



# ENGLISH

## Chapter 7 Session A

**5th**  
SECONDARY

**HEALTHY PLANET**  
Future

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Healthy Planet



## Environmental Issues

**1** Match words a-h with words 1-8 to describe environmental issues. Use your dictionary to check the meaning of any words you don't know.

- |   |   |            |   |           |
|---|---|------------|---|-----------|
| a | 4 | coastal    | 1 | gases     |
| b | 1 | greenhouse | 2 | fishing   |
| c | 5 | oil        | 3 | change    |
| d | 8 | waste      | 4 | erosion   |
| e | 6 | noise      | 5 | spills    |
| f | 2 | over       | 6 | pollution |
| g | 3 | climate    | 7 | rain      |
| h | 7 | acid       | 8 | disposal  |
| i | 9 | toxic      | 9 | waste     |

2



Listen and repeat. Check your answers.



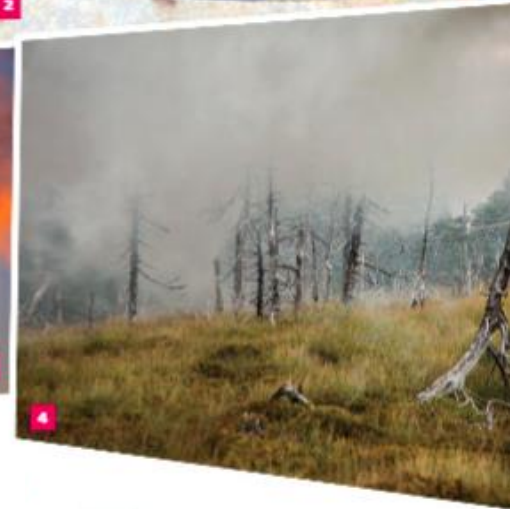
**3** Match pictures 1-4 with the environmental issues in activity 1. Write down the environmental issues.


1 Coastal erosion

2 Oil spills

3 Greenhouse gases

4 Acid rain



- 4  **INTERFACE** Work in pairs. Rank the environmental issues in activity 1 from 1 (the most serious) to 9 (the least serious). Give reasons for your answers.

I would rank greenhouse gases as the most serious environmental issue because they affect our planet as a whole.



## READING 1

- 1 Look at the picture and the title of the text. What do you think the term 'carbon offsetting' means?  
Participating in projects that reduce the amount of carbón dioxide in the world in order to balance the amount of this gas you are producing elsewhere in your life.

- 2  30 Read and listen. Check your answer.





# Carbon Offsetting

With so many environmental issues in the world today, it can be quite overwhelming. Every time we turn on the news, we are told that we will soon be facing some new disaster. By this point, you have already been warned countless times of the need to reduce waste and to recycle, but is that really enough? What can we, as individuals, do on a daily basis that will have a real impact? Recent research has shown that there are two personal choices that can make a significant difference: 1) stop eating animal products, and 2) stop taking commercial flights. However, for many people flying is a necessary part of their lives, whether for work, to visit family, etc. Now, one option to mitigate the environmental impact of our actions, that is, our carbon footprint, is through what is called 'carbon offsetting.'

Essentially, carbon offsetting is when people participate in projects that reduce the amount of the carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>, in the air, to balance out the carbon dioxide they are creating. Let's imagine, for example, that you will be taking a flight from New York to London next month. By the time

you arrive at your destination, your flight will have resulted in over 2000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It would take about 26 new trees to convert that amount of CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen; however, it is highly unrealistic that you will be personally planting those trees anytime soon!

Fortunately, there are many accredited carbon offsetting organizations which manage carbon offsetting programs. Individuals or businesses can therefore easily go online, use the helpful online calculators, see how much CO<sub>2</sub> they will be producing with their upcoming trips, and how much it would cost to offset it. The money that is paid online is then used for a variety of projects, from setting up wind farms in China, to building water cleaning systems in Ghana (thereby reducing the need to boil water). Taking our previous example, offsetting that international flight would cost \$11.10 – only a fraction of the cost of the ticket.

So the next time you hear someone asking 'What difference can one person really make?,' tell them about carbon offsetting – the planet will thank them.





**3** Read the text again and answer the questions. Give reasons for your answers.

- a** Does the author believe that individuals can help solve environmental issues?

Yes, individual choices can have an environmental impact, and the carbon offsetting is an example of it.

- b** Does the author believe that all people should stop flying?

No, many people need to fly for work, to visit family or for many other reasons.

- c What example does the author give to illustrate how much CO<sub>2</sub> we produce?

A flight from New York to London produces more than 2000 pounds of CO emissions.

- d How can people participate in carbon offsetting programs?

Go online and find an organization which manages carbon offsetting programs.

- e What is the purpose of the article?

The purpose of the article is to convince individuals to participate in carbon offsetting.

**4** Find words a-d in the text and match them to definitions 1-4. How do you say them in your language?

**a** **3** overwhelming

**b** **4** mitigate

**c** **1** thereby

**d** **2** fraction

**1** because of what has just been mentioned

**2** a small part or amount of something

**3** an emotion which is very strong, so that you cannot think or behave normally

**4** to reduce the harmful effects of something

## Environmental Issues

- 1 Complete the environmental issues with the vowels.

a o v e r f i s h i n g

b waste disposal

c noise pollution

d acid rain

e greenhouse gases

f climate change

g coastal erosion

h oil spills

i toxic waste

**2** Match the sentence beginnings with the endings.

- |          |          |   |          |  |
|----------|----------|---|----------|--|
| <b>a</b> | <b>3</b> | Trees are dying in areas                                  | <b>1</b> | coastal regions all over the world.          |
| <b>b</b> | <b>4</b> | Pollution and overfishing have drastically reduced        | <b>2</b> | most major metropolitan cities.              |
| <b>c</b> | <b>1</b> | Oil spills regularly contaminate                          | <b>3</b> | where acid rain is a common occurrence.      |
| <b>d</b> | <b>5</b> | Many countries are struggling with waste disposal         | <b>4</b> | the number of tuna found in the area.        |
| <b>e</b> | <b>2</b> | Research shows that noise pollution affects               | <b>5</b> | because there is a shortage of space.        |
| <b>f</b> | <b>6</b> | Trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere, greenhouse gases | <b>6</b> | are a leading contributor to climate change. |


climate change   coastal erosion  
oil spills   waste disposal

- 3** Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box.


- a People will need to get used to more extreme weather as the effects of climate change become a reality.
- b Many homeowners are concerned that they could lose their property as a result of coastal erosion.
- c Recent studies have found that recycling is not a completely effective method of waste disposal.
- d Sadly, news items about marine pollution from oil spills are far too common.




4 Decide if the sentences are correct (✓) or incorrect (✗). If they are incorrect, write the correct form below.

a  It should be a top priority to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases.  
It should be a top priority to reduce  
emissions of greenhouse gases.

b  Thanks to new technology, we can now predict future patterns of climate changing.  
Thanks to new technology we can now  
predict future patterns of climate change.

- c  Most people are not aware that noise pollution are a serious issue, just like other forms of pollution.

Most people are not aware that noise pollution is a serious issue, just like other forms of pollution.

- d  Many local fish populations have crashed as a result of overfishing in recent years.
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