

What do we do with all this plastic?

READING

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
BS_2524R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

lingoda





Goals

- Can understand a short text about the use of plastic.
- Can identify and describe simple vocabulary relating to recycling and reusing materials.







Do you remember these words?

to recycle

plastic

to reuse

reusable

to throw away

single-use

to decrease

to increase





Do you remember these words?

always

most of the
time

often

every day

usually

rarely

from time to
time

occasionally

daily



weekly



Sentence examples



We don't **recycle** all our paper.

I **reuse** my water bottle every day.



They separate waste before they **throw** it **away**.

This cutlery is not **reusable**, it's only **single-use**.





Sentence examples



Occasionally, I bring my own lunch.

From time to time, I watch documentaries about the environment.



I **rarely** attend workshops about eco-friendly habits.

I read the news **weekly**.





Reading



Even if you only read the news **from time to time**, you will have seen it: the use of **plastic** has become a huge problem for our planet.

From bags to water bottles, straws, lunch boxes, coffee cups, clothing and even chewing gum, plastic is everywhere!

But, why is it a problem?



Reading



Well, the reason why is that many plastic items are **rarely** easy to **recycle**. Not only that, a lot of plastic is what we call **single-use** plastic. These objects take a very long time to disappear after we **throw** them **away**.

Plastic bottles, for example, can take up to 450 years to disappear. The plastic bags we **often** use at the supermarket? 20 years. A simple piece of chewing gum? 25 years.

We don't think about this problem **most of the time** because plastic has become a normal part of our lives. But how has it become so popular?



First look

Look back at the text and answer the questions below.



What is the text about?

What objects are examples of plastic according to the text?

Why is plastic a problem?



Look at these objects

How long do they take to decompose after you throw them away? Write down your guesses then share your answers with your class.

a plastic
toothbrush



a plastic cup



a detergent
bottle



a plastic straw





Look at these objects

Here are the answers. Was your guess correct?

500 years



450 years

500 – 1000 years



200 years



Look at the pictures below

How do they relate to the problem with plastic? What do you see?





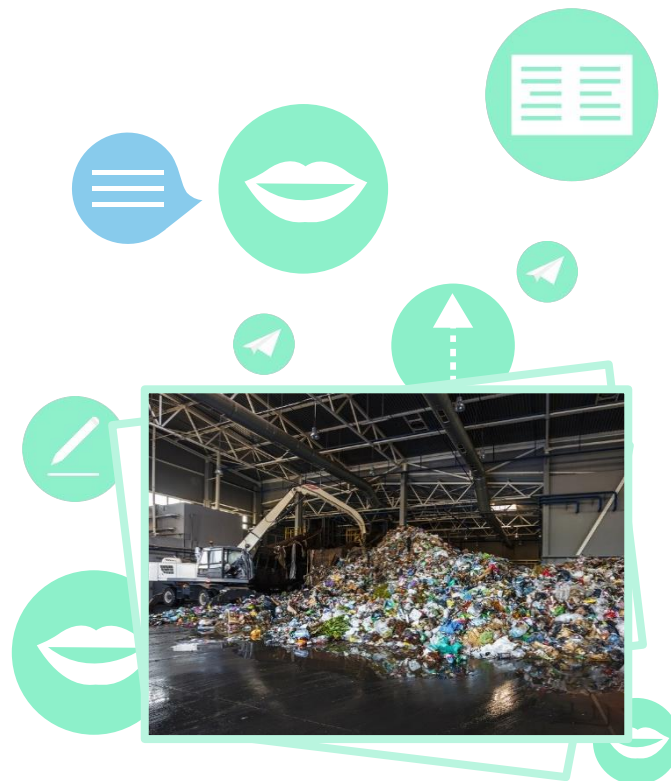
Discussion

Look at the quote from the final line of the text below. What do you think? Share your thoughts with the class.

“

“But how has plastic become so popular?”.

”





Reading

Let's think about a typical routine. When we wake up **every day**, we brush our teeth. Then, we have breakfast. We might drive to work and then drink some coffee or tea.

At work, we use our computer and smartphones while at our desks. **Sometimes**, we may have a lunch at work with catering. We work some more, and then return home. Before we go to sleep, we shower and apply some creams or beauty products.



Reading

Have you noticed? All of these steps include plastic: toothbrushes, milk cartons, coffee and tea cups. Even our laptops, some smartphones, knives and forks, parts of our cars, shower gels and creams can have plastic.

The conclusion? The reason plastic is popular is because we can easily change it into many different shapes! That is why we find plastic almost everywhere!



Speaking

Answer these questions about the text with your own words.



When do we use plastic in our routines?

What are some more everyday objects that include plastic?

Why is plastic so popular?



Speaking

All these objects are made with plastic. What other objects can we use in their place to be more eco-friendly?





Writing

**Look around your home or office. Where do you see plastic?
Note down which items you see and share them with your classmates.**

A blank sheet of white paper with horizontal lines and a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing notes.





Reading



So what is the solution? People **often** think you need to live a plastic-free life to help. But no: small steps can make a big difference!

