

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You are going to hear three excerpts from a talk about environmental issues. Read the notes below and listen carefully to the recordings. In the spaces provided, IN BLOCK CAPITALS, complete the missing information with **one or two words**. Gap 0 is given as an example.

Use the exact words which appear in the recording.

THE THREE Rs: TIPS FOR AN EARTH FRIENDLY LIFE

ANSWER GRIDS

PART ONE – REDUCING

Ex. 0	We should try to reduce the things we use and THROW AWAY.
1.	Packaging is now a _____ percentage of the weight of the item.
2.	Now DVDs come shrink-wrapped and packed in _____ boxes.
3.	Cutting down on the packaging is a good way to start reducing _____.
4.	Another change in the things we buy is their _____.

PART TWO – REUSING

5.	Old things can be reused, although they may not be serving the _____.
6.	Old T-shirts can be turned into perfect _____ rags.
7.	You can reuse glass jars as containers for _____, dry goods or decorative items

PART THREE – RECYCLING

8.	Glass is one of the _____ because it lasts longer than plastic.
9.	Once plastics have a particular shape, they burn instead of _____ over the fire.

THE THREE Rs: TIPS FOR AN EARTH FRIENDLY LIFE

PART 1

Reducing means to cut down on how much stuff we use and throw away. Americans make twice as much trash per person than we did 35 years ago, according to the EPA. The increase comes mostly from the way our consumer goods have changed. Packaging of goods and materials has become a larger percentage of the weight of the item, and are usually things you can't reuse. Books used to be shipped in brown paper packages, and you could reuse the paper and the string. Or you bought items from the store, and were not given any packaging or a plastic shopping bag.

Now DVDs come shrink wrapped and packed in cardboard boxes with a bunch of foam inside them. Reducing the packaging you're responsible for is a good way to start reducing waste. Look for items that aren't packed in plastic over plastic over plastic. Try to buy goods in bulk instead of in packages, and make your own portions at home with reusable containers. Another change in our consumer goods is their disposability. Try to buy items of good quality that are made to be used more than once -even if they cost a little more.

PART 2

Reuse means that something old is new again. It may not be serving the same purpose, but it's not going into the trash. For example, old soft T-shirts with lots of holes in them make the best cleaning rags for nice wood furniture and polishing leather shoes.

The point is to hover over the trashcan at the point you normally would have chucked something, and say "Self, stop what you're doing. What else could we do with that doo-hickey?" When you get plastic cartons of to-go food, reuse them for lunch boxes and leftover storage. Glass jars that have been cleaned and the label removed make great containers for bathroom supplies, dry goods like flour and sugar, and decorative items like flowers and candles.

PART 3

Recycling means something is changed back into its unmade nature, and made into something new. For example, glass is one of the best containers to buy, because even though it costs more to haul around the country, glass lasts a lot longer than plastic in your reuse cycle. Then, once you get sick of putting flowers in an old coke bottle, that coke bottle can be melted down into slag and poured into any other glass shape, almost an infinite amount of times. By contrast, plastics break down over many recycles, and tend not to form such durable plastics again. Many are not recyclable at all, because once they are set into their shape, they burn instead of melt over the fire. Paper fibers also break down over time, so we can't stop making new paper just by recycling the paper we've already made.