

Ecology

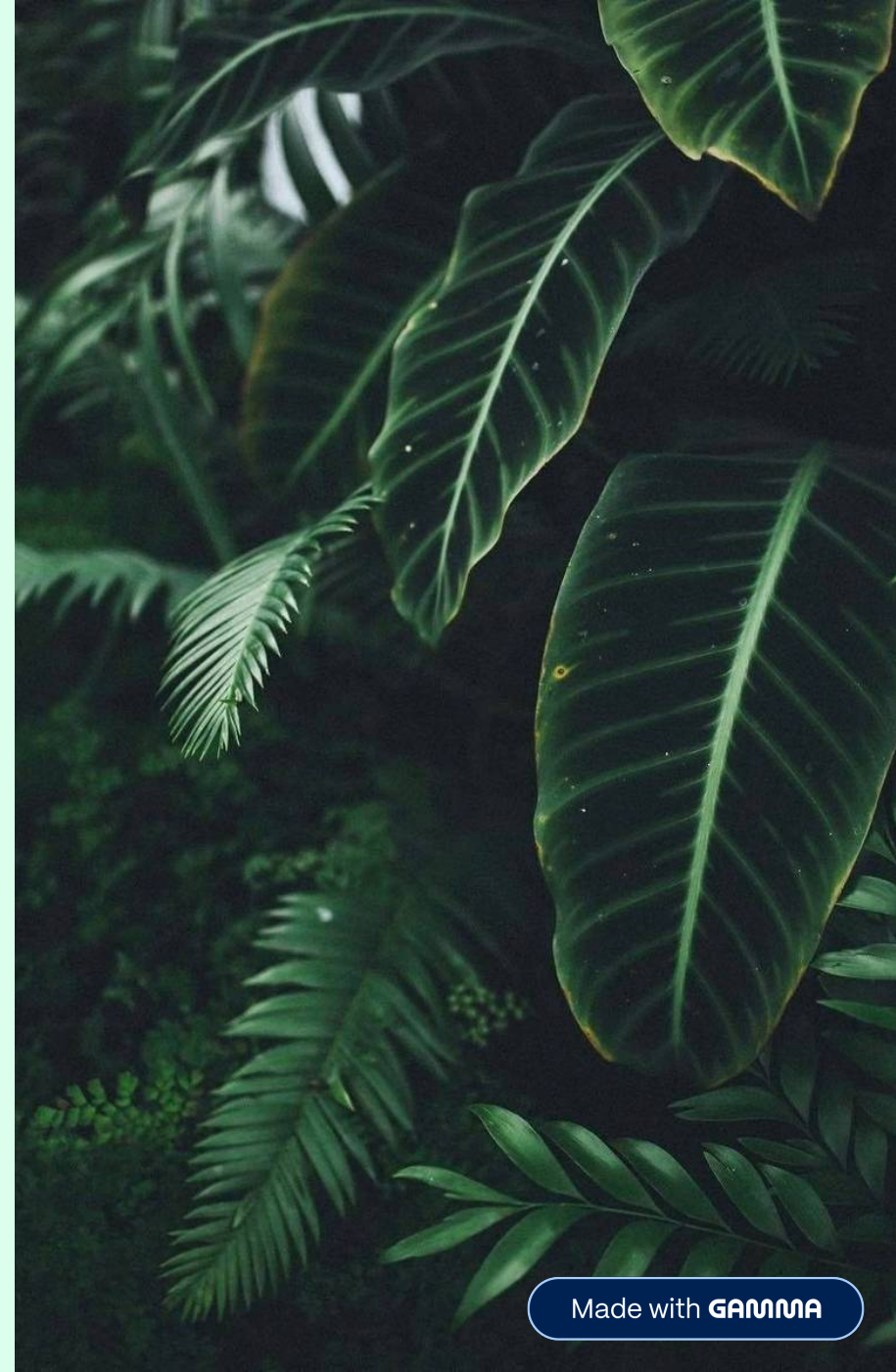
 no Svetlana Belyaeva

The Importance of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in Combating Climate Change

Biodiversity is the foundation of a healthy **ecosystem**, providing essential services such as clean air, water, and fertile soil. However, human activities, including **deforestation**, **toxic emissions**, and **plastic waste** accumulation, have led to severe **environmental degradation**. The increasing **carbon footprint** from industries and transportation contributes significantly to **climate change**, resulting in **global warming**, **melting glaciers**, and **rising sea levels**.

One of the major challenges is the excessive release of **greenhouse gases**, primarily carbon dioxide, from burning **non-renewable resources** like coal and oil. Transitioning to **renewable energy**, such as solar and wind power, is crucial for reducing **carbon emissions** and achieving **carbon-neutral** goals. Additionally, **carbon offsetting** and implementing a **carbon tax** can incentivize businesses to adopt greener practices.

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Pollution in all forms—**air pollution**, **water pollution**, and **soil pollution**—poses a severe threat to both humans and **endangered species**.

Microplastics have infiltrated marine ecosystems, while **oil spills** devastate aquatic life. Proper **waste disposal** and reducing reliance on landfills are essential steps toward a **circular economy**, where materials are reused and recycled efficiently.

Conservation efforts, such as establishing **protected areas** and promoting **reforestation**, help combat **habitat destruction**. Adopting an **eco-friendly** lifestyle—using **biodegradable** products, minimizing **hazardous waste**, and embracing a **zero-waste lifestyle**—can significantly reduce environmental harm.

Sustainable development requires balancing economic growth with ecological preservation. **Sustainable agriculture** minimizes soil depletion, while **green energy** initiatives improve **energy efficiency**. Governments must strengthen **environmental policies**, and individuals can engage in **eco-activism** to drive change.

The consequences of inaction are dire—**extreme weather events**, **droughts**, and **desertification** will intensify. Achieving **net-zero emissions** is not just an option but a necessity for future generations.

Comprehension Questions

1. What are the primary causes of environmental degradation?
2. How do greenhouse gases contribute to global warming?
3. Why is biodiversity crucial for ecosystems?
4. What are the effects of plastic waste on marine life?
5. How can renewable energy help combat climate change?
6. What is the difference between carbon-neutral and net-zero emissions?
7. What measures can governments take to reduce air pollution?
8. How does deforestation impact climate change?
9. What is the purpose of carbon offsetting?
10. Why is sustainable agriculture important?
11. How do extreme weather events relate to climate change?
12. What are the benefits of a circular economy?
13. How can individuals reduce their carbon footprint?
14. What role does eco-activism play in environmental protection?
15. Why are microplastics dangerous to the environment?
16. How do oil spills affect aquatic ecosystems?
17. What are the advantages of using biodegradable products?
18. How can reforestation help restore ecosystems?
19. What policies can encourage businesses to adopt green energy?
20. Is achieving net-zero emissions realistic in the next 50 years? Why or why not?



Discussion Questions

1. How does biodiversity contribute to a stable ecosystem?
2. What are the most effective ways to reduce our carbon footprint?
3. Should governments impose stricter regulations on industries to limit toxic emissions?
4. How can individuals adopt a zero-waste lifestyle in urban areas?
5. What role does renewable energy play in mitigating climate change?
6. Are carbon taxes an effective way to encourage companies to reduce emissions?
7. How does plastic waste affect marine life, and what can be done to minimize it?
8. What are the long-term consequences of deforestation?
9. How can reforestation help combat rising CO₂ levels?
10. Should eco-activism be more aggressive in demanding policy changes?

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Exercises

1

Match the words with their definitions:

- a) Biodiversity

b) Carbon footprint

c) Microplastics

d) Deforestation

e) Net-zero emissions
1. Tiny plastic particles harmful to marine life

2. The variety of life in an ecosystem

3. Clearing forests for agriculture or urban use

4. Balancing emitted carbon with removal

5. Total greenhouse gases produced by human activity

Word Formation

Complete the table with the correct forms of the words.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
Pollute	Pollution	Polluted
Emit		
Conserve		
	Degradation	
Recycle		
		Biodegradable

3

Find synonyms or antonyms for the given words.