First, you can try to **reuse** the same bottle of water instead of buying new ones. When the bottle is old, you should always try to **recycle** it.

As for other ideas, you can also bring your own **reusable** cup for coffee or tea to work. This way you don't use their plastic cups.



Reading



When you go shopping you can **reuse** the same bag for your groceries. This way, you don't have to buy new plastic bags **every week** and can save money as well!

Finally, you can **always** say no to a plastic straw with your drink when you go out to a café or restaurant.

If everyone **decreases** how much plastic we use just a little, we can all make a big difference!



True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. We need to stop using <i>all</i> plastic to make a difference.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Even small steps to reduce plastic can make a difference.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Reusing the same water bottle is a terrible idea.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Bringing your own coffee or tea to work is not eco-friendly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Taking old plastic bags to the supermarket is cheaper and better for the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. We can refuse plastic straws with our drinks to help the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Reading

Take turns reading this email.

A parent is explaining their big problem with plastic around the house.

Dear friend,

I have recently watched a documentary about plastic. Wow! I did not know plastic was a big problem. I look around my house and see a lot of plastic.

For example, last Christmas our children got a lot of new toys. The problem is, toys are all made of plastic! Now, the children don't play with them anymore. What a waste!

We also use a lot of Tupperware, shampoos, lotions, toothbrushes and straws. I admit – sometimes I have used plastic forks, knives and plates because I was too tired to wash the dishes.

What advice do you have? I want to be eco-friendly just like you!





Brainstorming

Now, brainstorm ideas. What advice can you give this parent to reduce how much plastic they use?

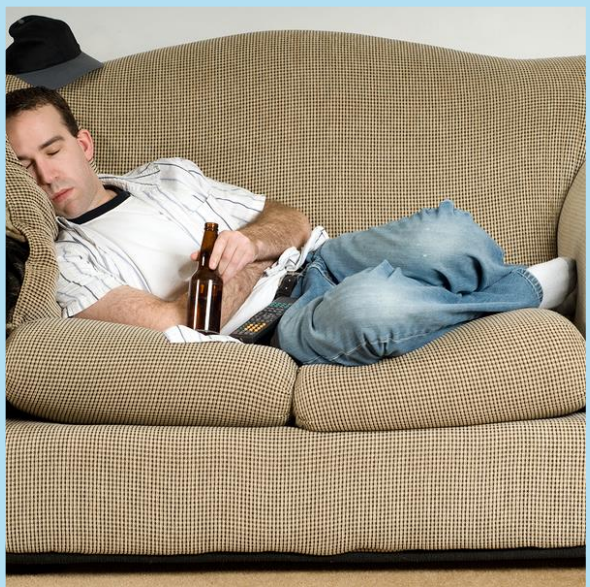


You should...

You can...



Share your thoughts



Most people are just too lazy to try to reduce plastic.

Do you agree with this? Explain your thoughts!



Writing

**Tell us about your daily habits that use plastic.
What are 3 or 4 steps you can take to reduce plastic use every day?
Take some time to write and then share with your classmates.**





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise 2, p.22

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. True

Exercise 1, p.10

1. The topic is the use of plastic.
2. bags to water bottles, straws, lunch boxes, coffee cups, clothing and even chewing gum
3. Because plastic is everywhere and it takes a long time to decompose (disappear).

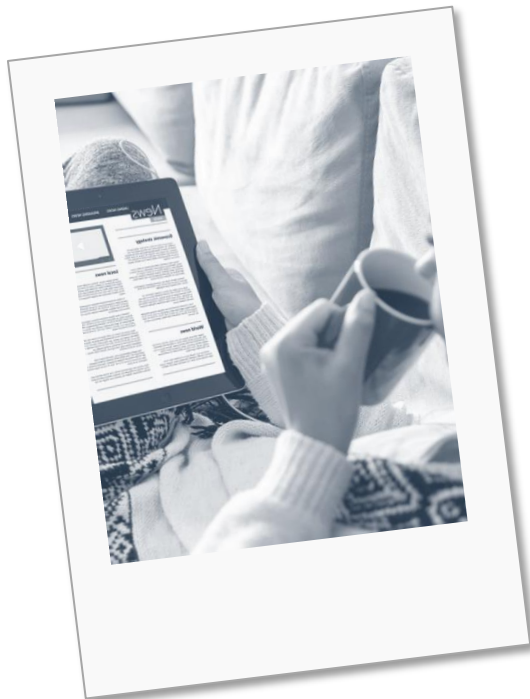




Reviewing adverbs of frequency

Do you remember these adverbs of frequency from our previous lesson?

Please talk about your routine using these words!





Writing

Write a short text about your daily habits that use plastic.

<input type="radio"/>	I sometimes buy new plastic bags when I go shopping.
<input type="radio"/>	I use a plastic toothbrush every day.
<input type="radio"/>	
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Writing

**Your friend needs advice on how to reduce plastic.
What advice can you give them?**

	-	□	×
To:			
Subject:			
Dear _____,			
Here are some things you can do to reduce plastic. First,...			



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