

Topic vocabulary in contrast**A Circle the correct word.****Local news in brief****Thresham Valley under water?**

Plans to turn much of the Thresham Valley into a large (1) **puddle** / **reservoir** to provide drinking water for the local area have received mixed reactions. Local councillors have praised the scheme, arguing that the environmental and economic benefits of (2) **flooding** / **pouring** the valley will far outweigh the disadvantages. Several small (3) **rural** / **urban** communities – two villages, three hamlets and two farms – in the valley will disappear, however.

Lucky escape for farmer

A farmer was struck by (4) **lightning** / **thunder** on Thursday evening, while mending a fence in one of his (5) **plains** / **fields**. The farmer, Jack Dobson, received treatment for slight burns at Meldew Hospital. Talking about the incident later, he said: 'It was (6) **drizzling** / **showering** slightly when I went out, but I'd checked the weather (7) **prediction** / **forecast** and it hadn't said there was going to be a thunderstorm. It was lucky I was wearing my wellington boots!'

Save bags and save money

Shoppers at a local supermarket are being urged not to throw away the supermarket's plastic shopping bags. A spokesperson for Asda said: 'For every new bag we make, the factory has to pump out industrial (8) **waste** / **litter** and that's increasing pollution in the (9) **suburban** / **surrounding** area. We want to reduce the number of bags we make each year. We're offering a financial incentive to our customers to (10) **reuse** / **repeat** their bags by bringing them with them every time they shop with us rather than getting new ones each time.'

Local academic causes a stir

An academic from Davington University has caused controversy by claiming that (11) **global** / **worldwide** warming is not caused by human disregard for the (12) **weather** / **environment**. In her new book entitled *Are We to Blame?*, Professor Angela Lucini argues that large-scale changes in the Mediterranean (13) **land** / **climate**, for example, have taken place ever since the world was formed. 'People weren't responsible for the Ice Ages, or their coming to an end, and we certainly weren't responsible for the fact the dinosaurs became (14) **extinct** / **endangered** so it's a bit presumptuous of us to think we're responsible for all the problems we're facing now, isn't it?' she said.

Councillor calls for an end to the fireplace

Local councillor Davina Forrest is calling for a ban on the use of coal fires at home. 'There's no doubt that if domestic chimneys stopped pumping out (15) **smoke** / **fog** into the atmosphere, the (16) **air** / **wind** we'd all be breathing would be much (17) **cleaner** / **clearer**,' she said.

Phrasal verbs**B Complete using the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box.**

call for • call off • clear up • cut off • die down • do up • face up to • put out

- 1 The weather should have by this evening, shouldn't it?
- 2 Do you think the wind has enough for us to go sailing without any danger?
- 3 Environmentalists are stricter controls on the use of leaded petrol.
- 4 Why can't they the fact that their products are bad for the environment?
- 5 Firefighters managed to the forest fire before it destroyed any houses.
- 6 We'll have to the demonstration if the weather's really bad, won't we?
- 7 The town was totally for three days because of the floods.
- 8 It didn't take us long to the old barn, did it?