RMIT Classification: Trusted

4A Homework

1 READING

a Read the article and choose the right answer.

How can Americans reduce their carbon footprints?

A By taking only two or three long airplane trips a year.

B By buying a lot of small products instead of a few big products.

C By reducing taxes on food, housing, and transportation.

D By spending less money on goods and services.

b Read the article again and choose a, b, or c.

1 The average American's carbon footprint is…

a approximately eight times more than the global average carbon footprint per person.

b approximately five times more than the global average carbon footprint per person.

c approximately double the global average carbon footprint per person.

2 Americans with the lowest carbon footprints are usually …

a people who have nowhere to live or eat.

b people who serve as soldiers.

c people who are unemployed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

RMIT Classification: Trusted

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_2 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" …

a has a negative impact on an individual's carbon footprint.

b has a positive impact on an individual's carbon footprint.

c has 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Can We Make Our Carbon Footprints Smaller?

Our carbon footprint is the estimated amount of carbon dioxide (C02) **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 ease, just one long airplane trip produces more C02 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, tablets, and MP3 players 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 C02 **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 than the amount Americans will ever have to pay in taxes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

RMIT Classification: Trusted

c Look at the highlighted words and phrases in the text and try to figure out their meaning. Then match to definitions 1–8.

1 not using the public supplies of electricity, gas, or water _____
2 the powerful effect that something has on someone or something _____
3 money that you have to pay the government so that it can pay for public services _____
4 sent into the air _____
5 not harming the world around us _____
6 extreme in a way that has serious effect on something _____
7 done on purpose _____
8 when a situation is different from what has just been said or from what people believe _____

2 VOCABULARY the weather

a Circle the one that doesn't belong.

1 below zero chilly freezing pouring
2 settled pouring drizzling showers
3 boiling damp mild warm
4 fog mist smog thunder
5 blizzard hailstorm breeze monsoon

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

1 We're having a h*eat wave*__. It's not usually so hot at this time of year.
2 The weather is very ch_____ right now. One minute it's raining and the next the sun comes out.
3 People say that there may be a fl_____ if the river continues rising.
4 In some areas it was raining and in others there was h_____. The balls of ice were enormous!
5 There will be h_____ rain this morning, so drive carefully.
6 The government wants us to save water because of the dr_____.
7 In India, m_____ season usually lasts until October.
8 The l_____ lit up the sky during the thunderstorm.
9 I just took a shower 30 minutes ago and I'm sweating already – it's so h_____!

c Match each adjective to a noun.

1 strong	a skies
2 cool	b fog
3 clear	c rain
4 sunny	d periods
5 heavy	e breeze
6 thick	f sunshine
7 icy	g roads
8 bright	h winds

LIVEWORKSHEETS

RMIT Classification: Trusted

3 GRAMMAR

future perfect and future continuous

a Circle the correct form.

1 If this hot weather continues, forecasters say we *will have* / *will have had* / *will be having* a drought.

2 We *will have* / *will have had* / *will be having* six meetings by the end of today.

3 I've decided that in the future I *will take* / *will have taken* / *will be taking* the train to work.

4 Please don't call between one and two o'clock because we *will have* / *will have had* / *will be having* lunch.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

RMIT Classification: Trusted

5 Anna *will study* / *will have studied* / *will be studying* at college the next time we see her.

6 We *will buy* / *will have bought* / *will be buying* a beach house if we can sell the condo.

b Complete the sentences with the future perfect or future continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1 By the end of this month, we'*ll have moved* (move) to our new house, so you can come and stay after that.
2 This time tomorrow my parents _____ (fly) over the Atlantic on their way to London.
3 Rob's exams are in May, so he _____ (take) them all by June first.
4 Hopefully you _____ (read) the book I lent you by the next time we see each other.
5 If the game starts at 7:00 p.m., we _____ (play) until 8:45 at least.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

RMIT Classification: Trusted

6 By this time next year, they _____ (build) the new road and we'll be able to get to work much quicker.

7 When do you think you _____ (finish) paying your mortgage?

8 Don't call me tomorrow morning because I _____ (drive) to Los Angeles.

9 It's been raining all day, but hopefully it _____ (stop) by tomorrow. We were planning to have a picnic.

10 _____ (you go) to the supermarket later?

LIVEWORKSHEETS