

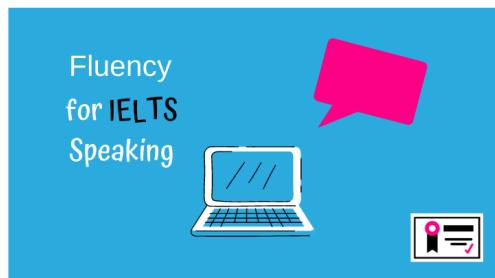
# Keith Speaking Academy

## Live Lesson Notes

# Climate Change

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Click on a picture to discover my online courses!



## Some useful Links

**Simple lesson** introducing climate change

<https://www.esolcourses.com/content/topics/environment/climate-change/climate-change-listening-activities.html>

More **in-depth talk** about climate change

<https://www.ted.com/talks/>

[katharine hayhoe the most important thing you can do to fight climate change talk about it](#)

A **children's guide** to Climate Change

<https://www.science-sparks.com/what-is-climate-change/>

Click to get a complete **Mock IELTS** Test.

<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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# Introduction

IELTS is **not** a test of knowledge.

*You don't need to know everything about **climate change**, but you should know **enough**, so you can discuss this topic, share some ideas and give some examples.*

This topic is most likely going to appear in IELTS Speaking Part 3.

*It is often a good idea to read or watch material **made for children** on topics like this.*

*It will give you the key ideas, directly and in simple English.*

*It can be a good place to start.*

*For example,*

<https://www.science-sparks.com/what-is-climate-change/>

*You then may want to look at more official information such as this one,*

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-climate-change-what-you-need-know>

*When it comes answering questions, you can use the following expressions to show off your language.*

I am by no means an expert, but...

I don't know a great deal about this but...

# Vocabulary

## Collocations for Climate

**Inhospitable** (=not kind) / **severe** / **mild** (=not hot/not cold) / **hot** / **tropical**

## Collocations for Weather

**Extreme** / **changeable** / **good** / **beautiful** / **atrocious** / **awful** / **dismal** / **fair**

We can also describe the weather as....

Nippy / chilly (quite cold)  
Bone dry (very dry)

*Weather - is more about **short term changes***

*Climate - is more about **longer term changes***

Weather tells you what to wear each day.  
Climate tells you what types of clothes to have in your wardrobe!

**Global Warming** - an increase in the global average temperature on earth

**Climate Change** - the change in general weather conditions on the earth over a long period of time.

*For example, we see more extremes weather nowadays, such as storms, tornadoes and floods than in the past.*

**Gas emissions** - the production of gases like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).

**The Greenhouse effect** - greenhouse gases trap heat from the sun in the atmosphere. The heat cannot escape and so the planet gets hotter.

**Fossil fuels** - non-renewable fuels, e.g. coal, carbon, oil, gas

**Deforestation** = the cutting down of trees on a large scale

**Habitats** = where animals and plants live

**An ecosystem** - a community of living things connected to their environment

**A Carbon footprint**

The amount of greenhouse gases produced from any person or organisation's activity.

*I can reduce my carbon footprint by using less electricity at home.*

**Renewable energies** - water (hydro), wind, sun (solar)

**Try to solve / tackle / address** climate change / global warming

We need to tackle climate change **head on** (=directly)

**Mitigate** climate change (=reduce, alleviate, minimise)

# Causes of Climate Change

The main **human cause** is probably **the burning of fossil fuels**, like coal, oil and gas, for electricity, heat and transportation.



When we use cars, planes and other forms of transport we burn fossil fuels and **emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere**

The **exhaust fumes** from cars produce CO<sub>2</sub>



When we use electricity at home, we are most likely burning fossil fuels and so **producing greenhouse gases** which cause global warming.



Deforestation is a major cause of climate change. Trees **take in** CO<sub>2</sub> and produce oxygen, so when we cut down trees this **stored CO<sub>2</sub> is released**.

Also, as there are fewer trees, this balance of CO<sub>2</sub> and oxygen is lost.



Tree roots hold the soil together and **keep the soil fertile**. Without trees the land is **less farmable**, and also the soil moves leading to both **landslides** and possible **drought**.

