

Listening Exam-2D
Confused about recycling? It's not your fault

Part A: Gist (Main Idea)

1. What is the main purpose of the talk?

- A. To explain how plastic bottles are made
- B. To describe why most plastics are not recycled and what can be done
- C. To promote recycling centers
- D. To criticize consumers for not recycling

2. According to the speaker, only about what percentage of plastic produced worldwide is recycled?

- A. 50%
- B. 25%
- C. 9%
- D. 1%

Part B: Detail

3. What is one reason thermosetting plastics cannot be recycled?

- A. They are too expensive
- B. They melt too easily
- C. Their molecular chains are permanently crosslinked
- D. They are banned in most countries

4. Thermoplastics are easier to recycle because they:

- A. dissolve in water
- B. can be melted and remolded
- C. are biodegradable
- D. contain no chemicals

5. Why are only some thermoplastics accepted at recycling centers?

- A. They are too colorful
- B. They require different recycling conditions
- C. They are illegal
- D. They are too small

6. What does each number in the recycling code represent?

- A. The size of the plastic item
- B. The country of origin
- C. The type of resin used
- D. The year it was produced

Part C: Understanding Problems

7. Why can plastics with multiple materials or labels be rejected from recycling?

(Short answer)

8. Even in ideal conditions, why can plastic only be recycled a limited number of times?

- A. Recycling machines break
- B. The color fades
- C. The polymers degrade
- D. The plastic becomes heavier

9. According to the talk, when did the plastics industry already know recycling would be difficult?

- A. 1950s
- B. 1970s
- C. 1990s
- D. 2000s

10. What action did the plastics industry take despite doubts about recycling?

(Short answer)

Part D: Inference and Critical Thinking

11. What was the effect of lobbying governments to adopt resin code laws?

- A. It improved recycling technology
- B. It shifted responsibility to consumers
- C. It banned plastic production
- D. It reduced packaging

12. Why have many cities stopped curbside recycling programs?

- A. Lack of public interest
- B. Too much plastic available
- C. High costs and fewer buyers for recyclable waste
- D. Government prohibition

Part E: Solutions

13. What is one major source of plastic waste mentioned?

- A. Toys
- B. Packaging materials
- C. Clothing
- D. Electronics

14. What is a “circular economy” for plastics?

- A. Burning plastic for energy
- B. Producing plastic once and discarding it
- C. Keeping plastics in use through recycling and reducing new production
- D. Exporting plastic waste

Part F: Vocabulary in Context

15. In the talk, the word “pristine” conditions most nearly means:

- A. Dirty
- B. Ideal
- C. Dangerous
- D. Expensive

16. The speaker suggests replacing resin codes with:

- A. More numbers
- B. Color-coded symbols
- C. Clear recyclable vs. non-recyclable labels
- D. No labels at all