

Topic 5 THE ENVIRONMENT – GIVE EARTH A CHANCE

1 Complete the text using vocabulary from topic 5.

The environment

The topic of the environment is a controversial one indeed. Basically, there are two different opinions: Some people think environmental changes are nothing new and we just have to live with them. Others say human activities pose a _____ to the environment, so we all have to make an effort to protect it. And if we don't act now, the consequences will be _____.

Many countries have signed the Paris Agreement to _____ the way to limit global warming. To reach this goal, many environmentalists think traffic is the most urgent problem to be solved. The daily traffic _____ in many cities and the _____ of CO₂ emissions _____ that traffic in inner cities must be _____. But many people do not want to give up the _____ of travelling everywhere by car. However, in so-called green cities, residents will have to follow a different _____: Life in green cities can't be organized at the _____ of nature. Consequently the inhabitants will be _____ to rethink mobility and use public transport.

Energy sources are also an issue. Renewable energy sources are _____ for the _____ of industrial countries. But the amount of energy produced this way is not always _____ enough to meet the _____. Therefore some countries do not want to give up nuclear power although _____ accidents in Fukushima and Chernobyl suggest that the dangers of nuclear power stations should not be _____.

Today's consumers are very critical about farming. The demand for organic produce is steadily increasing, so a switch to _____ farming makes sense. It is a _____ of providing healthy food and protecting the environment at the same time, making it good for consumers and environmentalists _____. Hopefully this will have a _____ effect so the _____ of consumers to chemicals in the food chain will be kept to a minimum.

Another problem is waste. Too much packaging everywhere, plastics in the sea, one-way products – the list is long. And when all of this waste is _____ in _____ sites it cannot possibly be recycled. This is why much of it must be burned, but _____ contributes to higher CO₂ emissions. Avoiding waste seems to be the only alternative, and several steps have already been taken. One example is the _____ people have to pay for plastic bags in shops and supermarkets. But is this the right way to _____ the problem of plastic waste? Wouldn't it be better to simply ban _____ plastic bags once and for all?

2 Match the words on the left (1-8) with their synonyms on the right (A-H).

1	thoroughly	A	to protect
2	to occur	B	serious
3	assumption	C	carefully
4	to boost	D	ground
5	to safeguard	E	suggestion
6	soil	F	harvest
7	yield	G	to happen
8	severe	H	to increase

3 Match the words on the left (1-8) with their definitions on the right (A-H).

1	six-fold	A	to examine very carefully
2	healthcare practitioner	B	a way of dealing with a problem
3	to scrutinise	C	doctor who practises general medicine
4	approach	D	a plan that is not yet in its finished form
5	draft	E	six times as much
6	to plummet	F	to throw away
7	to dump	G	to suddenly decrease
8	to take out of circulation	H	to remove sth. from everyday use

4 Fill in the gaps.

- The _____ is a group of vehicles controlled by one transport company.
- When you _____ something, you expect something to happen.
- The fact that something is damaged through ordinary use is called _____ and _____.
- Wheat and barley are examples of _____ grown in our country.
- America's debts _____ to billions of dollars.
- People still find _____ bags convenient, although they know about the threat they pose when they end up in the oceans.

5 What is it in English?

- Subventionen _____
- auslösen _____
- Einführung _____
- beschleunigen _____
- Sprecherin _____
- erben _____
- Umfrageteilnehmer _____
- machbar _____