



READING TEST 2

NAMES: _____

YEAR: "____"

ROOM: "____"

DATE: ____/____/25

A.- Read the text about food and the environment and for questions 1 to 6, choose the correct answer.

Food miles: Is buying local food always better?

Recently, campaigners have encouraged us to buy local food. This reduces 'food miles', that is, the distance food travels to get from the producer to the retailer. They reason that the higher the food miles, the more carbon emissions. Buying local food, therefore, has a lower carbon footprint and is more environmentally friendly.

However, the real story is not as simple as that. If our aim is to reduce carbon emissions, we must look at the whole farming process, not just transportation. According to a 2008 study, only 11% of carbon emissions in the food production process result from transportation, and only 4% originated from the final delivery of the product from the producer to the retailer. Other processes, including fertilisation, storage, heating and irrigation, contribute much more.

In fact, imported food often has a lower carbon footprint than locally grown food. Take apples, for example. In autumn, when apples are harvested, the best option for a British resident is to buy British apples. However, the apples we buy in winter or spring have been kept refrigerated for months, and this uses up a lot of energy. In spring, therefore, it is more energy-efficient to import them from New Zealand, where they are in season. Heating also uses a lot of energy, which is why growing tomatoes in heated greenhouses in the UK is less environmentally friendly than importing them from Spain, where the crop grows well in the local climate.

We must also take into account the type of transport. Transporting food by air creates about 50 times more emissions than shipping it. However, only a small proportion of goods are flown to the consumer country, and these are usually high value, perishable items which we cannot produce locally, such as seafood and out-of-season berries. Even then, these foods may not have a higher carbon footprint than locally grown food. For example, beans flown in from Kenya are grown in sunny fields using manual labour and natural fertilisers, unlike in Britain, where we use oil-based fertilisers and diesel machinery. Therefore, the total carbon footprint is still lower.

It's also worth remembering that a product's journey does not end at the supermarket. The distance consumers travel to buy their food, and the kind of transport they use will also add to its carbon footprint. So driving a long way to shop for food will negate any environmental benefits of buying locally grown produce. Furthermore, choosing local over imported food can also badly affect people in developing countries. Many of them work in agriculture because they have no other choice. If they are unable to sell produce overseas, they will have less income to buy food, clothes, medicine and to educate their children.

Recently, some supermarkets have been trying to raise awareness of food miles by labelling foods with stickers that show it has been imported by air. But ultimately, the message this gives is too simple. Lots of different factors contribute to a food's carbon footprint besides the distance it has travelled. And even if we only buy local food which is currently in season, there are ethical implications. What's more, our diets would be more limited.



1 What is the main idea of the text?

- A. The importance of buying locally produced food.
- B. The reasons why food miles campaigns are too simple.
- C. The advantages of importing food from overseas.
- D. The problems caused by transporting food.

2. According to a study in the USA, 11% is ...

- A. the percentage of food that is produced and sold locally.
- B. the percentage of energy in food production used to transport food from producer to retailer.
- C. the percentage of energy in food production used for any kind of transport.
- D. the percentage of food which is imported from overseas.

3 Seafood is given as an example of food which...

- A. is transported by air unnecessarily.
- B. is expensive and goes bad quickly.
- C. people in poor countries rely on for income.
- D. is usually transported by ship.

4 According to the text, how are Spanish tomatoes and Kenyan beans similar?

- A. They are both transported by air.
- B. They are both grown using natural fertilizer.
- C. They are both grown outdoors.
- D. They both have high carbon footprints.

5 Which of these does the writer NOT support?

- A. Supporting farmers in poor countries.
- B. Importing apples to Britain from New Zealand in spring.
- C. Buying beans imported by air from Kenya.
- D. Making a long journey to buy food produced locally.

6. The writer thinks that labelling food which has been transported by air...

- A. will raise environmental awareness.
- B. helps people to shop more ethically.
- C. does not tell a full, accurate story.
- D. gives false information about the product.



B.- Read the text again and decide if the sentences are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Buying local food always results in a lower carbon footprint than buying imported food.
True / False
2. Only a small percentage of carbon emissions in food production come from transportation.
True / False
3. Imported apples are always worse for the environment than British apples.
True / False
4. Growing tomatoes in heated greenhouses in the UK uses more energy than importing tomatoes from Spain.
True / False
5. Food transported by air produces significantly more carbon emissions than food transported by ship.
True / False
6. Beans flown from Kenya to Britain have a higher carbon footprint than locally grown beans.
True / False
7. Consumers driving long distances to buy local food can increase the overall carbon footprint.
True / False
8. Buying only local food has no impact on farmers in developing countries.
True / False
9. Supermarkets have started labelling foods transported by air to raise awareness about food miles.
True / False
10. The carbon footprint of food depends only on how far it has traveled from producer to retailer.
True / False



C.- For each question, choose the correct answer.

The people below are all looking for a job. There are descriptions of eight jobs.
Decide which jobs would be the most suitable for the people below.

- 1 Sandra is doing a four-year degree in hair and beauty and wants to work as a volunteer for her third-year work experience. She likes to be part of a team and would enjoy dealing with customers.
- 2 Manuela is from Spain and is looking for work to support herself financially while she studies English at a local college. She can only work on Saturdays and Sundays and some evenings.
- 3 Stella is looking for work during the holidays. She's studying business at college and would love somewhere she can gain experience in a business environment and put her IT skills into practice.
- 4 John is looking for a job where he can work with customers. He recently completed a course in this area of work and is keen to find a job that would offer support in developing skills in managing staff.
- 5 Simon has a job but wants to work with teenagers during the weekend. He is planning a career change and is happy to work without pay in order to gain experience.



Jobs Available

A ABC Computer Specialists

Do you have customer service skills? ABC Computer Specialists are looking for sales advisers to join our growing customer service team. This is a full-time post, 37 hours a week, with great opportunities for the right person.

B Mansion House Hotel

An exciting opportunity for students wanting work experience in the Mansion House Hotel on a part-time basis. You will be dealing with international customers and a second language would be an advantage. Hours of work can be agreed to suit your needs though you would be required to work some weekends.

C Susie's Hairdressing

We are a new hairdresser's and we want a young, hard-working volunteer to manage our reception desk. You will take calls, make bookings and help build a relationship with our customers. Suitable candidates will be offered a one-year contract.

D The Daily News

Our business is growing and we need an assistant for our customer service team. The successful person will assist in managing our sales staff and be responsible for reporting on sales. The successful person will receive training.

E Amega

Would you like to work in a modern office environment, building relationships with customers, and working with our excellent team? If you've recently completed your studies at university and are looking for a career in the beauty industry, then please get in contact.

F Peterfield Forum

We are looking for keen volunteers to help run our summer school. You will have experience in working with young people and be prepared to accompany them on trips. The school is open from Monday to Friday and we need volunteers for at least two of these days.

G Hall Green Community Centre

This is a great opportunity to gain experience in youth work. We are looking for a volunteer with work experience to support our young people as they begin to enter employment. You would be expected to work on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with occasional Sunday sessions.

H Lucas Media

Are you a student looking for work from Monday to Friday over the vacation period? We are offering a short-term contract to a keen young person to work with our sales team. You will get an idea of how a modern company operates, deal with customer enquiries and have the chance to help develop our website.