# Before reading!

Familiarízarte con algunas palabras clave del texto, antes de realizar la lectura te ayudará a comprender mejor las ideas principales y a reconocer información importante.



**A. Instructions: Match the words (1–8) with the correct definitions (a–h).**

1. Waste
2. Recycle
3. Pollution
4. Reusable bags
5. Save water
6. Public transportation
7. Solar energy
8. Reduce

a. To use less of something.

b. The introduction of harmful substances in the environment.

c. Energy from the sun.

d. Things people throw away.

e. To use materials again to make new products.

f. Bags people can use many times.

g. Buses, trains, and other transport for everyone.

h. To use less water.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

# Was Life Greener in the 1990's?




In the 1990s, life was different in many ways. People didn't use to have smartphones, social media, or so many electronic devices. But their relationship with the environment was also different. Some everyday habits were better for nature, while others caused serious environmental problems.

**Shopping and waste**

In many Mexican communities, people used to buy fresh food at local markets. Some families used to carry baskets or reusable bags when they went shopping. However, supermarkets also used to give customers plastic bags, and many products came in disposable packages. People didn't use to separate their garbage as often as some families do today.

Nowadays, more people know about recycling and reducing waste. Some supermarkets don't give away free plastic bags anymore, and many customers carry reusable bags. However, plastic pollution is still a serious problem because people continue buying disposable products.

**Transportation and air pollution**

In the 1990s, many cars used to produce more harmful gases than modern vehicles. In large cities like Mexico City, air pollution was a major problem. People didn't use to see electric cars on the streets because they were extremely uncommon.

Today, some cars are cleaner and more efficient than older models. Electric vehicles are also more common than before. However, traffic is still a problem, and millions of people still use gasoline-powered vehicles. Walking, cycling, and using public transportation can help reduce air pollution.

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## Technology and energy

In the past, families didn't use to have as many electronic devices at home as they do today. They didn't use to charge smartphones or tablets every day. Today, almost every teenager uses electronic devices for communication, entertainment, and schoolwork.

Modern technology can make life easier, but it also creates electronic waste and uses energy. Fortunately, renewable energy is more accessible than it used to be. Solar panels are becoming more common, although many communities still depend on fossil fuels.

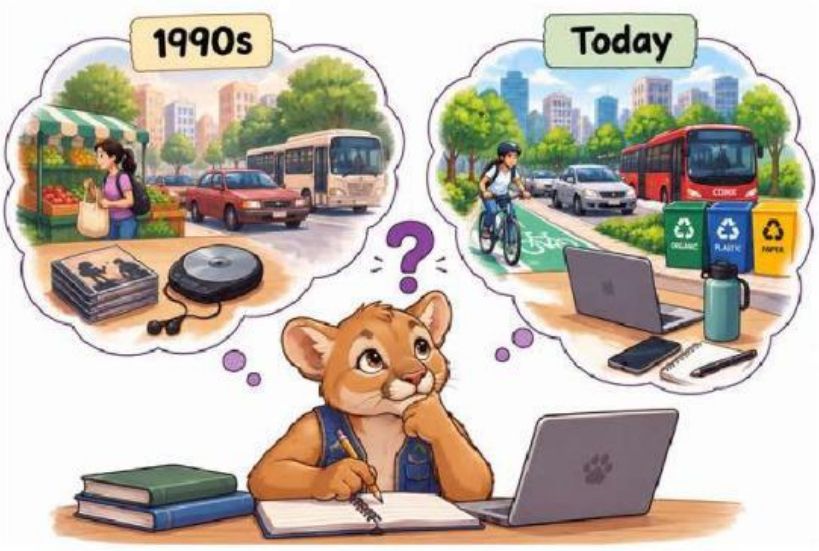
## Environmental awareness

In the 1990s, environmental organizations already existed, and people used to participate in activities to protect nature. However, climate change didn't use to receive as much public attention as it does today.
Nowadays, environmental information is easier to find, and young people can participate in campaigns through social media. Schools also organize recycling activities, tree-planting projects, and environmental awareness campaigns.
Today, more people understand that environmental protection is important, but awareness doesn't always produce action. Some people still throw garbage in the streets, waste water, or buy products they don't need.

## A greener future?

Life today is more technologically advanced than it was in the 1990s, but that doesn't necessarily mean it is better for the environment. Some practices have improved, while other problems have become more serious.

We no longer live in the same world as thirty years ago anymore, but we still have the responsibility to protect it. Small actions, such as saving water, reducing plastic waste, and using public transportation, can make a difference.




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**B. Instructions: Read the questions and choose the correct answer.**

**1. What is the main purpose of the text?**

a) To explain why life was better in the 1990s.
b) To compare environmental habits and problems in the 1990s and today.
c) To describe how technology solved environmental problems.

**2. Which environmental problem still exists in large cities?**

a) Traffic and air pollution.
b) Not enough public transportation.
c) The absence of modern cars.

**3. Why does the text mention smartphones and tablets?**

a) To explain why teenagers don't study anymore.
b) To show that all modern technology is environmentally friendly.
c) To illustrate how electronic devices can increase energy use and waste.

**4. Which statement correctly compares waste management in the past and today?**

a) Families used to recycle more frequently than they do today.
b) People don't produce plastic waste anymore.
c) People didn't use to separate their garbage as often as some families do today.

**5. Which is the most accurate conclusion about environmental changes since the 1990s?**

a) The 1990s were the best period for the environment because there was no pollution.
b) Some environmental practices are better today, but serious problems still exist.
c) Modern technology eliminated almost all environmental problems.

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**C. Instructions: Read the sentences. Based on the text, choose C if the situation has changed or S if the situation is still the same today.**

1. People still use gasoline-powered vehicles.
2. Some supermarkets don't give away plastic bags anymore.
3. Environmental organizations existed in the 1990s and still exist today.
4. Renewable energy is more accessible than it used to be.
5. Traffic and air pollution are still problems in large cities.



## Time to reflect!

**1** **Classify the following actions into the correct category.**

*turn off the lights · plant trees · unplug chargers · pick up litter · take shorter showers · recycle waste*

| **Save energy at home** | **Make your community greener** |
|---|---|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |

**2** **Use your answers to complete the sentences.**

**1.** What can you do to save energy at home?

I can _____ and _____.

**2**. What two actions can you take to make your community greener?

I can _____ and _____.

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