- Synonyms:

Global warming →

Hazardous waste →

Combat pollution →
- Antonyms:

Renewable energy →

Reforestation →

Eco-friendly →

2

Fill in the Blanks

- Complete the sentences with the correct word from the list.
(Biodiversity, carbon-neutral, deforestation, eco-friendly, emissions, microplastics, renewable, sustainable, toxic, zero-waste)
1. Many companies are striving to become by balancing their carbon output with removal efforts.

2. The government introduced stricter regulations to reduce industrial that harm air quality.

3. is a major threat to the Amazon rainforest, endangering countless species.

4. Scientists warn that have infiltrated the food chain, posing health risks.

5. Switching to energy sources like solar and wind is key to reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

6. Protecting ensures that ecosystems remain resilient against climate change.

7. A lifestyle involves minimizing waste by reusing and composting.

8. Factories must properly dispose of waste to prevent soil and water contamination.

9. development balances economic growth with environmental protection.

10. Consumers are increasingly choosing products to reduce their ecological impact.

4

Collocations Match the words to form common environmental collocations.

- Column A

Column B
1. Carbon

A. Change
2. Climate

B. Neutral
3. Greenhouse

C. Species
4. Endangered

D. Footprint
5. Waste

E. Gases
6. Renewable

F. Disposal
7. Energy

G. Efficiency

Matching Definitions Match each term with its correct definition. Term Definition

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Biodiversity | A. Compensating for carbon emissions by funding environmental projects. |
| 2. Carbon footprint | B. The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activities. |
| 3. Deforestation | C. The clearing of forests for agriculture or urban development. |
| 4. Microplastics | D. Harmful gases released into the atmosphere by industries. |
| 5. Net-zero emissions | E. Balancing emitted carbon with removal to achieve no net increase. |
| 6. Renewable energy | F. Energy from sources that are naturally replenished, like wind or solar. |
| 7. Toxic emissions | G. Tiny plastic particles that pollute water and soil. |
| 8. Habitat destruction | H. The process where natural environments are damaged, making them uninhabitable. |
| 9. Circular economy | I. An economic system aimed at eliminating waste through reuse and recycling. |
| 10. Carbon offsetting | J. The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat. |

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Sentence Transformation

Rewrite the sentences using the given word without changing the meaning.

1. **"Cutting down trees is destroying animal habitats."**
→ _____ *is leading to habitat destruction.*
2. **"We need to reduce the amount of plastic waste in the ocean."**
→ *We must combat* _____ *pollution.*
3. **"Many species are at risk of disappearing due to human activity."**
→ *Human activities are causing many species to become* _____.
4. **"Governments should invest more in solar and wind power."**
→ *More funding should go into* _____ *energy sources.*

Discussion & Critical Thinking

Answer the questions using at least three vocabulary words in each response.

1. **How can individuals reduce their carbon footprint?**
2. **What are the consequences of deforestation?**
3. **Why is a circular economy important for sustainable development?**

Words Revision

1 General Terms

- **Biodiversity** – биоразнообразие
- **Ecosystem** – экосистема
- **Sustainable development** – устойчивое развитие
- **Carbon footprint** – углеродный след
- **Climate change** – изменение климата
- **Global warming** – глобальное потепление
- **Greenhouse gases** – парниковые газы
- **Renewable energy** – возобновляемая энергия
- **Non-renewable resources** – невозобновляемые ресурсы
- **Environmental degradation** – деградация окружающей среды

Verbs

- **To pollute** – загрязнять
- **To recycle** – перерабатывать
- **To decompose** – разлагаться
- **To emit** – выбрасывать (газы)
- **To conserve** – сохранять
- **To mitigate (climate change)** – смягчать (последствия изменения климата)
- **To combat pollution** – бороться с загрязнением
- **To reduce waste** – сокращать отходы

3 Conservation

- **Endangered species** – исчезающие виды
- **Wildlife preservation** – сохранение дикой природы
- **Habitat destruction** – разрушение среды обитания
- **Reforestation** – лесовосстановление
- **Conservation efforts** – природоохранные меры
- **Protected areas** – охраняемые территории
- **Eco-friendly** – экологически безопасный
- **Biodegradable** – биоразлагаемый
- **Carbon offsetting** – углеродная компенсация

2 Pollution

- **Air/water/soil pollution** – загрязнение воздуха/воды/почвы
- **Plastic waste** – пластиковые отходы
- **Microplastics** – микропластик
- **Toxic emissions** – токсичные выбросы
- **Oil spill** – разлив нефти
- **Deforestation** – вырубка лесов
- **Landfill** – свалка
- **Waste disposal** – утилизация отходов
- **Hazardous waste** – опасные отходы
- **Smog** – смог

Climate & Weather

- **Extreme weather events** – экстремальные погодные явления
- **Drought** – засуха
- **Desertification** – опустынивание
- **Melting glaciers** – таяние ледников
- **Rising sea levels** – повышение уровня моря
- **Carbon emissions** – выбросы углерода
- **Carbon-neutral** – углеродно-нейтральный
- **Net-zero emissions** – нулевые выбросы

4 Environmental Initiatives

- **Circular economy** – циркулярная экономика
- **Zero-waste lifestyle** – жизнь без отходов
- **Green energy** – зеленая энергия
- **Energy efficiency** – энергоэффективность
- **Eco-activism** – экологический активизм
- **Environmental policy** – экологическая политика
- **Carbon tax** – углеродный налог
- **Sustainable agriculture** – устойчивое сельское хозяйство

Task 4

Hi, Ann!

I have found two photos for our school project "...", but for technical reasons I cannot send them now. I'd like to discuss them with you anyway.

One photo is suitable for our project, because it shows (somebody doing smthing ...). Another photo can be used for our project, because it depicts (somebody doing smthing ...).

Obviously these two photos have some differences. They are different because they show different types of...

... has some advantages and disadvantages. The first advantage of (1) is that ... The second is... However, ... has the disadvantage, for example, If we talk about (2) the advantage(s) is (are) But, as I think, there are also some disadvantages ...

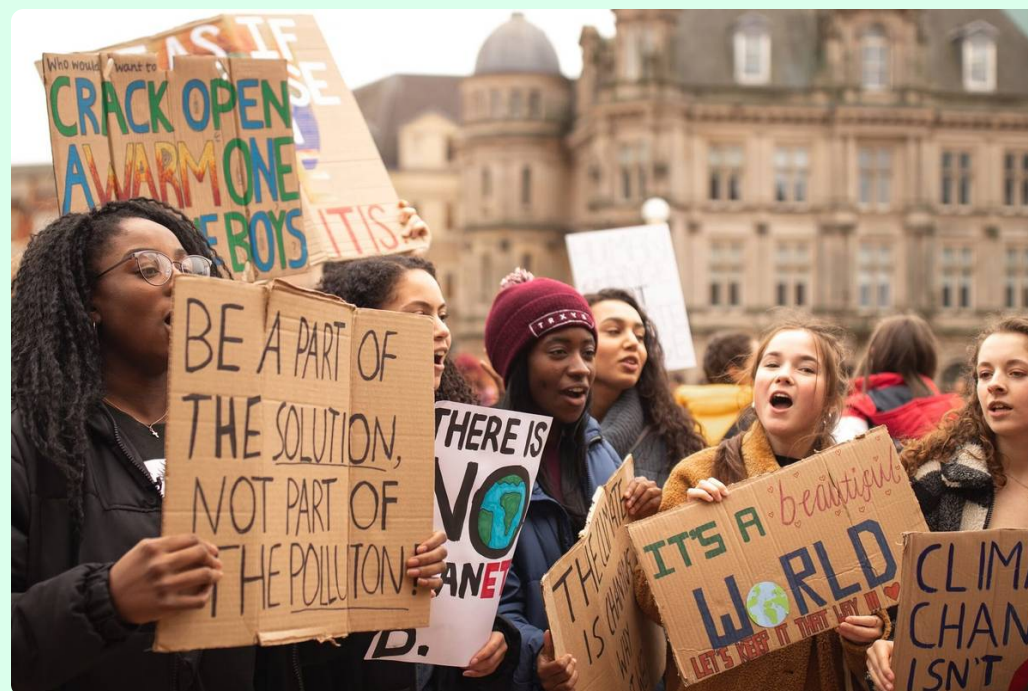
As for me I prefer/ would prefer/ preferred as a child ... because ...