Farming, including **raising livestock** (e.g. cows, sheep, and goats) produces harmful greenhouse gases because cows **emit methane gas** when they fart (when they **defecate**).



When farmers use this as **fertiliser**, it is also **emitting** more greenhouse **gases into** the atmosphere.

Apparently, the fashion industry that **pushes** us to buy new clothes every season, **produces vast amounts of** greenhouse gases.

These come from the **processes** needed to produce the **fabrics**, especially man-made ones, and also the **transportation** needed for the **complex supply chains**.

Did you know a shirt made of **man-made polyester** has **twice the carbon footprint of a cotton shirt**?

Such **consumerism** also leads to huge amounts of waste and **non-biodegradable fabrics** that damage the environment.

# The problem of Climate Change

In the past, the climate **occurred in regular cycles** and it used to rain during a particular season but now, it rains heavily any time and this is leading to **floods**.

The **Ozone layer** is being depleted due to daily increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Such gaps in the Ozone layer mean **the sun's harmful rays** are doing more damage to the planet.

The polar ice sheet is melting (**thawing out**) and the sea levels are rising

We are **disrupting the balance** in the ecosystem

**It leads to** the melting of the polar ice sheets

It leads to destruction of wildlife and their **habitats**

Some **species** are becoming **extinct**

It might lead to **sea-level rise** which in turn causes damage to coastal regions

The earth is getting hot and hotter and so there are more droughts which **has a devastating impact** on farming and the **livelihood** of local communities

At the same time, we are experiencing increasingly adverse and extreme weather conditions. **Floods** and **flooding** are more and more common place.

When we have floods, **contagious diseases** can **spread like wild fire**

Farmers face problems due to **soil erosion** and so use **artificial fertilisers** which can cause **water and air pollution**.

# The solutions to Climate Change

We can change the way we travel, **opting for public transport** and **avoiding travel** by plane whenever possible.

We can eat less meat, and so **reduce the demand** for **livestock** and **cattle**.

We can **shop locally**, so food **supply chains** do not need excessive travel by train, boat or plane.

By and large, we should **consume less**, whether it be for electrical appliances or clothes. We shouldn't be a victim of **fast fashion**.

We can also consume less electricity at home, by using **energy saving bulbs** and be more careful to turn off lights and save energy.

## Student's Questions

**Keith, what do you think about climate change?**

Well, for sure, climate change is a **hugely controversial** subject nowadays

and I think, it's a problematic thing, its a **problematic issue**, clearly because the growing rise in the temperature, the global warming we are experiencing, is having a **huge impact** on our lives, and on nature and the the world around us.

For example, climate change....

the increase of the temperature that is happening **due to the** emission of methane from cows or **carbon emissions** from traffic, is leading to this increased temperature **which in turn leads to** the sea level rise which is getting worse and worse, and that's **destroying habitats** for animals like the polar bear and penguin.

But not only that, it's having a really **detrimental impact** on coastal cities and lower level land.

It **can lead to** tsunamis, flooding in lots of areas around the world and that's gonna have a really really bad impact.

So, personally, I think climate change is a serious problem {and} that we need to **take radical action**, right now.

I go along with Greta Thunberg saying we need to **wake up to the reality** around us.

I don't really go along with the **skeptics** who don't believe it's a serious problem. I think it a problem and we need to take action.

## **Keith, what can we do to stop climate change?**

Well, I think there is a number of things that we can do. First of all as countries we can **introduce policies** that will **prevent** for example, **deforestation**.

Policies that will encourage countries to **take positive actions towards** climate change,

but there is also things that **we as individuals** can do.

**For starters**, we can save energy at home, we **can be turning off** lights when we don't need them so we are using less electricity.

We can take public transport, so **reducing our carbon footprint**, so there are **fewer greenhouse gas emissions**.

We can also **vote with our feet** when it comes to **consumerism**,

and we can choose to buy **fewer clothes**, so that we are not pushed by the **fashion industry** to be consuming all of these **fabrics** that then are just **left as waste**

and are having a negative impact on the **balance of the ecosystem** as well.

So, I think both of these **areas we need to address** in order to **tackle climate change head on**.