

Spot on facts

COMPREHENSION **1** Compare your results from Task 1 on the introduction page to the items ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
- **Introduction:** waste and waste disposal, loss of habitats and extinction of species, inadequate fishing methods, deforestation and cutting down of tropical rainforests, droughts, water scarcity and climate change
 - **Spot on facts:** overpopulation, increasing demand for food production and transportation, increasing demand for energy, greenhouse gas emissions, megafloods, exploitation of natural resources, air pollution and water pollution, global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer, increasing land use, land degradation, loss of biodiversity
 - **Additional ideas:** land grabbing, tourism and travel, individual transport, overfishing, urbanisation, desertification etc.

VISUALS **2** Look at the diagram and comment on the distribution of CO₂ emissions.

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
- The first pie chart shows that in absolute terms, China (with 8,081 million tons) was the chief producer of CO₂ emissions in the world in 2011, followed closely by the US (with 5,994 million tons). The chart clearly shows that all attempts to reduce CO₂ emissions will have little impact without involving China and the US. The two states are responsible for about two-thirds of the emissions of seven large countries shown in the chart.
- The second chart paints a slightly different picture: The countries with the highest per capita emissions of CO₂ are the US (18.0 tons) and Canada (16.1 tons). In China average CO₂ emissions are substantially lower than in the US; they are also lower than in Germany. What the second chart demonstrates very clearly is that the distribution of CO₂ emissions is very uneven: for example, in India average CO₂ emissions comprise of less than a tenth of those in the US. If the carbon footprint of people all over the world were as large as that of people in the US, that would have catastrophic consequences for environment, the atmosphere and life on earth in general. A fair reduction of emissions should take the unequal distribution of CO₂ emissions into account, meaning that pressure should be put on those countries that have high per capita emissions, and not on the countries with high absolute numbers, since those numbers are due to their large populations.

Spot on language

COMPREHENSION **1** Read the following notes for an essay about saving the environment. ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
1. With the world population growing, we will need more food, water and energy.
 2. Instead of going by car, you should take the bus or ride your bike for short distances.
 3. After watching a documentary about intensive livestock farming, I decided to carefully choose the meat I buy.
 4. Not being aware of the dangers of plastic, a lot of people use new plastic bags every time they shop.
 5. By buying seasonal food, you can help to reduce transportation and even save money.
 6. In spite of already having perfectly functioning mobiles, a lot of people always buy the latest mobile model.
 7. The new 'sharing economy' enables people to share things with one another, thus reducing unnecessary consumption.
 8. Being a clever person, you should follow this new trend of sharing things.

2 a) Complete the conditional ... b)  Discuss what you would do ...

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
- a)
1. If conventional crops cannot grow in dry and hot countries, GM crop plants, which are less susceptible to drought, **will help** to solve food shortage problems. (= **probable**)

2. If the DNA of a plant or animal **is** manipulated by scientists, the products have to be labelled "genetically modified". (= **always true**)
3. If salmon were genetically modified, each fish **would grow** in half the time necessary for a normal fish. (= **possible**)
4. If GM plants **are** naturally insect-resistant, no poisonous pesticide spraying is necessary in the fields where they are grown. (= **always true**)
5. If herbicide-resistant GM crops cross-bred with other plants, weeds **would become** difficult to remove. (= **possible**)
6. If the US government had agreed in 2012 to allow GM salmon to be sold, the decision **would have affected** international trade. (= **no longer possible**)

b) Individual answers expected.

3 Read the following text and decide which modal verb ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

1. A (are supposed to), 2. B (can), 3. A (may), 4. B (could), 5. C (ought to), 6. C (could),
7. B (mustn't), 8. B (can), 9. C (should), 10. A (had)

Global summits **are supposed to** (1) find solutions for global problems. However, the outcome of the global climate conferences of the past years **can** (2) be described as rather mediocre. The agreements **may** (3) sound ambitious – cutting CO₂ emissions and thus reducing global warming to two degrees – yet there is no evidence that these targets **could** (4) actually be fulfilled. In fact, politicians **ought to** (5) have done more to tackle this problem. According to experts, a temperature rise that **could** (6) cause serious and irreversible damage to our civilisation is now practically inevitable. However, we **mustn't** (7) forget that we **can** (8) all make a difference. Do you think we **should** (9) preserve endangered animals and plants? Then you **had** (10) better stop complaining and start reducing your carbon footprint right now!

4 An English friend of yours is doing a project on climate change and ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

Hi ...

How is your project work on climate change getting along? You asked me which solutions people in Germany are thinking about. I just read a newspaper report about a German lawyer and environmental researcher called Felix Ekardt, who published a book called "Fifty ideas for a new world" in 2012, and I think the main idea in the report might be useful for your project. Ekardt claims that the main cause of climate change is that the rich countries in Europe and North America are still concentrating on financial growth and industrial expansion, even though these countries actually already have everything they really need. He says that if this target doesn't change, the demand for energy and fuel will never stop growing. According to the journalist, Ekardt writes that people need to be aware of what they consume and to cut back on energy use, and that politicians need to provide support, but that another solution is also necessary. He suggests an enhanced system of emission trade in which every country in the world has a certain number of "rights" to emit greenhouse gases. These rights certificates are sold, for example, to industrial companies, animal farmers or airlines. Ekardt's new idea is that states which need more certificates, e.g. industry-rich countries, would have to buy them from less industrially developed countries. Each country's income from the sale of these certificates should be given to their citizens. In this way, he suggests, two global problems could be solved with one solution: both global poverty and climate change. Have you heard about this idea before? If not, maybe it could help you in your project. Let me know if it does!

Talk to you soon

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