soon.

Q: What exactly do you mean by a crisis? I mean what (3) \_\_\_\_\_ if we (4) \_\_\_\_\_ as we are right now?

A: We (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of room unless we (6) \_\_\_\_\_ our ways. The dump of New York City is now twenty-five times larger than the Great Pyramid of Giza. Unless we (7) \_\_\_\_\_ an answer to this trash problem, our greatest monument (8) \_\_\_\_\_ our garbage.

find	control	pollute	help	be able to	provide	find out	not
make							

Q: Is that the major problem? I mean (9) \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ resolve the crisis if we just (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a place to put all the trash?

A: No, we won't. Space is only one of the problems. These landfills leak pollutants into the ground. We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ our groundwater unless we (12) \_\_\_\_\_ this leakage. In fact, this has already started to happen.

Q: You're studying the actual contents of a landfill right now. If you (13)

\_\_\_\_\_ what's in there, (14) \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ officials plan  
solutions?

A: Yes, it will. It'll help a lot. They (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the right decisions unless we  
(16) \_\_\_\_\_ good information. There are a lot of superstitions about what's in  
a landfill and what happens to it. For example, a lot of people think 30 percent of our trash  
comes from fast-food packaging?

Q: You mean it doesn't?

<b>Believe</b> <b>have to</b>	<b>become</b> <b>replace</b>	<b>recycle</b> <b>cooperate</b>	<b>reduce</b> <b>charge</b>	<b>throw away</b>	<b>not reduce</b>
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A: Uh-uh. That's only about one-quarter of one percent. But if we (17) \_\_\_\_\_  
that plastic cups are the villains, we (18) \_\_\_\_\_ them with something a lot  
worse.

Q: What could be worse?

A: Paper cups. They take up just as much room, and you can't recycle them. You (19)  
\_\_\_\_\_ the pollution problem if you (20) \_\_\_\_\_ paper instead  
of plastic.

Q: But paper degrades, right?

A: Not really. Garbage doesn't degrade very quickly in a landfill. We often find forty-year-old  
newspapers that we can still read. Reducing all waste is our only answer.

Q: A lot of people find recycling too complicated. I mean, (21) \_\_\_\_\_ people actually  
\_\_\_\_\_ if they (22) \_\_\_\_\_ sort their trash instead of just dumping it?

A: If wastefulness (23) \_\_\_\_\_ very expensive, people (24)  
\_\_\_\_\_. For example, if we (25) \_\_\_\_\_ consumers more for

garbage disposal, they (26) \_\_\_\_\_ their trash. Seattle has increased recycling by more than 40 percent by charging more for garbage pickup

**do begin**

Q: What (27) \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ with all the plastic milk jugs if people in our city (28) \_\_\_\_\_ to recycle more?

A: We can reuse up to 90 percent of our waste. One famous clothing manufacturer is making very attractive coats from recycled right now.