

7

The world we live in

1

SNAPSHOT

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT *Some alarming facts*

In his or her lifetime, the average American born in the 1990s will . . .

- wear and throw away 115 pairs of shoes and boots
- throw away 27,500 newspapers – about seven trees a year
- use more than 28,000 gallons (106,000 liters) of gasoline
- create over 110,000 pounds (50,000 kilograms) of trash
- use 80–100 gallons (303–378 liters) of water every day



Source: *Life's Big Instruction Book*; The Stevens Institute of Technology


Which of the things above seem the most wasteful?

How many pairs of shoes do you think you use every year? how many newspapers?

What are two other environmental problems that concern you?

2

PERSPECTIVES *Clean up our city!*

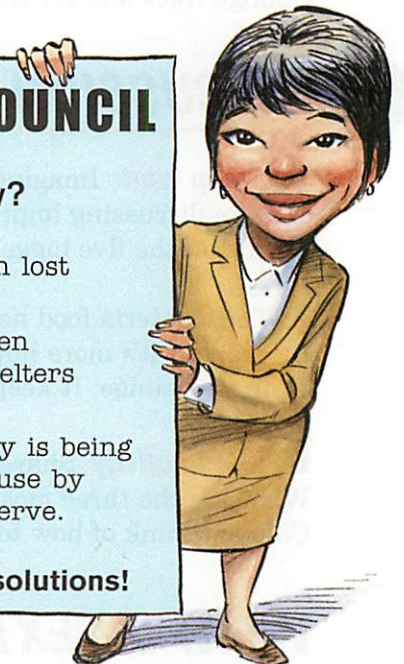
A  Listen to an announcement from an election campaign. What kinds of problems does Roberta Chang want to fix?

VOTE FOR ROBERTA CHANG * CITY COUNCIL

Roberta Chang will clean up Cradville!
Have you noticed these problems in our city?

- The air is being polluted by fumes from cars and trucks.
- The roadways have been jammed because of people's dependence on cars.
- Our city streets are being damaged as a result of heavy traffic.
- Many parks have been lost through overbuilding.
- The homeless have been displaced from city shelters due to overcrowding.
- Our fresh water supply is being depleted through overuse by people who don't conserve.

If you vote Roberta Chang for city council, you vote for solutions!



B Which of these problems affect your city? Can you give specific examples?

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Passive with prepositions

Present continuous passive

The air **is being polluted** by fumes from cars and trucks.
 City streets **are being damaged** as a result of heavy traffic.

Present perfect passive

The roadways **have been jammed** because of people's dependence on cars.
 Many parks **have been lost** through overbuilding.
 The homeless **have been displaced** due to overcrowding in city shelters.

A Pair work Match the photographs of environmental problems with the sentences below.



1. Air pollution is threatening the health of people in urban areas. (by)
2. Livestock farms have contaminated soil and underground water. (because of)
3. The burning of gas, oil, and coal has created acid rain. (as a result of)
4. The use of CFCs in products like hair spray has created a hole in the ozone layer. (through)
5. The destruction of rain forests is harming rare plants and wildlife. (through)
6. The growth of suburbs has eaten up huge amounts of farmland. (due to)

B Rewrite the sentences in part A using the passive and the prepositions given. Then compare with a partner.

1. *The health of people in urban areas is being threatened by air pollution.*

C Group work Can you think of other causes for any of the problems above?

“The health of people in urban areas is also being threatened by contaminated water.”

4 PRONUNCIATION *Reduction of auxiliary verbs*

A Listen and practice. Notice how the auxiliary verb forms **is**, **are**, **has**, and **have** are reduced in conversation.

Fresh water ~~is~~ being wasted. Too much trash ~~has~~ been created.
Newspapers ~~are~~ being thrown away. Parks ~~have~~ been lost.

B Pair work Practice the sentences you wrote in part B of Exercise 3. Pay attention to the reduction of **is**, **are**, **has**, and **have**.

5 LISTENING *Environmental solutions*

A Listen to three people describe some serious environmental problems. Write each problem in the chart.

Problem	What can be done about it?
1. Jenny
2. Adam
3. Katy

B Listen again. What can be done to solve each problem? Complete the chart.

6 WORD POWER *World problems*

A Pair work How concerned are you about these problems? Check (✓) the appropriate box.

