



ENVIRONMENT & POLLUTION

Discussion

Basic questions

1 Are you concerned about the environment? If so, what do you think is the biggest issue?

**Yes, I think the biggest issue is...*

2 What types of pollution do you know?

**The types of pollution are...*

3 How can we protect the environment and improve people's standard of living at the same time?

**We can protect the environment by...*

4 What should we do to increase the awareness about environmental pollution?

**We should...*

5 What individuals can do to help the environment?

**Individuals can help by...*

6 What actions that corporations can take to help the environment?

**Corporations can take... to help the environment.*

Extended questions

1 Who do you think is more responsible for pollution, individual people or the government? Explain

**I think the... is more responsible for pollution.*

2 If you could choose one alternative energy source to develop, which one would you choose? Why?

**If I could choose... I would choose...*

3 Do you think overpopulation is an important environmental issue? Why or why not?

**Yes, I think. No, I don't think.*

4 It is claimed that eating animals products has a negative effect on the environment. What is your opinion?

**In my opinion...*



5 Do you think pollution will be a bigger issue in 50 years than it is now?

**I think pollution...*

6 Do you think environmental meetings on environment are useful?

**Yes, I think... because... / No, I don't think... because...*

Vocabulary

1 **Contaminate** (/kən'tæmɪneɪt/)

(verb) to make a substance or place dirty or no longer pure by adding a substance that is dangerous or carries disease

Ex. The drinking water has been contaminated with lead.

2 **Biodegradable** (/ˌbaɪoʊdɪ'greɪdəbl/)

(adjective) a substance or chemical that is biodegradable can be changed to a harmless natural state by the action of bacteria, and will therefore not damage the environment

Ex. All active ingredients of this soap powder are 90% biodegradable within 3 days.

3 **Desertification** (/dɪ'zɜːrtɪfɪ'keɪʃn/)

(noun) The process of becoming or making something a desert

Ex. Desertification may intensify a general climatic trend toward greater aridity, or it may initiate a change in local climate.

4 **Sustainable** (/sə'steɪnəbl/)

(adjective) Involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment

Ex. Sustainable forest management is a good idea.

5 **Toxicity** (/tɒk'sɪsəti/)

(noun) The quality of being poisonous, the extent to which something is poisonous

Ex. Substances with high levels of toxicity are dangerous.

6 Thermal (/ˈθɜːrml/)

(adjective) Connected with heat

Ex. It turns out that what was going was a thermal runaway, when a battery begins a chain reaction resulting in smoke and fire.

7 Solvent (/ˈsɒlˌvənt/)

(adjective) A substance, especially a liquid, that can dissolve another substance.

Ex. We need industrial solvents for removing oil.

8 Geothermal (/ˌdʒiːoʊˈθɜːrml/)

(adjective) Connected with the natural heat of rock deep in the sea

Ex. At present, little of the world's energy supply is obtained from geothermal energy.

9 Conservationist (/ˌkɒːnsərˈveɪʃənɪst/)

(noun) a person who takes an active part in the protection of the environment

Ex. They will exhibit a meeting of local conservationists.



Useful Expressions

1 Disposable products – describes an item that is intended to be thrown away after use

Ex. disposable nappies

2 Coastal waters – of or near water

Ex. Many bays and coastal waters have been contaminated with heavy metals

3 Dumping ground – a place where something that is not wanted is dumped

Ex. The city's canals are used as a dumping ground for a range of toxic pollutants.

4 Oil slick - a layer of oil that is floating over a large area of the surface of the sea, usually because an accident has caused it to escape from a ship or container.

Ex. Large oil slicks were found near the coast.

5 Unleaded petrol – describes a type of petrol or other substance that does not contain lead.

Ex. Motorists should use unleaded petrol.