That's all. Bye!

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Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project “**Helping the environment**”. You have found some photos to illustrate it but for technical reasons you cannot send them now. Leave a voice message to your friend explaining your choice of the photos and sharing some ideas about the project. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;
- mention the advantages (1–2) of the two ways of helping the environment;
- mention the disadvantages (1–2) of the two ways of helping the environment;
- express your opinion on the subject of the project – which way of helping the environment presented in the pictures you would prefer and why.



Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project **"Helping the environment"**. You have found some photos to illustrate it but for technical reasons you cannot send them now. Leave a voice message to your friend explaining your choice of the photos and sharing some ideas about the project. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;
- mention the advantages (1–2) of the two ways of helping the environment;
- mention the disadvantages (1–2) of the two ways of helping the environment;
- express your opinion on the subject of the project – which way of helping the environment presented in the pictures you would prefer and why.



Interview

General Ecology & Environmental Issues

1. How would you assess the current state of the global environment? What are the most pressing ecological challenges today?
2. Do you think governments are doing enough to combat climate change? What policies would you suggest?
3. How does biodiversity loss affect ecosystems, and why should we be concerned about it?
4. What are the pros and cons of renewable energy sources compared to fossil fuels?
5. Can individual actions really make a difference in solving environmental problems, or is systemic change more important?

Pollution & Waste Management

1. What are the most effective ways to reduce plastic pollution in the oceans?
2. Should companies be held legally responsible for environmental damage caused by their products? Why or why not?
3. How can cities improve waste management systems to promote recycling and reduce landfill use?
4. What role does fast fashion play in environmental degradation, and how can it be made more sustainable?
5. Is nuclear energy a viable solution to reducing carbon emissions, despite its risks?

Climate Change & Sustainability

1. How does deforestation contribute to climate change, and what can be done to prevent it?
2. Should there be stricter international regulations on carbon emissions? Why or why not?
3. What are the biggest obstacles to achieving a carbon-neutral economy?
4. How can businesses adopt more sustainable practices without losing profitability?
5. Do you think technological innovations (like carbon capture) will be enough to mitigate climate change, or do we need lifestyle changes as well?

Personal & Societal Responsibility

1. How can education systems better prepare future generations to address environmental challenges?
2. Should environmental activism (like protests or civil disobedience) be more widely accepted as a means of driving change?
3. What lifestyle changes have you made to reduce your ecological footprint?
4. How can developed countries support developing nations in transitioning to greener economies?
5. Do you believe that economic growth and environmental sustainability can coexist, or are they fundamentally in conflict?



Environmental Challenges and Potential Solutions

The world is currently facing **unprecedented environmental challenges**, with **climate change** and **global warming** at the forefront. The excessive emission of **greenhouse gases**, primarily from burning **fossil fuels**, has led to a dramatic increase in Earth's temperature. This results in **melting glaciers**, **rising sea levels**, and more frequent **extreme weather events**, threatening **biodiversity** and human settlements alike.

Another critical issue is **pollution**, particularly **air pollution** from **industrial emissions** and **plastic waste** contaminating oceans. **Deforestation** and **urban sprawl** contribute to **habitat destruction**, pushing many species toward becoming **endangered**. Additionally, **overpopulation** exacerbates problems like **water scarcity**, **soil erosion**, and **waste management** inefficiencies.

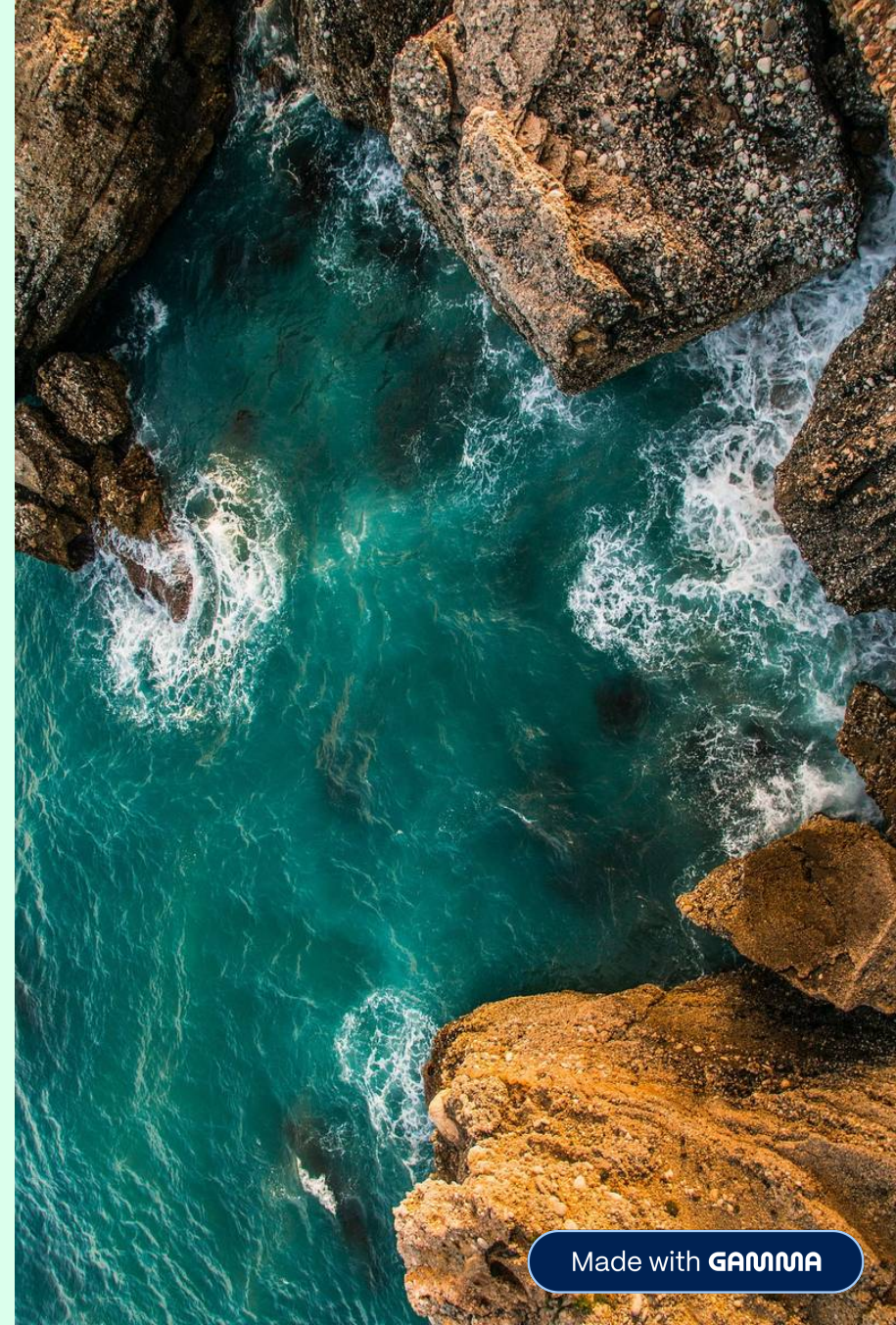
However, there are viable solutions. Transitioning to **renewable energy** sources, such as solar and wind power, can reduce our **carbon footprint**. Implementing **sustainable development** strategies, like **afforestation** and **conservation** programs, helps restore **ecosystems**. Governments should enforce stricter **emission standards** and promote **carbon offsetting** initiatives. On an individual level, adopting a **zero-waste lifestyle**, increasing **recycling** efforts, and supporting **green technology** can make a significant difference.

