

Unit 10

THE ECOSYSTEM

I Pronunciation

Read the following conversations. Put a tick to indicate the appropriate intonation (rising or falling) on the question tags. Then practise saying them.

Conversation 1. (*A is not sure of B's answer*)

A: You will prepare the slides for tomorrow's talk, won't you? _____

B: OK, I'll do that.

Conversation 2. (*B is making a point*)

A: Siberian tigers are endangered animals.

B: That's right. We should protect them, shouldn't we? _____

Conversation 3. (*A isn't sure of B's answer*)

A: You are attending the workshop on protecting local biodiversity on Monday, aren't you? _____

B: Yes, I'm giving a talk about the loss of local fauna.

Conversation 4. (*A is making a point*)

A: Nam is a very talented young man. He has won a scholarship at Hanoi University, hasn't he? _____

B: That's right.

Conversation 5. (*B is making a point*)

A: The trip to U Minh National Park was amazing.

B: We saw so many animals and plants, didn't we? _____

Conversation 6. (*A isn't sure of B's answer*)

A: You don't know if our proposal was accepted, do you? _____

B: I'm afraid it wasn't. No one supported it.

Conversation 7. (*A is sure of B's answer*)

A: People should use less fresh water, shouldn't they? _____

B: Yes, I agree with you.

Conversation 8. (*A isn't sure of B's answer*)

A: I don't think I received your proposal. You haven't submitted it, have you? _____

B: Yes, I have.

II Vocabulary

1 Put the words in the box into the correct column.

fauna	sunlight	flora	air
humans	bacteria	water	soil

Living things	Non-living things
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•

2 Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the words in brackets.

- Deforestation of the area was stopped by the local community's _____ efforts. (converse)
- Some animals are in danger because their _____ habitats are being destroyed. (nature)
- Scientists have discovered millions of _____ things on our planet. (live)
- Asian elephant is one of the largest _____ in the world. (mammal)
- You can have a lot of fun exploring the beautiful _____ parks in the region. (nation)
- Conserving natural resources can help prevent the _____ of biodiversity on our planet. (lose)
- Each plant helps protect _____ and supports the ecosystem of an area. (biodiverse)
- The rare Javan rhino is the world's most _____ animal. (danger)

3 Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the words and phrase in the box.

biodiversity	species	habitat	food chain
tropical forest	coral reef	protect	native

- Creating _____ areas for endangered species is one way to save wildlife.
- There are many different types of _____ around the world from forests to deserts and from small lakes to the open sea.
- _____ is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth.
- _____ not only cool the earth's surface, but also provide us with food and water.
- It is believed that there are more than five million _____ of insects, but only one million have been found and described.

6. Scientists estimate that 25 per cent of all marine species live in and around _____.
7. A _____ describes how each living thing gets food, and how energy and nutrients are passed from one creature to another.
8. Biologists have found more than 350 mammal species _____ to Australia.

III Grammar

- 1 Use the words in the box to make compound nouns. Then match them to the definitions below. There is an example for you.**

shopping	belt	card	credit	thunder	forecast	storm
number	house	phone	seat	weather	window	green

Example: People use this glass building for growing plants.

greenhouse

1. You use this when you want to call a person, company, or an organisation. _____
2. You can use this to pay instead of using cash. _____
3. You should wear this when you're on a plane. _____
4. You watch or listen to it when you want to know whether it will rain or not. _____
5. When this happens, you should go indoors. _____
6. You do this when looking at goods without buying them. _____

- 2 Match a word from A with a word from B to make compound nouns. Then use them to complete the sentences below.**

A				B			
traffic	post	week	hay	man	jam	end	reserve
rain	police	fire	nature	place	box	fever	forest

1. Laura is late because there was a terrible _____ in the city centre.
2. Can you please put this letter in the _____?
3. The _____ stopped the teenagers and asked for their identity documents.
4. In winter, we like to sit in front of the _____ to get warm.
5. The first major _____ was Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the United States.
6. What are your plans for the _____?
7. Fortunately, there are many products available for treating symptoms of _____.
8. The Amazon _____ is home to more than a third of all the world's species of plants, birds, and animals.

