CLIMATE CHANGE

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it."

Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States

1. Climate Change Discussion

1. What do you know about climate change and global warming?
2. What do you know about the science behind climate change?
3. Which countries are most to blame for global warming? Why? Is it fair that countries with large populations but low per capita energy use are blamed more than countries with smaller populations that have a high per capita energy use?
4. Which industries are most responsible for causing climate change? How does the agricultural industry contribute to global warming?
5. What concerns you most about climate change and global warming?
6. What will the consequences in the future be if the temperature keeps increasing? How will global warming affect the lives of people around the world?
7. How will global warming affect animal life around the world and in the oceans?
8. What did you learn about global warming at school? Should children be taught about environmental problems in school? Why or why not?

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2. Climate Change Vocabulary

- **the greenhouse effect** (noun) – *when gases in the atmosphere trap heat radiation from the Sun.*
- **global warming** (noun) – *the gradual increase in the Earth's temperature due to the greenhouse effect.*
- **climate change** (noun) – *the change in global climate conditions, especially due to global warming.*
- **carbon dioxide / CO_2** (noun) – *a colourless gas released when organic material is burned, a greenhouse gas.*
- **fossil fuels** (noun) – *natural fuels such as coal, oil or gas, formed over many years in the Earth from the remains of living organisms.*
- **carbon footprint** (noun) – *the amount of CO_2 produced by an individual, organisation or community.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. Businesses need to reduce their _____; not only will it help to combat against climate change, but it is also great for the brand image.
2. If _____ continues at its current rate, more ice will melt into the ocean and sea levels will rise.
3. As the population increases, so too will our demand for burning _____ in order to produce energy.
4. _____ was first observed on Venus, a planet whose atmosphere is mainly composed of carbon dioxide and has a temperature hot enough to melt lead.
5. Some scientists have claimed that one effect of _____ has been stronger hurricanes.
6. The main source of _____ emitted into the atmosphere is energy production.

Climate Change vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Do you think it's too late to stop the greenhouse effect? Why or why not?
2. Do you agree human activity is responsible for global warming? Why might someone disagree?
3. Do you think we have already begun to experience the effects of climate change? Can you think of any examples?
4. What are some of the common sources of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere?
5. Why do we continue to use fossil fuels if we know they are bad for the environment?
6. What do you do in your day-to-day life that contributes to your carbon footprint? What can you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

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3. Video: Climate Change Explained

You are going to watch a short film called "Climate Change 101 with Bill Nye" which explains some of the science behind climate change and what the consequences may be.

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-climate-change/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What have slight changes in the Earth's temperature through history been caused by?
   a) the Earth's orbit *b) the Moon's orbit* *c) the Sun's orbit*
2. Climate change is characterised by what kind of changes in the Earth's temperature?
   a) a slight increase *b) a sudden increase* *c) a rapid decrease*
3. Out of the last few years, how many have been the hottest on record?
   a) 13 *b) 10* *c) 3*
4. Climate scientists agree that climate change is caused by what?
   a) the Earth's orbit *b) human activities* *c) the invention of the aeroplane*

Sentence completion

5. Since the industrial revolution, we have increased our consumption of _____.
6. An excessive amount of _____ can be dangerous for the planet.
7. Greenhouse gases trap _____ radiation from the Sun, making the planet warmer.
8. Oceans regulate the Earth's _____.

Short answer

9. A warmer ocean will have devastating consequences for what?
10. By approximately how many inches has the sea level risen in the last 10 years?
11. Why are climate change consequences like floods, tornadoes and deadly heat waves more obvious to humans?
12. What could people eat less of to help combat climate change?

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4. Climate Change Conversation Questions

1. What needs to be done do to combat global warming?
2. Do you think all countries are taking global warming seriously? Why do they keep agreeing to cut carbon emissions far into the future and not right now? Are they more concerned about today's economy than future generations?
3. Is climate change an important topic in the national news of your country? How does it compare to other world issues?
4. What effect will climate change have on the global economy? Will it affect migration in any way?
5. What do you think a 'climate change denier' is? Can you think of any climate change deniers? What might motivate them to deny climate science?
6. Can individuals really make a difference to combat climate change? Do you think people really care what will happen in the future after they have gone?
7. How will global warming change the way we live our lives in the future?
8. Do you think global warming could destroy humanity? Why or why not? Should we start looking for another planet to live on?

5. Climate Change Writing Task

Write about the problem of climate change. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What the causes are.
- What the consequences will be.
- What solutions you can think of to combat this problem.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people say that climate change is not the result of human activities, but a naturally occurring cycle in the Earth's temperature. Do you agree or disagree with this?

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