

# 2 Help yourself

## Global issues activity

### Exploring a subject

1 The statements below all relate to the topic of air travel. Which statements are in favour of increased air travel and which are against? Which sides of the argument do you agree or disagree with?

a Skiing is becoming a much cheaper sport. I went to Geneva for £2.99 last winter. It was a promotional fare.

b Aviation fuel is a much bigger danger to the environment than cars and power stations. Each plane has huge fuel consumption, and the pollution stays high up where it does even more damage.

c One of the good things for our regional economy is that the local airport has been given a boost. The budget airlines prefer to fly from these rather than the big international airports.

d The main reason why the fares are so low is that the airline operators pay little or no tax on aviation fuel, which isn't really fair.

e As it has got cheaper, people have become much more relaxed about travelling and being abroad. And, as they say, travel broadens the mind, so it has to be good.

f In the past, travel was something special. It had a certain romance to it. Now, wherever you go, you find that everyone else has been there too at some time. There are no undiscovered corners of the world. It really takes away the pleasure of discovering somewhere new.

g More air travel just means more airport extensions. We all enjoy the extra cheaper holidays, but would we like to live near a runway?

h Air travel used to have a certain glamour about it. Those days have gone, but so has all the elitism. Now, the whole business of travel is open to almost anyone.

2 Are there any phrases in the bubbles that you think are specific to this topic? Try typing them into an Internet search engine to see if you can find arguments similar to these.

3 You can use key phrases to explore other issues that affect people everywhere. Research the global issues below. Type the phrases into an English-language Internet search engine or search an online English-language newspaper for arguments related to these issues.

#### Fair trade

ethical consumer  
globalization  
coffee growers

#### Genetic engineering

GM crops  
organic farming  
food trials  
pest resistance

#### Climate change

global warming  
greenhouse effect  
carbon neutral  
renewable energy

#### Epidemic diseases

flu virus  
emergency planning  
vaccine research  
disease control  
quarantine

1 in favour a, c, e, h  
against b, d, f, g

Answers