

**READING**

1. A group of students found an article about water as a natural resource. Read the article and choose the correct option. (3x5=15)

## Can we make our carbon footprints smaller?

Our carbon footprint is the estimated amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) given off as we go about our daily lives. While the global average carbon footprint is about 4 metric tons per person each year, Americans contribute approximately 20 metric tons of greenhouse gas per person each year. Compared to other countries, even those who use the least amount of energy in the US – for example, a person who lives off the grid – still contribute double the carbon emissions than the global average per person. And, not surprisingly, a person's carbon footprint increases in size as his or her income increases. So, the less you spend, the more environmentally friendly you are.

How is it possible that people in the US who live simple lifestyles, e.g., children or the homeless, make such large contributions to greenhouse gas emissions? The answer is simple: Each US citizen has access to various basic government services such as firefighting and police departments, road and bridge repair, libraries, jails and prisons, the military, etc. When these public services are divided equally among the entire US population, it significantly raises the carbon footprint per person. In fact, according to a study conducted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the lowest carbon footprint that can be calculated for a person living in the US is 8.5 metric tons. And shockingly, this carbon footprint corresponds to a homeless person who sleeps in public shelters and eats in soup kitchens.

While it is admirable to make changes in lifestyle to reduce a carbon footprint, in reality, it is very difficult to do. The MIT study revealed that a "rebound effect" occurred when someone made an effort to reduce his or her carbon footprint. Take the example of a person who made the deliberate choice to buy a hybrid car instead of a large SUV to save money on gas costs. Very often that person would use the money he or she saved to do something else, e.g., take a long airplane trip. In this case, just one long airplane trip produces more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than driving the large SUV for a year. This ends up having a negative impact on a person's carbon footprint by making it bigger! Can Americans reduce their carbon footprints? According to the study, it IS possible, but it would require lifestyle changes such as giving up long-distance travel and buying fewer smartphones and tablets that have large energy costs to produce and deliver. The most drastic way to lower the average American's US carbon footprint is to add a CO<sub>2</sub> tax on food, housing, and transportation, and most Americans don't want their taxes raised. Unless we can find a way to reduce our carbon footprints, the price we may ultimately have to pay is much higher the amount Americans will ever have to pay in taxes.



- 1) The average American's carbon footprint is approximately...
  - a. eight times more than the global average carbon footprint per person.
  - b. five times more than the global average carbon footprint per person.
  - c. double the global average carbon footprint per person.
- 2) Americans with the lowest carbon footprints are usually people who...
  - a. have nowhere to live or eat.
  - b. serve as soldiers.
  - c. are unemployed.
- 3) A person who lives a simple lifestyle in the US has a high carbon footprint because...
  - a. he or she can't pay a tax to offset his or her carbon footprint.
  - b. the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint calculation is not divided equally among all US citizens.
  - c. he or she has access to public services paid for by the government.
- 4) The "rebound effect" has...
  - a. a negative impact on an individual's carbon footprint.
  - b. a positive impact on an individual's carbon footprint.
  - c. no impact on an individual's carbon footprint.
- 5) The writer's conclusion is that...
  - a. paying a carbon footprint tax is an easy solution.
  - b. finding a way to reduce the average US citizen's carbon footprint is more important than anything else to all Americans.
  - c. reducing the US carbon footprint is almost impossible.

**2. Read the article again and match the underlined words in the text to their meaning. (8x1=8)**

- a. .....: not using the public supplies of electricity, gas or water.
- b. .....: the powerful effect that something has on someone or something.
- c. .....: money that you have to pay the government so that it can pay for public services.
- d. .....: sent into the air.
- e. .....: not harming the world around us.
- f. .....: extreme in a way that has serious effects on something.
- g. .....: done on purpose
- h. .....: when a situation is different from what has just been said or from what people believe.

**GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY**

**3. Students are talking in class. Read their statements and circle the correct option. (8x1=8)**

- a. If only we could save / will be saving / saved the planet. I'm always thinking about that.
- b. I don't know anything about this environmental project.  
I wish Miss Thompson explains / would explain / will explain the topic again.
- c. You've seen the documentary on deforestation, have you / haven't you / did you?
- d. - This research about pollution looks perfect! Did your parents help you?  
- No, I did it by me / myself / on myself.
- e. He missed the class about deforestation and now he knows nothing about it.  
He wishes he came / had come / would have come to class that day.
- f. Why didn't I pass the test on The Environment? I'm a good student, am I not / don't I / aren't I?
- g. If people were much more aware about environmental problems, we could save our planet. If only we could do / will do / have done something fast.
- h. We were so sad we couldn't sleep at all last night. We wish we didn't see / hadn't seen / wouldn't see the documentary about animals in danger.

**4. The students attended a conference about energy. Report what the specialist said. (4x3=12)**

- a. "Are renewable energy sources well known to most citizens?"  
The specialist asked \_\_\_\_\_
- b. "Some people started using solar panels in their homes."  
He said \_\_\_\_\_
- c. "Engineers are extracting steam from the Earth's crust to generate electricity."  
He said \_\_\_\_\_
- d. "The amount of energy in sunlight is very low, so it won't last much."  
He said \_\_\_\_\_



**5. The students were asked to read about the environment.**

Change these sentences into Passive Voice. (4x3=12)

- a. Pollution affects the environment in many ways.  
The environment \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The greenhouse effect has caused serious climate changes around the world.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Some farmers are overusing chemicals in their crops.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. People should separate all household waste.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. The students are watching a TV program about recycling. Complete the statements with the best alternative.**

(2x5=10)

- a. The first time that environmentalists suggested recycling trash, the project was turned.....  
a) down      b) over      c) against
- b. The major looked.....the proposal and found out it was doable.  
a) after      b) forward      c) into
- c. Due to financial drawbacks, the project was put.....for some months.  
a) off      b) on      c) up
- d. Some experts consider necessary to make some changes before they got.....with it.  
a) down      b) through      c) along
- e. Finally, after so much work, it came.....  
a) across      b) off      c) out

**7. The students are reading an article about "Green Companies" that help the environment. Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There is ONE word you don't need. (5x2=10)**

<b>commuters</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>cutback</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>top-notch</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>showcase</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>fulfill</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>urban sprawl</b>
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- a. The convention carried out in Brazil, was a ..... of these companies' new products to help the planet.
- b. They conducted a study and identified a new factor affecting rural areas that are becoming more attractive places to live: the effect of..... on residents' health.
- c. Buses remain the greatest threat to ..... due to the toxic fumes they emit.
- d. One of the companies signed a contract with the mayor to apply new policies to solve the problem. So, authorities have to..... their part of a deal.
- e. They are investing on environmental technology of ..... quality.

**8. Megan and her classmates are doing homework. Complete the sentences with the words in CAPITALS plus a SUFFIX or a PREFIX. (5/1=5)**

- a. Please, be ..... with that solar panel! You may break it!      **CARE**
- b. Wow! 37°C in spring! It is such an ..... temperature for this time of year.      **USUAL**
- c. The remote control batteries have run out, fortunately they are .....      **RECHARGE**
- d. I thought the fliers for the campaign were going to be distributed before the talk and not later, everything is so ..... **ORGANIZED**
- e. The most ..... event happened last week. The Sahara desert flooded due to heavy rains!      **PROBABLE**