Problems	Very concerned	Fairly concerned	Not concerned
drug trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
famine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
global warming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
government corruption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIV/AIDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
inflation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
overpopulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
political unrest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



an AIDS awareness project

B Group work Join another pair. Which problems concern your group the most? What will happen if the problem isn't solved?

A: We need to educate more people about HIV/AIDS.

B: I agree. If we don't, the disease will continue to spread.

C: Yes. Many lives have been lost to due to . . .

7 CONVERSATION What can we do?

A Listen and practice.

Carla: Look at all those dead fish! What do you think happened?

Andy: Well, there's a factory outside town that's pumping chemicals into the river.

Carla: How can they do that? Isn't that against the law?

Andy: Yes, it is. But a lot of companies ignore those laws.

Carla: That's terrible! What can we do about it?

Andy: Well, one thing to do about it is to talk to the company's management.

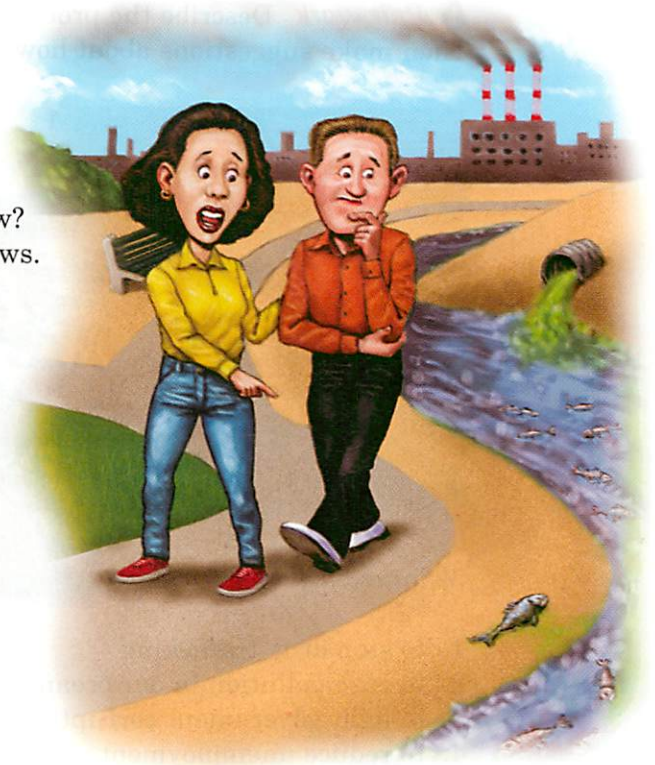
Carla: What if that doesn't work?

Andy: Well, then another way to stop them is to get a TV station to run a story on it.

Carla: Yes! Companies hate bad publicity. By the way, what's the name of this company?

Andy: It's called Apex Industries.

Carla: Oh no! My uncle is one of their top executives!



B Class activity What else could Andy and Carla do?

C Listen to the rest of the conversation. What do Andy and Carla decide to do?

8 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Infinitive clauses and phrases

One thing **to do about it** is **to talk to the company's management.**
Another way **to stop them** is **to get a TV station to run a story.**
The best ways **to fight HIV/AIDS** are **to do more research and educate people.**

A Find one or more solutions for each problem. Then compare with a partner.

Problems

1. One way to reduce famine is
2. The best way to fight HIV/AIDS is
3. One way to stop political unrest is
4. One thing to improve air quality is
5. The best way to reduce poverty is
6. One thing to help the homeless is

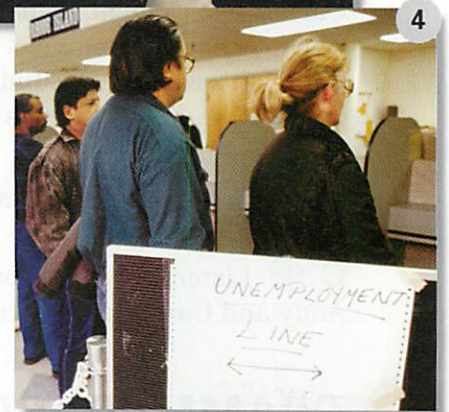
Solutions

- a. to build more public housing.
- b. to train people in modern farming methods.
- c. to start free vocational training programs.
- d. to educate people on how diseases are spread.
- e. to have more police on the streets.
- f. to provide ways for people to voice their concerns.
- g. to develop cleaner public transportation.
- h. to create more jobs for the unemployed.

B Group work Can you think of two more solutions for each problem in part A? Agree on the best solution for each.

