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# The world we live in

## 1 SNAPSHOT

### THE ENVIRONMENT Some alarming facts

- ✓ One-third of the world's people don't have enough clean water.
- ✓ Two-thirds of the world's ocean coastlines are polluted.
- ✓ Chemicals have destroyed ten percent of the ozone layer over Europe and North America.



- ✓ Each year, people burn or cut down nearly 143,000 square kilometers (55,000 square miles) of forest.
- ✓ Every day, Americans and Canadians create about 1.8 kilograms (4.0 lbs.) of garbage per person.

Source: The United Nations

*Talk about these questions.*

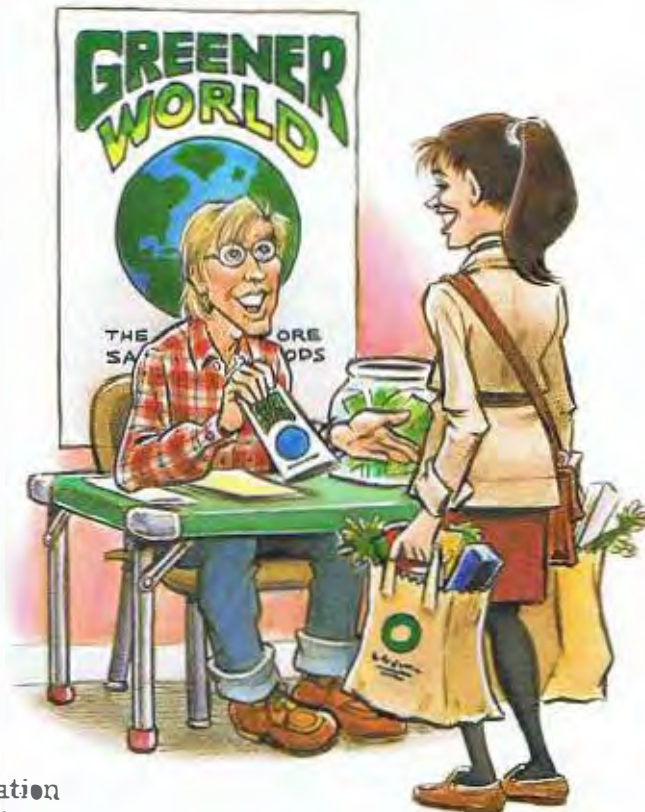
*Which of these facts worries you the most?*

*In what other ways is life on earth being threatened?*

## 2 CONVERSATION

**A** Listen and practice.

- Andy: Excuse me. Would you like to make a contribution to Greener World?
- Carla: Sure. What are you working on right now?
- Andy: Well, we're developing educational programs for schools. We want to show children how the oceans are being polluted by industrial waste. And we want to tell them about how fish supplies have been depleted through overfishing.
- Carla: I think what you're doing is terrific. I wish I could do more to help.
- Andy: So, have you ever thought about becoming a member of Greener World?
- Carla: No, but tell me a little more about it.



CLASS AUDIO ONLY

**B** Listen to the rest of the conversation. What else has Greener World accomplished in their city?

**C Class activity** Are you a member of an organization like Greener World? If not, would you like to join one?

### 3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

#### Passive; prepositions of cause

##### Present continuous passive

The oceans are being polluted by industrial waste.  
Drinking water is being contaminated because of/due to river pollution.

##### Present perfect passive

Fish supplies have been depleted through overfishing.  
Underground water has been contaminated as a result of agricultural waste.

**A Pair work** Look at these pictures of environmental problems. Then read the sentences in part B and find one way to describe each problem.



**B** Rewrite these sentences from the active to the passive. Use the prepositions in parentheses to indicate the cause. Then compare with a partner.

1. Automobile pollution has lowered the air quality in most major cities. (as a result of)
2. Air pollution is threatening the health of older people and children. (by)
3. Livestock farms have contaminated soil and underground water. (because of)
4. The burning of gas, oil, and coal has created acid rain. (as a result of)
5. Acid rain is damaging forests and life in rivers and lakes. (due to)
6. The cutting down of rain forests is destroying rare plants and wildlife. (through)
7. The growth of cities has eaten up huge amounts of farmland. (due to)
8. Poverty and overcrowding are ruining the lives of people in many cities. (because of)
9. The use of CFCs in products like hair spray has created a hole in the ozone layer. (through)
10. The reduction of the protective ozone layer has caused many more cases of skin cancer. (by)

1. The air quality in most major cities has been lowered as a result of automobile pollution.

**C Class activity** Do any of the problems above exist in your country or another country you know? How do you know?

## 4 PRONUNCIATION *Reduction of auxiliary verbs*

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

Farmland **has been** lost.                      The ozone layer **is being** destroyed.  
The oceans **have been** polluted.        Rain forests **are being** cut down.