Ultimately, addressing **environmental degradation** requires global cooperation, innovative **environmental policies**, and a shift toward **eco-friendly** practices. By embracing **sustainability**, we can mitigate **natural resource depletion** and ensure a healthier planet for future generations.

Discussion Questions

1. How does **climate change** affect your country, and what measures are being taken to combat it?
2. Do you think governments or individuals bear more responsibility for solving **environmental issues**? Why?
3. What are the biggest obstacles to adopting **renewable energy** worldwide?
4. How can **urban sprawl** be controlled to reduce **habitat destruction**?
5. Should **carbon taxes** be mandatory for industries? Discuss the pros and cons.
6. Is **recycling** enough to tackle the **plastic waste** problem, or do we need stricter regulations?
7. How can education raise awareness about **sustainability** and **eco-conscious** living?

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Exercises

Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word from the list to complete the sentences.

1. The _____ of the Amazon rainforest is causing irreversible damage to wildlife. (*deforestation / urban sprawl*)
2. Switching to _____ energy sources like solar power can reduce dependence on fossil fuels. (*renewable / toxic*)
3. Many marine animals are dying due to ingestion of _____. (*microplastics / acid rain*)
4. Governments should enforce stricter _____ to limit factory emissions. (*carbon footprint / emission standards*)
5. A _____ lifestyle aims to minimize waste production. (*zero-waste / eco-friendly*)

Synonyms & Definitions

Match the words with their correct meanings.

1. **Biodiversity loss** –
 - a) The variety of life in a particular habitat is decreasing.
 - b) The process of reusing materials.
2. **Desertification** –
 - a) The transformation of fertile land into desert.
 - b) The rise in global temperatures.
3. **Carbon offsetting** –
 - a) Compensating for emissions by funding environmental projects.
 - b) The destruction of forests for agriculture.

Exercises

Match each term with its correct definition.

Word Definition

1. Carbon footprint
2. Biodiversity loss
3. Desertification
4. Ozone layer depletion
5. Sustainable development

- A. The variety of life in an ecosystem that is being lost due to human activity.
- B. The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activities.
- C. The process where fertile land becomes desert due to drought or deforestation.
- D. The thinning of the protective ozone layer caused by chemicals like CFCs.
- E. Economic growth that meets present needs without harming future generations.

Sentence Transformation

1. **Original:** Factories release harmful gases into the air.
Rewrite: Factories contribute to _____.
2. **Original:** Many animals are at risk of disappearing forever.
Rewrite: Many species are becoming _____.
3. **Original:** People should use less plastic to protect the oceans.
Rewrite: Reducing _____ helps marine ecosystems.
4. **Original:** The Earth's temperature is rising because of human activity.
Rewrite: _____ is caused by human activities.
5. **Original:** We need to use resources wisely so future generations have enough.
Rewrite: We must practice _____.

Exercises

Debate Topics

1. **"Governments should ban single-use plastics completely."**
 - *For:* Reduces *plastic waste* in oceans.
 - *Against:* Hurts businesses that rely on cheap packaging.
2. **"A carbon tax is the best way to reduce emissions."**
 - *For:* Encourages companies to adopt *green technology*.
 - *Against:* Increases costs for consumers.
3. **"Urban sprawl is more harmful than beneficial."**
 - *For:* Destroys natural habitats (*habitat destruction*).
 - *Against:* Provides housing for growing populations (*overpopulation*).

Word Formation (Prefixes/Suffixes)

1. **Pollute** → The _____ (noun) of rivers harms aquatic life.
2. **Renew** → Solar power is a form of _____ (adjective) energy.
3. **Deforest** → _____ (noun) leads to loss of wildlife habitats.
4. **Sustain** → We must focus on _____ (adjective) development.
5. **Erode** → Poor farming practices cause soil _____ (noun).

Words Revision

1

1. **Climate change**
2. **Global warming**
3. **Pollution** (air/water/soil)
4. **Deforestation**
5. **Biodiversity loss**
6. **Greenhouse gases**
7. **Carbon footprint**
8. **Renewable energy**
9. **Fossil fuels**
10. **Sustainability**
11. **Ecosystem degradation**
12. **Overpopulation**

2

1. **Waste management**
2. **Plastic waste**
3. **Recycling**
4. **Conservation**
5. **Endangered species**
6. **Drought**
7. **Desertification**
8. **Melting glaciers**
9. **Rising sea levels**
10. **Extreme weather events**
11. **Ozone layer depletion**
12. **Acid rain**

3

1. **Urban sprawl**
2. **Industrial emissions**
3. **Environmental policy**
4. **Eco-friendly**
5. **Carbon offsetting**
6. **Sustainable development**
7. **Circular economy**
8. **Energy efficiency**
9. **Afforestation**
10. **Environmental degradation**
11. **Habitat destruction**
12. **Toxic waste**
13. **Water scarcity**
14. **Emission standards**

4

1. **Green technology**
2. **Environmental activism**
3. **Wildlife preservation**
4. **Soil erosion**
5. **Overfishing**
6. **Microplastics**
7. **Carbon tax**
8. **Zero-waste lifestyle**
9. **Eco-conscious**
10. **Climate resilience**
11. **Environmental ethics**
12. **Natural resource depletion**

Environmental Issues and Solutions

The world is currently facing numerous environmental challenges that threaten ecosystems, human health, and future generations. Below are some of the most pressing ecological problems and potential solutions to mitigate them.

Climate Change Problem: The increase in greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, methane) from burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial activities leads to global warming, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels.

Solution:

Transition to renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro) to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
Implement carbon pricing and stricter emissions regulations for industries.
Promote afforestation and protect existing forests to absorb CO₂.

Deforestation Problem: Large-scale logging and land clearing for agriculture destroy habitats, reduce biodiversity, and contribute to climate change.

Solution:

Enforce sustainable logging practices and reforestation programs.
Support eco-certified products (like FSC-certified wood) to encourage responsible consumption.
Develop urban green spaces to compensate for lost forests.

Plastic Pollution Problem: Millions of tons of plastic waste end up in oceans yearly, harming marine life and entering the food chain.

Solution:

Ban single-use plastics (bags, straws) and promote biodegradable alternatives.
Improve recycling systems and encourage a circular economy.
Organize beach clean-ups and public awareness campaigns.

Air Pollution Problem: Industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, and burning fossil fuels release harmful pollutants (PM2.5, NO₂), causing respiratory diseases and smog.

Solution:

Expand public transportation and promote electric vehicles (EVs).
Introduce green urban planning (more bike lanes, pedestrian zones).
Use air filters and industrial scrubbers to reduce emissions.

Water Scarcity & Pollution Problem: Overuse of freshwater, industrial waste, and agricultural runoff contaminate water sources, leading to shortages.

Solution:

Adopt water-saving technologies (drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting).
Implement strict wastewater treatment laws for factories.
Reduce chemical fertilizers to prevent groundwater pollution.

Loss of Biodiversity Problem: Habitat destruction, poaching, and climate change are driving many species to extinction.

