

How can we have a positive impact on our environment?

Our environment is the place that we live in.

We have a responsibility to take care of both our local environment and our global environment. We should keep them healthy, nice places to live for ourselves and others.

Litter is a big problem. An estimated 8 million tonnes of plastic alone are dumped in our oceans every year. This is harmful for the creatures who live in it.

Many richer countries send their litter to poorer countries to deal with. This is not fair or sustainable:



- It stops people in developed countries from understanding the amount of litter they produce and prevents them from taking responsibility for it.
- The countries that this litter is sent to are often unable to deal with it properly so it ends up polluting their environment or dumped into the ocean.

We can cut down on the amount of litter and waste we create if we:

- **think** carefully about what we need
- **reduce** the amount of things we buy or use
- **reuse** things we already have or give them to someone else who can use them
- **recycle** things in the correct recycling bins once we have finished with them

Reduce

Do you really need the latest technology or clothes?

Reuse

Try and reuse clothes or other things you already have. Or you could give them to a charity shop so that other people can use them.

Recycle

Recycling bins normally tell you what they accept - and what they don't.

Always put your litter in a bin. If the nearest bin is full, hold on to your litter until you find one with enough space. Any litter that can't be reused or recycled needs to be binned properly. A really important part of our local environment is its **wildlife**. Human litter can harm animals and insects by **damaging their habitats, injuring them** and **making them ill**.

The good news is that it *isn't* hard for us to solve this problem: **Hold on to your litter until you can find a public bin or take it home with you**. You can even do litter picks with your adult - just make sure you are protected and don't pick up any litter with your hands.

Litter doesn't look very nice either so by helping to reduce litter you will make your environment a more enjoyable place for everyone!

Give wildlife a place to live and things to eat

A healthy environment is one with plenty of wildlife!

Insects, worms and other creepy crawlies play a vital role because they help to pollinate plants and larger animals feed on them. If insects are around, birds and other animals will follow!

We can help nurture our local wildlife by making **bug hotels, little ponds** and **bird feeders** to support the living things in our area.

Make a safe shelter for bugs by piling up material like dead wood, bark, dry leaves and stones. Build it somewhere it will get some sun as well as some shade to attract all sorts of creepy crawlies.

Walk, wheel or use public transport more often

A great way to help the environment is to walk, cycle or scoot to school instead of being driven!

You can cut out shorter journeys in cars to improve air quality and reduce pollution. Fewer car journeys means lower carbon emissions. That helps reduce climate change and helps our global environment.

Walk or wheel these journeys instead and you'll also get fit and healthy!

Activity: Sentence Building

Now that you have highlighted where the **present simple tense** is used in the article, it is time to make your own sentences.

Go through the list of recycling-related prompts below and build sentences using the **present simple tense**.



1. Sorting waste
2. Recycling paper and glass
3. Reusing clothes
4. Public transport
5. Looking after wildlife