

Listening and Reading Skills

A Plastic Ocean

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/video-zone/plastic-ocean>



A Plastic Ocean

Task 1: Read the dialogue and choose the correct answer:

Narrator: I remember the first time I saw a blue whale.

Man on boat: Look, look! (... Wow!)

Narrator: I'd followed them since childhood.

Diver: Where do you think it's from? Is it from a ship?

Narrator: I could see plastic everywhere.

- **Every year 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into our oceans**

Presenter: We were in what we thought was a relatively pristine environment. I started to wonder what was happening in oceans elsewhere on the planet.

- **A journalist who loves the ocean**

Narrator: Growing up, my world was the ocean. It's where I feel the most spiritual.

- **And a champion who dives below**

Diver: As a free diver, it was a place where I proved myself to myself. Finally have the opportunity to pay the sea back.

- **A crisis with global stakes**

Narrator: Only a fraction of the plastic that we produce is recycled.

Man 2 on boat: This is never going to degrade. It's got nowhere to go.

Narrator: It's something that these animals are forced to endure because it was man-made and we put it into their environment.

Diver: The record is two hundred and seventy-six pieces of plastic inside one ninety-day-old chick. If the plastics are in the food chain for the dolphin then they're also in our food chain.

Woman on boat: Exactly!

Narrator: Communities are built on these landfill sites ... So sweet potatoes, corn, sugar cane, all growing on forty years of garbage.

Do you have anything not wrapped in plastic?

... No!

... No!

- **To save our future**

Narrator: We have to make our life better for our kids' children.

- **We need a wave of change**

Narrator: Change is possible! It starts with us!

- **A Plastic Ocean**

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1. When did the first narrator start following blue whales?

- - a. When he was a teenager
 - b. When he was a child
 - c. When he was an adult

2. How many tons of plastic are dumped into the oceans every year?

- - a. 8 million
 - b. 5 million
 - c. 9 million

3. What does the narrator do for a living?

- a. He's a TV presenter.
- b. He's a diver.
- c. He's a journalist.

4. How does the free diver feel about her work helping to clean the oceans?

- a. That more people should do it
- b. That it's her way to pay back the ocean for all the pleasure it has given her
- c. That it's an impossible job

5. Why is the plastic in the ocean never going to degrade?

- a. Because it has nowhere to go
- b. Because there is too much of it
- c. Because more and more is being dumped daily

6. How many pieces of plastic were found in a ninety-day-old chick?

- a. 256
- b. 266
- c. 276

7. What has been built on the landfill sites?

- a. Beaches – including resorts for tourists
- b. Factories – including plastic bottle factories
- c. Communities – including their food production

8. What does the main narrator believe is possible?

- a. He believes change is possible and it starts with us.
- b. He believes change is possible if we stop buying plastic bottles.
- c. He believes change is possible if we stop throwing bottles in the ocean.