Solution:

Establish protected wildlife reserves and national parks.
Combat illegal wildlife trade through stricter laws.
Promote sustainable tourism to preserve natural habitats.

Conclusion While environmental problems are severe, collective action—through policy changes, technological innovation, and individual responsibility—can help mitigate their impact. Governments, businesses, and citizens must work together to ensure a sustainable future.

Task 1. Imagine that you are preparing a project with your friend. You have found some interesting material for the presentation and you want to read this text to your friend. You have 1.5 minutes to read the text silently, then be ready to read it out aloud. You will not have more than 1.5 minutes to read it.

Many lands that had once been swamps were drained or filled in. There are different reasons why people drained swamplands. Some were drained to fight diseases caused by insects that lived in them. Because swamps were considered unpleasant places in which to live and harmful to health, many people thought that unless they were drained the land was worthless. Other swamps were drained to make new land. As the population grew and more land was needed, people drained swamps or filled them to make room for more farms and factories, more roads and airports. Few people thought that it might be harmful to get rid of swamps. As swamps disappeared, other things happened. There were both more floods and more droughts than before. There were also more fires, for swamps had acted as firebreaks. Hunters noticed that there was less wild game. Wild life that once lived in the swamps was dying out, because it had no place to live.

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Task 2. Study the advertisement.

You are considering joining the group of environmentalists and now you'd like to get more information. In 1.5 minutes you are to ask four direct questions to find out about the following:

1. age limitations;
2. special clothes needed;
3. common tasks to do;
4. location of planting sites.

You have 20 seconds to ask each question.



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Task 3. You are going to give an interview. You have to answer five questions. Give full answers to the questions (2–3 sentences). Remember that you have 40 seconds to answer each question.

Interviewer: What do you think of environmental problems? Are these important personally for you?

Interviewer: What do you think is the most dangerous environmental problem of our time? Why?

Interviewer: Are there any ecological problems in the place where you live? What can you tell us about them?

Interviewer: Are there any ecological activist groups in your region? What do they do?

Interviewer: Do you agree that all of us should contribute to saving the planet? What can we do to help the environment?

Svetlana Belyaeva

Hi, Ann!

I have found two photos for our school project "...", but for technical reasons I cannot send them now. I'd like to discuss them with you anyway.

The first photo is suitable for our project, because it shows (somebody doing smthing ...). The second photo can be used for our project, because it depicts (somebody doing smthing ...).

Obviously these two photos have some differences. They are different because they show different types of...

... has some advantages and disadvantages. The first advantage of (1) is that ... The second is... However, the ... has the disadvantage, for example, If talk about (2) the advantage(s) is (are) But, as I think, there are also some disadvantages ...

As for me I prefer/ would prefer/ preferred as a child ... because ...

That's all. Bye!

Task 4. Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project “Volunteering”. You have found some photos to illustrate it but for technical reasons you cannot send them now. Leave a voice message to your friend explaining your choice of the photos and sharing some ideas about the project. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;
- mention the advantages (1–2) of the two types of volunteering;
- mention the disadvantages (1–2) of the two types of volunteering;
- express your opinion on the subject of the project – which type of volunteering presented in the pictures you’d prefer and why.

You will speak for not more than **3 minutes** (12–15 sentences). You have to talk continuously.



You have received an email message from your English-speaking pen-friend Paul:

From: Paul@mail.uk

To: Russian_friend@oge.ru

Subject: Ecological problems

... Yesterday we had a class where we discussed different ecological problems. Our teacher suggested opening an eco-club, where we can do something useful for the environment.

... What ecological problem do you consider the most serious? What can young people do to protect the environment? Do you think ecological problems should be discussed at school, and why?...

Write a message to Paul and answer his 3 questions.

Write **100–120 words**.

Remember the rules of letter writing.

Imagine that you are doing a project on **what young people in Zetland do to help the environment**. You have found some data on the subject — the results of a survey (see the table below).

Comment on the data in the table and give your opinion on the subject of the project.

The survey question: What do you do to help the environment?	
Actions	Number of teenagers (%)
Turn off the lights	27
Use electronic books and documents	25
Save water by taking a shower	19
Reuse clothes, furniture, etc.	15
Recycle rubbish	14

Write **200-250 words**.

Use the following plan:

- make an opening statement on the subject of the project;
- select and report 2-3 facts;
- make 1-2 comparisons where relevant and give your comments;
- outline a problem that can arise if people stop helping the environment and suggest a way of solving it;
- conclude by giving and explaining your opinion on how you can help the environment.

Urban Jungle vs. Rural Haven: A Deep Dive into Contrasting Lifestyles

The eternal debate between **metropolitan lifestyle** and **slow-paced life** continues to divide modern society. In bustling cities, **high-rise buildings** and **skyscrapers** pierce the clouds, symbols of human ambition in these **fast-paced environments**. Yet beneath their glittering facades lies **congested traffic**, **noise pollution**, and the psychological toll of **overcrowding** - inevitable consequences of **urban sprawl**.

The **public transport network**, while efficient, becomes a daily battleground during **commute** hours. Ironically, the very **cultural diversity** that makes cities vibrant also drives **gentrification**, pushing out long-time residents as neighborhoods transform. Those who can afford the **high cost of living** enjoy proximity to **convenience stores** and vibrant **nightlife**, but at what price? The constant sensory overload leaves many urban dwellers exhausted, their lives measured in minutes between subway transfers.

Meanwhile, **vast landscapes** of the countryside offer **tranquility** that city residents can only dream about. Here, **close-knit communities** still practice **homesteading**, their **fresh produce** a testament to **self-sufficiency**. The **rustic charm** of villages **off the beaten path** provides **scenic views** that change with the seasons, from **harvesting crops** in autumn to snow-blanketed fields in winter. At night, **starry skies** appear with celestial clarity impossible in light-polluted cities.

Yet rural life isn't without challenges. **Limited amenities** mean longer trips for healthcare or specialized goods. The same **wildlife** that delights nature lovers can threaten livelihoods. And while the **peace and quiet** soothes the soul, some find the isolation overwhelming after years of urban stimulation.

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Comprehensive questions

1. How does **noise pollution** in cities psychologically differ from the **peace and quiet** of rural areas in terms of long-term health impacts?
2. In what ways might **cultural diversity** and **close-knit community** represent two different but equally valid approaches to human connection?
3. Could **gentrification** and **homesteading** be seen as opposite socioeconomic phenomena? Justify your answer.
4. How does the **high cost of living** in cities balance against the **limited amenities** in rural areas when considering quality of life?



Exercises

1

Exercise 1: Academic Style Transformation

Rewrite these informal statements using formal vocabulary:

1.

"Big cities keep growing out uncontrollably."
→ "_____ continues to consume surrounding areas."

2.

"The cool city vibe comes at a high price."
→ "The _____ entails a substantial _____."

3.

"Country living means knowing all your neighbors."
→ "_____ characterizes _____ areas."

4.

"You can't beat homegrown vegetables."
→ "_____ offers nutritional advantages over..."

2

Exercise 2: Vocabulary in Context – Fill in the Blanks

Task: Complete the passage with the correct words.

*"Many people dream of escaping **(1)**_____ and moving to the countryside, where **(2)**_____ replaces the chaos of city life. However, rural living isn't perfect—while you enjoy **(3)**_____ and **(4)**_____, you might miss the convenience of **(5)**_____ and a well-developed **(6)**_____."*

3

Exercise 3: Comparative Analysis Chart

Complete the comparison with vocabulary words:

Aspect	Urban Characteristics	Rural Characteristics
Housing	_____(1)	_____(2)
Atmosphere	_____(3)	_____(4)
Food Sources	_____(5)	_____(6)
Social Structure	_____(7)	_____(8)

4

Exercise 4: Urban vs. Rural Debate Preparation

Prepare arguments for both sides using at least 12 vocabulary words:

Urban Advocate:

"_____(1) offers unparalleled opportunities despite _____(2). The _____(3) provides efficient mobility, while _____(4) creates vibrant spaces. Yes, _____(5) exists, but _____(6) makes it worthwhile."

