

Unit 9 - The Environment

Task 1: Complete the text below by inserting the words in the box:

<i>Recycling</i>	<i>Toxic</i>	<i>Dirty</i>	<i>Dumping</i>
<i>Poisons</i>	<i>Smoke</i>	<i>Waste</i>	<i>Chimney</i>

The main reason for pollution is **1**_____ -- something which is no longer needed. Waste can be many things: it can be yesterday's newspaper, an old car, your **2**_____ bath water, or **3**_____ from a factory **4**_____. Some waste is dangerous, because it contains **5**_____. This kind of waste is called **6**_____ waste and it is worrying many governments today.

If you want to do something better than **7**_____, you can change waste into something different. You can sort your waste so that paper, metal and clothes, for example, can be sold to dealers for **8**_____.

Task 2: Choose the correct sentence from each of the pairs below.

- 1- a-We aren't used to listening to that kind of music
b- We aren't used to listen to that kind of music
- 2- a-She will soon get used to work here
b-She will soon get used to working here
- 3- a-I used to working for that company
b-I used to work for that company
- 4- a-We never got used to getting up so early
b-We never got used to get up so early
- 5- a-We used to getting up early but we are retired now and we don't need to
b- We used to get up early but we are retired now and we don't need to

- 6- a-When she moved to France she had to get used to drive on the right
b-When she moved to France she had to get used to driving on the right
- 7- a-We couldn't sleep very well in Japan, we aren't used to sleeping on the floor
b-We couldn't sleep very well in Japan, we aren't used to sleep on the floor
- 8- a-We used to travelling a lot before having children
b- We used to travel a lot before having children
- 9- a-The most difficult thing was to get used to eating such spicy food
b-The most difficult thing was to get used to eat such spicy food
- 10- a-I am used to working on the night shift
b-I am used to work on the night shift

Task 3: Complete the sentences below using Be used to/Get used to. Make sure you conjugate the verb appropriately.

1. Sending emails to my grandmother is difficult. She isn't _____ technology.
2. I've just got my first job. It's exciting but I'll have _____ **(work)** regular hours.
3. It is difficult for me to drive in England. I _____ **(drive)** on the left-hand side of the road.
4. People from India usually find our food tasteless. They _____ **(eat)** spicy food.
5. English has become international. Businessmen _____ **(speak)** English at international meetings.
6. Maria thought that she would never _____ **(live)** in New York.

Reading: Carbon Footprints

Do you throw your bottles in the bin, drive a big, heavy car, or leave the lights switched on when you go out? In order to help the environment we have to change many things: the way we shop, travel and use energy in our daily lives: how we can reduce our “carbon footprints”.

A “carbon footprint” is a measure of how much harm we cause to the environment in our everyday lives. It depends on how much “greenhouse gas emissions” we each produce. Greenhouse gases have a warming effect on the Earth’s surface, causing what we call the “greenhouse effect” and climate change – changes in the general weather conditions. The average carbon footprint per person in the United Kingdom each year is ten thousand kilograms! What can we do to reduce this? According to the environmental expert David Reay, we’re seeing rapid increases in greenhouse gas at the moment, which implies that we’ll see very rapid climate change, for which we will need more time to adapt; and to get more time we need to reduce the rate of emissions that we’re producing. So, really, each of us can play a role in giving us a bit more time.

John Barrett from the Stockholm Environment Institute lists about three main things which are harming the environment: domestic energy consumption, which includes both gas and electricity, our transport use – combining air travel and our car travel (the latter being by far the most significant, although air travel is increasing rapidly), as well as our food consumption (the distance it has to travel, techniques, methods required to provide us with food). In the UK, we drink bottled water from Canada, eat apples flown in from New Zealand and beans from Kenya, where we could actually get all of those things here anyway. What a waste of energy!

However, we can make a difference. There are two important questions that need to be answered: by how much could each of us cut down our carbon footprints and would we have to make a big change to the way we live our lives? David Reay provides us with an answer by stating that there are a lot of small things we could do to bring down our emissions significantly (60% is the figure which is the possibility for most people without changing their lifestyle radically); things like the energy saving light-bulbs, using more public transport, using trains; these are all small changes that would make a big difference.

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. What is the definition of a “carbon footprint”?
2. What kind of transport use is the most harmful for the environment at the moment?
3. How could we reduce our emissions?
4. Why is recycling important? Do you think people recycle enough in your country?

Writing

What do you do to help the environment?