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

## 5 LISTENING *Environmental solutions*

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**A**  Listen to three people describing how some serious environmental problems are being solved. Write down the problem each one talks about.

Problem	What can be done to solve the problem?
1. Jenny	.....
2. Adam	.....
3. Kate	.....

CLASS AUDIO ONLY 

**B**  Listen again. What can be done to solve each problem?

## 6 WORD POWER *World problems*

**A Pair work** Discuss the meaning of each world problem. How concerned are you about each problem? Check (✓) the appropriate box.

Problems	I worry about it a lot.	I sometimes worry about it.	I don't worry about it at all.
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"/>
the homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
incurable diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
intitation	<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"/>

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

"We need to stop drug trafficking. If we don't, crime will continue to increase."

## 7 CONVERSATION

**A**  Listen and practice.

- Andy: You know, 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 Greener World do?  
 Andy: Well, one thing to do about it is to talk to the 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 to get the factory to stop polluting the river?

CLASS AUDIO ONLY

**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 management.          |
| Another way to stop them is | to get a TV station to run a story. |
| The best way to help is     | to report them to the government.   |

**A** Match the phrases in column A with appropriate solutions from column B. (More than one answer is possible.) Then compare with a partner.

A

1. One way to stop drug trafficking is .....
2. The best way to reduce crime is .....
3. One way to reduce trash in the city is .....
4. One thing to improve air quality is .....
5. The best way to lessen poverty is .....
6. One thing to help the homeless is .....

B

- a. to build more public housing.
- b. to start a recycling program.
- c. to provide free job training.
- d. to have more police on the streets.
- e. to create more jobs for the unemployed.
- f. to develop clean public transportation.

**B Pair work** Do you and your partner agree with the solutions in part A? Can you think of two more solutions for each problem?

## 9 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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



What can be done . . . ?

1. to clean up the beaches
2. to reduce the number of drunk-driving accidents
3. to control the cutting down of forests
4. to reduce unemployment

A: The beaches are being polluted by illegal dumping.

B: So what can be done to clean them up?

A: Well, one thing to do is . . . .

B: Another way to help is . . . .

**B Class activity** Share your solutions with the rest of the class. Which solutions are the most innovative?

### interchange 7

#### Community planner

Brainstorm solutions to some local problems. Turn to page IC-10.

## 10 WRITING

**A** Write a composition about one of the problems from Exercise 9 or another problem. In the first paragraph, describe the problem and its consequences. In the second paragraph, offer several ways to help solve the problem.

**B Pair work** Exchange compositions and respond to these questions.

1. Does the first paragraph describe the problem and the second describe the solution?
2. What do you think of your partner's solutions? Can you suggest other solutions?

One of the biggest problems in my city is how to dispose of all the garbage that is being produced. The city landfills are nearly full, and . . . .

The best way to solve this problem is to recycle more garbage. We should set up centers to collect papers, bottles, and other things that can be recycled. Another way . . . .

## 11 READING

# The Threat to Kiribati

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



The people of Kiribati are afraid that one day in the not-too-distant future, their country will disappear from the face of the earth – literally. Several times this year, the Pacific island nation has been flooded by a sudden high tide. These tides, which swept across the island and destroyed houses, came when there was neither wind nor rain. “This never happened before,” say the older citizens of Kiribati.

What is causing these mysterious high tides? The answer may well be global warming. When fuels like oil and coal are being burned, pollutants are released; these pollutants trap heat

in the earth’s atmosphere. Warmer temperatures cause water to expand and also create more water by melting glaciers and polar ice caps.

If the trend continues, scientists say, many countries will suffer. Bangladesh, for example, might lose one-fifth of its land. The coral island nations of the Pacific, like Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, however, would face an even worse fate – they would be swallowed by the

sea. The loss of these coral islands 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 sea, on which their economies have always been based, is suddenly threatening their existence. They don’t have the money for expensive technological solutions like seawalls. And they have no control over the pollutants, which are being released mainly by activities in large industrialized countries. All they can do is to hope that industrialized countries will take steps to reduce pollution.

**Group work** Read the article. Then talk about these questions.

1. How is the action of industrialized countries making islands like Kiribati disappear from the face of the earth?
2. Scientists are still not sure how serious the effects of global warming will be. Some industries don’t want to make changes until there is definite evidence that the effects are serious. What is your opinion?
3. If you lived on an island like Kiribati, what would you like to see done?