Rural Advocate:

"_____(7) provides _____(8) that cities can't match. With _____(9) and _____(10), residents enjoy _____(11). While there are _____(12), the _____(13) outweighs them."

Words Revision

1 Life in the City (Urban Life)

1. **Urban sprawl** – Беспорядочное разрастание городов
2. **Metropolitan lifestyle** – Столичный образ жизни
3. **High-rise buildings** – Высотные здания
4. **Congested traffic** – Перегруженное движение
5. **Public transport network** – Сеть общественного транспорта
6. **Cultural diversity** – Культурное разнообразие
7. **Fast-paced environment** – Динамичная среда
8. **Noise pollution** – Шумовое загрязнение
9. **Gentrification** – Джентрификация (облагораживание районов)
10. **Cost of living** – Стоимость жизни
11. **Commute** – Ездить на работу (ежедневные поездки)
12. **Convenience stores** – Магазины шаговой доступности
13. **Nightlife** – Ночная жизнь
14. **Skyscrapers** – Небоскрёбы
15. **Overcrowding** – Перенаселенность

2 Life in the Countryside (Rural Life)

1. **Tranquility** – Спокойствие, умиротворение
2. **Vast landscapes** – Просторные пейзажи
3. **Close-knit community** – Дружное сообщество
4. **Fresh produce** – Свежие продукты (с огорода)
5. **Self-sufficiency** – Самодостаточность
6. **Scenic views** – Живописные виды
7. **Slow-paced life** – Размеренная жизнь
8. **Wildlife** – Дикая природа
9. **Off the beaten path** – Вдали от проторенных дорог
10. **Homesteading** – Ведение натурального хозяйства
11. **Rustic charm** – Деревенское очарование
12. **Limited amenities** – Ограниченные удобства
13. **Starry skies** – Звёздное небо
14. **Harvesting crops** – Сбор урожая
15. **Peace and quiet** – Тишина и покой

Pros and Cons



Living in the Countryside:

Pros:

- Peace and Quiet** – The countryside is much quieter than the city, with less noise pollution from traffic, construction, and crowds. This makes it ideal for relaxation and stress relief.
- Fresh Air and Nature** – Rural areas have cleaner air, more greenery, and access to natural landscapes like forests, lakes, and fields. This promotes better physical and mental health.
- Lower Cost of Living** – Housing, groceries, and services are generally cheaper in rural areas. Property prices are much lower, allowing people to buy larger homes with gardens.
- Stronger Sense of Community** – Villages often have tight-knit communities where people know each other and support one another.
- Less Stressful Lifestyle** – Life in the countryside is slower-paced, with fewer deadlines, less competition, and a greater focus on family and personal well-being.

Cons:

- Limited Job Opportunities**
 - Rural economies rely heavily on agriculture, small businesses, or tourism, meaning fewer career options.
 - Professionals in tech, finance, or healthcare may struggle to find suitable jobs locally.
- Poor Public Transportation**
 - Many villages lack reliable buses or trains, making car ownership almost necessary.
 - Commuting to cities for work or services can be time-consuming and expensive.
- Fewer Amenities and Services**
 - Access to quality healthcare, schools, and shopping centers is limited.
 - Emergency medical services may take longer to respond compared to urban areas.
- Slow Internet and Outdated Infrastructure**
 - Some rural areas still have weak broadband connections, making remote work difficult.
 - Roads and utilities (water, electricity) may be less developed than in cities.
- Social and Cultural Isolation**
 - Young people, in particular, may find rural life boring due to the lack of entertainment (cinemas, clubs, concerts).
 - Making new friends can be challenging, especially for newcomers not integrated into the local community.



Living in the city:

Pros:

- Abundant Career Opportunities**
 - Cities are economic hubs with diverse job markets in finance, tech, healthcare, and creative industries.
 - Higher salaries and career advancement opportunities attract professionals from various fields.
- Convenience and Accessibility**
 - Everything is within reach: supermarkets, pharmacies, schools, and hospitals operate 24/7 in many areas.
 - Efficient public transport (metros, buses, trams) reduces the need for car ownership.
- Advanced Infrastructure and Services**
 - High-speed internet, modern healthcare facilities, and well-equipped schools are standard.
 - Emergency services (police, fire departments, ambulances) respond faster than in rural areas.
- Cultural and Entertainment Options**
 - Theaters, museums, concert halls, and sports stadiums provide endless entertainment.
 - A wide variety of restaurants, cafes, and bars cater to diverse tastes and cuisines.
- Social and Networking Opportunities**
 - Cities attract people from different backgrounds, making it easier to meet like-minded individuals.
 - Professional networking events, clubs, and communities foster career and personal growth.

Cons:

- High Cost of Living**
 - Rent, utilities, and groceries are significantly more expensive than in rural areas.
 - Homeownership is often unaffordable, forcing many into small apartments.
- Noise and Pollution**
 - Constant traffic, construction, and crowds lead to noise pollution and stress.
 - Air pollution from vehicles and factories can cause respiratory problems and other health issues.
- Fast-Paced and Stressful Lifestyle**
 - Long working hours, competitive environments, and commuting can lead to burnout.
 - The "always busy" culture makes it hard to maintain a healthy work-life balance.
- Overcrowding and Lack of Privacy**
 - Dense populations mean crowded public spaces, queues, and limited personal space.
 - Noise from neighbors and thin walls in apartments can reduce comfort and privacy.
- Safety Concerns**
 - Higher crime rates (theft, vandalism, scams) are common in urban areas.
 - Traffic accidents and pedestrian risks are more frequent due to heavy vehicle flow.

Task 3. You are going to give an interview. You have to answer five questions. Give full answers to the questions (2–3 sentences). Remember that you have 40 seconds to answer each question.

What region of Russia do you live in? Is it an urban area?

Would you prefer to live in a city or in the countryside?

What advantages do cities provide to people living there?

What are the risks of living in an urban area?

What infrastructure does a well-planned city district need to sustain itself?

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Task 4. Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project «Places where people live». You have found some photos to illustrate it but for technical reasons you cannot send them now. Leave a voice message to your friend explaining your choice of the photos and sharing some ideas about the project. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;
- mention the advantages (1–2) of the two places of living;
- mention the disadvantages (1–2) of the two places of living;
- express your opinion on the subject of the project – which place of living you prefer and why.



Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project "Urban and rural life". You have found some photos to illustrate it but for technical reasons you cannot send them now. Leave a voice message to your friend explaining your choice of the photos and sharing some ideas about the project. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- **explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;**
- **mention the advantages (1–2) of urban and rural life;**
- **mention the disadvantages (1–2) of urban and rural life;**
- **express your opinion on the subject of the project – whether you would like to live in the city or in the countryside and why.**



Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project "City and country life". You have found some photos to illustrate it but for technical reasons you cannot send them now. Leave a voice message to your friend explaining your choice of the photos and sharing some ideas about the project. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;
- mention the advantages (1–2) of city and country life;
- mention the disadvantages (1–2) of city and country life;
- express your opinion on the subject of the project – where you would like to live and why.



"The Impact of Volunteering on Society and Personal Growth"

Volunteerism plays a pivotal role in addressing pressing social issues, from poverty alleviation to environmental conservation. Many individuals engage in **charity work** not only to **give back to society** but also to foster personal growth. Whether it's **mentoring underprivileged youth** or participating in **disaster relief efforts**, volunteers often exhibit **altruistic behavior** driven by **compassion** and a desire to **make a difference**.