3 What do we call these things and people? Complete the sentences using compound nouns. There is an example for you.

Example: The service of providing medical care is healthcare.

1. The heat and light energy produced by the sun is called _____.
2. The centre which focuses on projects of new ideas or creativity is called _____.
3. A room in a house where people sit together, relax, or watch TV is a(n) _____.
4. A car that competes in races is a _____.
5. An area where people park their cars is a _____.
6. A container for waste that will be recycled, for example, paper or plastic, is called a _____.
7. An area of land where large amounts of waste are buried underground is a _____.
8. Paper which is not wanted and is thrown away is _____.

IV Reading

1 Read the text and choose the best answers.

Viet Nam's flora and fauna

With a coastline of over 3,260 kilometres, Viet Nam is (1) _____ to many different kinds of flora and fauna. From the Fansipan Peak all the way down to the Mekong Delta, the country has a rich (2) _____ of wildlife. However, due to population growth and rapid urban development, many of Viet Nam's plant and (3) _____ species are endangered.

Natural habitats are threatened by deforestation and the (4) _____ of natural resources. Several unique species have almost disappeared in recent years (5) _____ the illegal wildlife trade. The trade in animal parts continues to be a serious problem (6) _____ the heavy punishment. There is still high demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, turtle eggs, and other wild animal parts. This has forced a number of mammals and other (7) _____ onto the Red List of Threatened Species. In 2010, Viet Nam's last Javan rhino was shot and killed for its (8) _____.

Nevertheless, there are still many other native species found in the country's dense forests. Scientists continue to (9) _____ unique and rare animals such as the saola and the pangolin. However, if the country wants to conserve its biodiversity and fascinating features, it still has (10) _____ to go.

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|-----------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. A. area | B. location | C. place | D. home |
| 2. A. diversity | B. complex | C. number | D. footprint |

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 3. A. flora | B. fauna | C. animal | D. creature |
| 4. A. use | B. overuse | C. misuse | D. lack |
| 5. A. due | B. although | C. because of | D. because |
| 6. A. because of | B. despite | C. due to | D. since |
| 7. A. things | B. flora | C. birds | D. creatures |
| 8. A. horn | B. ivory | C. eggs | D. parts |
| 9. A. list | B. shoot | C. meet | D. discover |
| 10. A. a lot | B. a long way | C. some way | D. nothing |

2 Read the text and match the highlighted words with the meanings.

Food chains

Each living thing can be a part of different food chains. Living things can be producers or consumers. Producers make their own food. For example, many plants are in the producers' group as they use energy from the sun, water and **nutrients** from the soil. Consumers, on the other hand, don't make their own food. Some eat producers or other consumers, such as animals, while others eat both. For example, farm animals like cows, chickens and pigs eat corn, grass, and hay because they cannot make food for themselves like many plants do.

A food chain is the **sequence** of who eat whom in an ecosystem. For instance, the sun makes energy for the grass, which gets eaten by a zebra, which gets eaten by a lion. Or, the grass gets eaten by a cricket, which gets eaten by a snake, which gets eaten by an owl. These are all examples of food chains.

Food chains show how all living things depend on each other. For example, we as consumers drink fruit juice made from a plant or producer. We also consume dairy products such as milk and cheese, which come from other consumers like cows and sheep. So producers and consumers are **interdependent**.

There are many food chains in the various habitats on Earth. Animals that eat other animals are called predators, and the animals they eat are called prey. Consumers are divided into three **categories**: herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. A herbivore only eats plants, an omnivore eats plants and meat, and a carnivore only eats meat.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. the order that actions happen in | _____ |
| 2. substances that keep a living thing alive and help it grow | _____ |
| 3. groups of people or things with particular features | _____ |
| 4. consisting of parts that depend on each other | _____ |

3 Read the text in 2 again and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
1. All living things are producers.		
2. Sun and soil help producers make their own food.		
3. Examples of consumers are animals kept for their milk or meat.		
4. Lions have become a top predator in a food chain by eating animals that feed on grass.		
5. People are both consumers and producers.		
6. There are very few food chains on Earth.		
7. The only food that herbivores eat is meat.		

