

BEFORE YOU READ

Skim the passage: *How long can it take for plastic to decompose in the landfill?*

GO GREEN WITH PLASTICS!

Plastic has become very common in our daily life; however, most plastic items take up to 1,000 years to decompose in landfills. Can we enjoy the convenience of plastics and a greener world at the same time? Our readers have sent us many emails with useful tips this week.

... I try to use fewer plastic bags when shopping. The supermarket near my house even provides **cardboard boxes**, so I can pack my groceries and get rid of plastic packaging! When I must use plastic bags, I try to reuse them again and again instead of throwing them away after a single use. ...

Hai, 18

... I know how convenient it is to buy a bottle of water from a vending machine or a supermarket; however, I always bring my reusable water bottle. All I have to remember is to fill my bottle before going to school, and then use the water filling stations or drinking fountains at school. ...

Phuong, 16



... I always reuse plastic takeaway containers. I use them to store portions of cooked food and keep **leftovers** in the fridge, which is also better for the environment. ...

Hoang, 15

Plastics recycling symbol



... I have learnt that most plastic containers have numbers at the bottom to show the type of plastic they're made of. So when you recycle a bottle, for instance, remove the cap because a bottle often has number 1 on it while the cap often has number 5. Numbers 1 and 2 are the most widely accepted plastics for recycling. ...

Ha, 16

... When I started recycling, I made the mistake of putting some plastic takeaway containers with some leftover food into the recycling bin. The next day, the whole bin was **contaminated**, so all the recyclables were taken to the landfill instead. So now I always **rinse out** containers before recycling them. ...

Binh, 17

READING COMPREHENSION

A. Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the reading mainly about?

- a. The dangers of plastic pollution in the ocean
- b. Tips from readers on how to live with less plastic waste
- c. New laws banning single-use plastics

2. Read and complete the table. Use NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS.

Single-use plastics can be:	Tips
reduced	• use (1) _____ instead of plastic packaging • bring a (2) _____ water bottle
reused	• reuse (3) _____ many times • reuse single-use plastic containers
recycled	• avoid plastics with (4) _____ that are hard to recycle • (5) _____ containers before recycling

3. Match the words with the correct pictures



1 cardboard boxes

2 leftovers

3 contaminated

4 rinse out



4. Match people with their ideas

1 This person has learnt from a past mistake how to recycle things properly.

a Hai

2 This person's green lifestyle is supported by a local business.

b Phuong

3 This person has learnt the recycling symbols to help the recycling process.

c Hoang

4 This person's green habit depends on local drinking water facilities.

d Ha

5 This person tries to reuse plastic takeaway containers.

e Binh

PLANTING FOR THE PLANET

- A When he was nine years old, Felix Finkbeiner gave a class **presentation** on climate change. The young German spoke about deforestation¹ and its effect on the planet. At the end of his talk, he **challenged** the people of his country to help by planting one million trees. Nobody thought much would come of a nine-year-old's school project. Before he was 20, however, Finkbeiner's efforts had resulted in the planting of more than 14 billion trees around the world.
- B Finkbeiner and his **classmates** began the project—named "Plant-for-the-Planet"—by planting the first tree outside their school. Other schools followed the example, and **news** of the one-million challenge spread. As a result, Finkbeiner was asked to speak at the European Parliament. Other **invitations** soon followed, and when he was just 13, he spoke at a United Nations conference² in New York. "We cannot trust that adults alone will **save** our future," he said in the **speech**. "We have to take our future in our own hands."
- C Finkbeiner is now in his twenties, and Plant-for-the-Planet is an organization with around 70,000 **members**. It works to teach people about climate change and to encourage the planting of more trees. Germany's one millionth tree was planted long ago. The goal now is one trillion³—150 for every person on Earth.
- D Finkbeiner continues to give talks on climate change to world leaders. "I don't think we can give up on this generation of adults," he says, "and wait 20 or 30 years for our generation to come to power. We don't have that time. All we can do is push [current world leaders] in the right direction."



▲ At age 17, Finkbeiner gave this talk in Dortmund, Germany.

A. Choose the best answer for each question.

GIST

1. What is the reading mainly about?
 - a. the problems deforestation can cause for our planet
 - b. how planting trees can help the environment
 - c. how a young person has made a big difference to the environment

PURPOSE

2. What is the purpose of paragraph B?
 - a. to give an example of the challenges Finkbeiner faced
 - b. to explain how Finkbeiner's project grew
 - c. to describe Finkbeiner's personality

DETAIL

3. What is NOT true about Plant-for-the-Planet today?
 - a. It teaches people about deforestation.
 - b. It has many thousands of members.
 - c. Its aim is to plant one billion trees.

REFERENCE

4. In paragraph C, what does the word *It* refer to?
 - a. Plant-for-the-Planet
 - b. Germany's one millionth tree
 - c. climate change

APHRASING

5. Which of the following is the best summary of Finkbeiner's quote in paragraph D?
 - a. It will be easier to make changes when today's young people have more power.
 - b. Young people today need to push those in power to make changes.
 - c. Today's world leaders are a good example for younger generations to follow.



^ A child plants a tree as part of the Plant-for-the-Planet project.