One significant aspect of **civic engagement** is its ability to **empower communities**. For instance, **grassroots movements** focusing on **animal welfare** or **humanitarian aid** rely heavily on dedicated volunteers who **commit their time** despite facing **bureaucratic hurdles** or **lack of funding**. Moreover, such initiatives help **raise awareness** about neglected issues, encouraging more people to join the cause.

However, volunteering is not without its challenges. Many volunteers experience **burnout** due to emotional strain, especially in fields like **refugee support** or **healthcare assistance**. Nevertheless, those who **overcome these adversities** often report a profound sense of fulfillment.

Ultimately, volunteer work strengthens social bonds and cultivates **empathetic** leaders. By dedicating their skills and energy, volunteers not only transform lives but also inspire systemic change.



Comprehension Questions:

1. What are some social issues that volunteering helps address?
2. Why do many individuals engage in volunteer work?
3. What motivates volunteers to participate in altruistic behavior?
4. How does civic engagement empower communities?
5. What challenges do grassroots movements often face?
6. What impact do volunteer initiatives have on raising awareness?
7. Why do some volunteers experience burnout?
8. In which fields is emotional strain particularly common for volunteers?
9. What do volunteers often feel after overcoming challenges?
10. How does volunteer work contribute to social bonds and leadership?

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Critical Thinking & Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think volunteering is more beneficial for society or for personal growth? Why?
2. How can society reduce the risk of volunteer burnout?
3. Should volunteering be mandatory in schools or workplaces? Explain your viewpoint.
4. What are some creative ways to encourage more people to volunteer?
5. Can volunteering lead to long-term systemic change, or is it mostly short-term relief?
6. How does volunteering in disaster relief differ from mentoring underprivileged youth in terms of personal impact?
7. Should governments provide more support to volunteer organizations? Why or why not?
8. How can technology be used to enhance volunteer efforts?
9. What personal qualities do you think are most important for a successful volunteer?
10. Have you ever volunteered? If so, how did it impact you? If not, what kind of volunteering would interest you?

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Exercises

1 Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with the correct words from the list.

- 1. Many students participate in _____, such as cleaning local parks, to support environmental causes.
- 2. After the hurricane, international teams provided _____ to the affected families.
- 3. She works for a _____ that focuses on education for underprivileged children.
- 4. To _____ about mental health, they organized a webinar.
- 5. Despite _____, the volunteers managed to build a community center.

3 Exercise 3: Vocabulary in Context

Read the paragraph and replace underlined phrases with words from the list:

"Many people help without pay by joining activities like beach clean-ups _____. They want to improve society_____ and show kindness _____. Some teach children _____, while others collect money for hospitals _____. Though they sometimes feel tired from too much work _____, their efforts matter."

2 Exercise 2: Synonyms & Paraphrasing

Replace the underlined phrases with synonyms from the vocabulary list.

- 1. "He spends his weekends teaching refugees English." →
He _____ to tutoring refugees.
- 2. "Their campaign aims to help people understand climate change." →
They want to _____ about climate change.
- 3. "She is very kind and always helps homeless animals." →
She's _____ and supports _____.

4 Exercise 4: Collocation Matching Match verbs/nouns from Column A to Column B to form correct phrases:

Column A Column B

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Raise | a. a cause |
| 2. Commit to | b. awareness |
| 3. Face | c. funding |
| 4. Lack of | d. adversity |

Volunteering: Types, Pros, and Cons

1 Environmental Volunteering

Description:

Activities like tree planting, beach cleanups, and wildlife conservation.

✓ Pros:

Helps combat climate change and protect ecosystems.

Provides physical activity and outdoor experience.

Raises awareness about environmental issues.

✗ Cons:

Can be physically demanding (e.g., long hours in harsh weather).

Limited impact if not part of a larger conservation effort.

May require travel to remote locations.

Social Volunteering (Helping the Vulnerable)

Description:

Working with homeless people, refugees, elderly, or children in need.

✓ Pros:

Directly improves lives and offers emotional fulfillment.

Develops empathy and communication skills.

Builds strong community connections.

✗ Cons:

- Emotionally draining (exposure to suffering).
- Requires patience and resilience.
- May involve bureaucratic restrictions (e.g., working with refugees).

2 Educational Volunteering

Description: Teaching, tutoring, or mentoring students in underserved areas.

✓ Pros:

- Empowers individuals through knowledge.
- Enhances leadership and teaching skills.
- Can be done remotely (online tutoring).

✗ Cons:

- Requires preparation and adaptability.
- Possible language/cultural barriers.
- Long-term commitment needed for real impact.

Medical & Emergency Volunteering

Description: Assisting in hospitals, disaster relief, or first aid services.

✓ Pros:

- Saves lives in critical situations.
- Gains practical medical/emergency skills.
- Highly respected and impactful.

✗ Cons:

- High stress and emotional pressure.
- Requires specific training/certification.
- Potential exposure to danger (e.g., natural disasters).

Animal Volunteering

Description: Helping in shelters, rescuing animals, or wildlife rehabilitation.

✓ Pros:

- Improves animal welfare.
- Great for animal lovers.
- Can lead to veterinary/zoology experience.

✗ Cons:

- Emotionally difficult (e.g., abused animals).
- Physically demanding (cleaning, feeding).
- May require special training.

Words Revision

1

- **Volunteer work / Community service** – волонтерская работа / общественно полезный труд
- **Charity / Non-profit organization** – благотворительность / некоммерческая организация
- **Social cause** – социально значимое дело
- **To make a difference** – изменить ситуацию к лучшему
- **To give back to society** – отдавать долг обществу
- **Grassroots movement** – низовое движение (инициатива снизу)
- **Civic engagement** – гражданская активность

3

- **Altruistic** – альтруистичный
- **Compassionate** – сострадательный
- **Empathetic** – эмпатичный
- **To dedicate time** – уделять время
- **To commit to a cause** – посвятить себя делу
- **To empower others** – давать возможность другим
- **To raise awareness** – повышать осведомленность

2

- **Environmental volunteering** – экологическое волонтерство
- **Humanitarian aid** – гуманитарная помощь
- **Mentoring / Tutoring** – наставничество / репетиторство
- **Fundraising** – сбор средств
- **Advocacy work** – защита интересов (лоббирование)
- **Disaster relief** – помощь при катастрофах
- **Animal welfare** – защита животных

4

- **Burnout** – эмоциональное выгорание
- **Lack of funding** – нехватка финансирования
- **Bureaucratic hurdles** – бюрократические препятствия
- **To face adversity** – сталкиваться с трудностями
- **To overcome challenges** – преодолевать трудности

Task 2. Study the advertisement.

You are considering buying some flowers and now you'd like to get more information. In 1.5 minutes you are to ask five direct questions to find out about the following:

1. location
2. opening hours
3. kinds of flowers in stock
4. if they sell pot plants
5. discounts for big orders



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Task 2. Study the advertisement.

You are considering planting a tree in order to help to save the environment and now you'd like to get more information. In 1.5 minutes you are to ask five direct questions to find out about the following:

1. location
2. things to bring
3. timing
4. price for participating
5. discounts



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Task 2. Study the advertisement.

You are considering taking part in a volunteer programme abroad and now you'd like to get more information. In 1.5 minutes you are to ask five direct questions to find out about the following:

1. age restriction
2. types of programmes available
3. range of destinations
4. duration of placements
5. cost of a two-week course



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Imagine that you and your friend are doing a school project "Volunteering". You have found some illustrations and want to share the news. Leave a voice message to your friend. In 2.5 minutes be ready to:

- explain the choice of the illustrations for the project by briefly describing them and noting the differences;
- mention the advantages (1–2) of the two types of volunteering;
- mention the disadvantages (1–2) of the two types of volunteering;
- express your opinion on the subject of the project – which type of volunteering you'd prefer and why.