V Speaking

1 Complete the conversations by circling the best answers. Then practise reading them.

1. **Lan:** Mai, do you fancy going on a day trip to Cuc Phuong National Park?

Mai: Yes, _____. I heard it has amazing flora and fauna.

- A. it is a good trip
- B. I'd love to go there
- C. I love going to parks
- D. I agree. The park is amazing

2. **Nam:** I don't like the idea of throwing away used paper and empty bottles. Shall we use them to make school items?

Lan: _____.

- A. We can make a lot of money
- B. I also hate throwing away used paper and bottles
- C. I like your idea, but school items are expensive
- D. Great idea. I'm a big fan of upcycled products

3. **Nick:** I'm so excited that we're going to U Minh Thuong National Park to study its flora and fauna.

Phong: _____. I'd rather go to the Museum of History.

- A. Biology is not my favourite
- B. I adore native plants
- C. I also like biology
- D. I'm not so keen on school trips

4. **Ann:** I want to use eco-friendly cups and plates at my birthday party.

Lan: _____. They will not cause any harm to the environment.

- A. I'm into the habit of recycling
- B. I like your idea
- C. I'm keen on celebrating your birthday
- D. You are so friendly

5. Long: We're organising a tree-planting day in local parks. Would you like to join us?

Mai: I'd love to! _____.

A. I love visiting local parks

B. Gardening is not my favourite

C. I want to help fight climate change

D. Planting trees is so easy

2 Talk about ways to protect endangered species. Use the suggested ideas in the box to help you. You may add your own ideas. You can start your talk with the sentence below.

- organise awareness events such as Endangered Species Days
- raise funds for protecting wild animals
- pass laws to ban deforestation
- introduce stricter laws to help protect wildlife
- stop buying and selling products made from wild animals
- set up more nature reserves

'Protecting endangered species is very important because losing even a single species can have disastrous impacts on the rest of the ecosystem. ...'

VI Writing

1 Use the words and phrases below, and add some words where necessary to make meaningful sentences. Change the verb and noun forms if necessary.

1. This forest / home / thousands / different kinds / plants and animals.

→ _____

2. Protect / local ecosystem / very important / for / future generation.

→ _____

3. This / national park / attract / thousands / tourist / every year.

→ _____

4. You / shouldn't / throw / plastic / bottle and can / grass / and / water.

→ _____

5. This fund / aim / reduce / impact of / climate change / across the globe.

→ _____

6. Studies / find / deforestation / directly impact / our health / and well-being.

→ _____

7. The earth / be / ecosystem / in which / we / all connected.

→ _____

8. New research / show / rising temperature / could threaten / survive / of / larger animal.

→ _____

2 Complete the sentences using the words/phrases in brackets. You may change the forms or add any other words where necessary.

1. Don't waste your time reading this book. (worth)
→ It's _____ this book.
2. I'd prefer you not to go hiking in tropical forests. (rather)
→ I'd _____ go hiking in tropical forests.
3. The disappearance of a single species can affect the entire food chain. (disappear)
→ If a _____, the entire food chain can be affected.
4. Our environmental project stands a very good chance of winning a prize. (highly)
→ It's _____ will win a prize.
5. I'm just about to give up this diet because it's not working at all. (on the point)
→ I'm _____ because it's not working at all.
6. It was very windy, but we really enjoyed the picnic in Cuc Phuong National Park. (despite)
→ We really enjoyed the picnic in Cuc Phuong National Park _____ was very windy.
7. It's highly unlikely that our conservation programme will be successful. (chance)
→ There is very little _____ will be successful.
8. They tried very hard to complete their project by the end of this month. (their best)
→ They _____ their project by the end of this month.

3 Write an opinion essay (150–180 words) expressing your opinion on why we should protect wildlife. Use the outline and expressions below to help you.

Introduction:

I believe / think that ... In my opinion, we should take action to protect wildlife ...

Body:

- Firstly, ... they help preserve the ecosystem balance ...
- If carnivores disappear ...
- Secondly, wildlife adds natural beauty to our environment ...
- If we continue to damage nature, we will have ...

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I strongly believe that it is essential to ...