9 DISCUSSION Problems and solutions

A Pair work Describe the problems shown in the photos. Then make suggestions about how to solve these problems.



What can be done . . . ?

1. to stop drug trafficking
2. to ease pollution in our oceans
3. to fight government corruption
4. to reduce unemployment

A: Our economy is being ruined by drug trafficking.

B: Well, one way to stop it is . . .

B Class activity Share your solutions. Which ones are the most innovative?

10 INTERCHANGE 7 Make your voices heard!

Brainstorm solutions to some local problems. Go to Interchange 7.

11 WRITING A letter to the editor

A Choose a problem from the unit or use one of your own ideas. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper describing the problem and one solution.

Editor, the *Chronicle*,

Recently, poor farmers in our region have started growing poppies to earn money. Poppies produce opium, which is used to make illegal drugs. This has to stop!

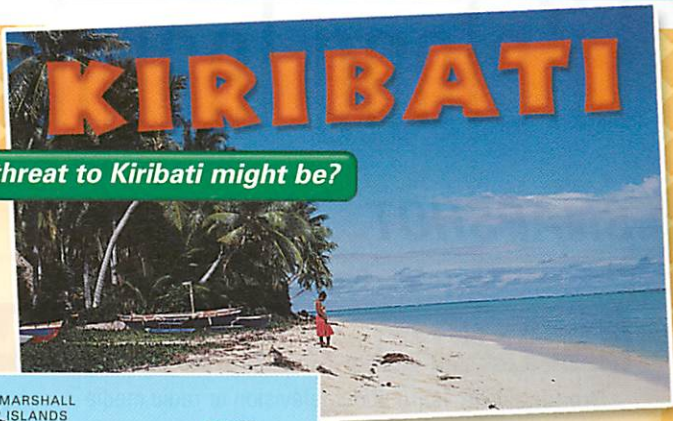
One way to stop it is . . .

B Pair work Exchange letters with a partner. Write a response from the editor suggesting another solution.

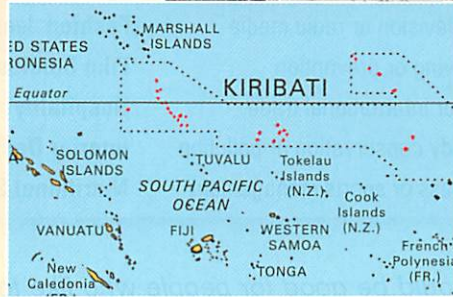
The Threat to

KIRIBATI

Look at the picture. What do you think the threat to Kiribati might be?



The people of Kiribati (pronounced Kir-uh-bas) are afraid that one day in the near future, their country will disappear – literally. Several times in the past few years, the Pacific island nation has been flooded by sudden high tides. These tides, which swept across the islands and destroyed houses, came when there was neither wind nor rain. The older citizens of Kiribati say this has never happened before.



might lose one-fifth of its land. However, the coral island nations of the Pacific, like Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, would face an even worse fate – they would be swallowed by

Kiribati consists of 33 islands scattered across 3,860 kilometers (2,400 miles) of the Pacific Ocean near the equator. They are particularly threatened by high tides because none of the islands of Kiribati rises more than 2 meters (6.5 feet) above sea level.

What is causing these mysterious tides? The answer may be global warming. When fuels like oil and coal are burned, they release pollutants that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere. Rising temperatures create more water by melting glaciers and polar ice caps.

Scientists say that if the trend continues, many countries will suffer. Bangladesh, for example,

the sea. This would be everyone's loss: Coral formations are home to more species than any other place on earth.

The people of these nations feel frustrated. The ocean, on which their economies have always been based, is suddenly threatening their existence. There are no easy answers. These nations don't have a lot of money, so they can't afford expensive solutions, like sea walls. And they have no control over pollutants, which are being released mainly by large industrialized countries. All they can do is to hope that these countries will take steps to reduce pollution, and therefore, global warming.

A Read the article. Then complete the chart with information from the article.

Cause (Reason)	Effect (Result)
1. There have been sudden high tides.	→ <i>The island has been flooded.</i>
2.	→ Kiribati is particularly threatened by the tides.
3. Fuels like oil and coal are burned.	→
4.	→ Temperatures rise.
5.	→ The people of these nations feel frustrated.
6. Kiribati doesn't have a lot of money.	→

B Group work Some industrialized countries don't want to make changes until the effects of global warming are evident. What is your opinion? If you lived on an island like Kiribati, what would you like to see done?