You will speak for not more than 3 minutes (12–15 sentences).

You have to talk continuously.



Natural Disasters: Causes, Effects, and Recovery

Natural disasters are catastrophic events caused by natural forces, leading to widespread **devastation**, loss of life, and long-term **aftermath**. These **calamities** include earthquakes, volcanic **eruptions**, **hurricanes**, **floods**, and **wildfires**, each posing unique **hazards** to human life and infrastructure.

Earthquakes and Tsunamis

Seismic activity along **fault lines** often results in powerful **tremors**, measured on the **Richter scale**. The **epicenter** of a high-**magnitude** quake can cause the **collapse** of buildings, while underwater earthquakes may trigger a **tsunami**, a massive wave that floods coastal areas. **Aftershocks** further complicate **relief efforts**, increasing **casualties** and leaving **survivors** in need of **shelter**.

Volcanic Eruptions

An active **volcano** can erupt violently, spewing **magma** as **lava flows** and releasing deadly **pyroclastic flows**. The **ash cloud** from an eruption disrupts air travel, while **geothermal activity** signals potential danger. Even a **dormant volcano** can awaken, causing unforeseen destruction.

Hurricanes, Typhoons, and Tornadoes

A **cyclone** intensifying over warm waters becomes a **hurricane** (or **typhoon** in the Pacific). These storms bring **gale-force winds**, heavy rains, and a **storm surge**—a rise in sea level that floods coastal regions. The **eye of the storm** offers temporary calm, but surrounding winds reach destructive **wind speeds**. Meanwhile, **tornadoes**, violent **whirlwinds**, form quickly, leaving little time for **evacuation**.

Floods and Mudslides

Flash floods occur when heavy rain overwhelms rivers, causing **inundation** of **floodplains**. A **dam breach** or failed **levee** worsens flooding, while **debris flows** and **mudslides** bury entire communities. Rising **water levels** force **displaced persons** to seek higher ground.





Wildfires

Dry conditions turn forests into **infernos**, with **blazes** spreading rapidly. **Arson** or lightning can ignite a **conflagration**, releasing toxic smoke. **Firebreaks** and **backfires** help control fires, but **embers** reignite new spots. **Smoke inhalation** poses serious health risks to **first responders**.

Droughts and Extreme Weather

Prolonged **arid conditions** lead to **water scarcity**, **crop failure**, and even **famine**. **Desertification** expands barren lands, while **heatwaves** and **dust storms** worsen living conditions. Conversely, **blizzards**, **hailstorms**, and **ice storms** disrupt transport and power supplies.

Avalanches and Landslides

Mountainous regions face **avalanches**—massive **snowslides** burying villages. **Landslides** and **rockfalls** destabilize slopes, especially after heavy rain or earthquakes. A **debris avalanche** carries rocks, soil, and trees downhill, crushing everything in its path.

Recovery and Preparedness

The **aftermath** of a disaster requires immediate **rescue missions**, **humanitarian aid**, and **debris removal**. **Infrastructure damage** slows **reconstruction**, while survivors suffer **trauma** and **post-disaster stress**. Governments invest in **early warning systems** and **contingency plans** to improve **preparedness** for future **emergencies**.

Comprehension questions

1. What is the difference between a **hurricane** and a **typhoon**?
2. How does a **pyroclastic flow** differ from a **lava flow**?
3. Why are **aftershocks** dangerous after a major earthquake?
4. What measures can reduce the impact of **wildfires**?
5. How does a **storm surge** contribute to flooding?

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Vocabulary Exercises

1 Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

1. A sudden rise in sea level during a storm is called a _____.
2. The point where an earthquake originates is its _____.
3. A controlled fire used to stop a wildfire is a _____.
4. People forced to leave their homes due to disaster are _____.
5. A massive snowslide is an _____.

3 Exercise 3: Disaster Matching

Match each natural disaster with its correct definition/description:

1. Tsunami
 2. Pyroclastic flow
 3. Tornado
 4. Flash flood
 5. Blizzard
 6. Drought
 7. Avalanche
- a) A rapidly rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground
- b) A massive snow slide down a mountainside
- c) A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall
- d) A sudden, violent flood that occurs within hours of heavy rainfall
- e) A series of enormous waves created by underwater disturbances
- f) A severe snowstorm with strong winds and low visibility
- g) A fast-moving current of hot gas and volcanic matter

2 Exercise 2: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with appropriate terms from the list:

1. After the earthquake, several _____ were felt throughout the day, making rescue operations difficult.
2. The volcano's _____ covered nearby villages in thick ash, forcing mass _____.
3. _____ teams worked around the clock to find _____ trapped under collapsed buildings.
4. The _____ reached 7.8 on the _____ scale, causing widespread _____ in the city center.
5. A _____ broke through the _____, leading to catastrophic flooding in the _____ areas.

4 Exercise 4: Word Forms and Collocations

Create correct phrases by matching words from both columns:

Column A:

1. Seismic
2. Fault
3. Lava
4. Ash
5. Debris
6. Water
7. Early
8. Contingency

Column B:

- a) cloud
- b) flow
- c) activity
- d) warning system
- e) line
- f) level
- g) removal
- h) plan

Words Revision

1 General Terms

- 1. **Natural disaster** – стихийное бедствие
- 2. **Catastrophe** – катастрофа
- 3. **Calamity** – бедствие
- 4. **Hazard** – опасность, угроза
- 5. **Emergency** – чрезвычайная ситуация
- 6. **Devastation** – опустошение, разрушение
- 7. **Aftermath** – последствия (катастрофы)
- 8. **Casualties** – жертвы
- 9. **Fatalities** – погибшие
- 10. **Survivors** – выжившие
- 11. **Displaced persons** – перемещённые лица
- 12. **Relief efforts** – спасательные операции
- 13. **Humanitarian aid** – гуманитарная помощь
- 14. **Evacuation** – эвакуация
- 15. **Shelter** – убежище

3 Hurricanes, Typhoons, Tornadoes

- 1. **Cyclone** – циклон
- 2. **Hurricane** – ураган
- 3. **Typhoon** – тайфун
- 4. **Tornado** – торнадо
- 5. **Whirlwind** – вихрь
- 6. **Storm surge** – штормовой нагон воды
- 7. **Eye of the storm** – глаз бури
- 8. **Wind speed** – скорость ветра
- 9. **Gale-force winds** – штормовые ветра
- 10. **Barometric pressure** – атмосферное давление

Floods

- 1. **Flash flood** – внезапное наводнение
- 2. **Floodplain** – пойма реки
- 3. **Inundation** – затопление
- 4. **Water level** – уровень воды
- 5. **Levee / Dyke** – дамба
- 6. **Dam breach** – прорыв плотины
- 7. **Mudslide** – селевой поток
- 8. **Debris flow** – поток обломков

Aftermath & Recovery

- 1. **Rescue mission** – спасательная операция
- 2. **First responders** – экстренные службы
- 3. **Debris removal** – расчистка завалов
- 4. **Infrastructure damage** – повреждение инфраструктуры
- 5. **Reconstruction** – восстановление
- 6. **Trauma** – психологическая травма
- 7. **Post-disaster stress** – стресс после катастрофы
- 8. **Preparedness** – готовность к ЧС
- 9. **Early warning system** – система раннего оповещения
- 10. **Contingency plan** – план действий в чрезвычайной ситуации

2 Earthquakes

- 1. **Seismic activity** – сейсмическая активность
- 2. **Tremor** – толчок (землетрясения)
- 3. **Aftershock** – повторный толчок
- 4. **Epicenter** – эпицентр
- 5. **Magnitude** – магнитуда (землетрясения)
- 6. **Richter scale** – шкала Рихтера
- 7. **Fault line** – линия разлома
- 8. **Collapse (of buildings)** – обрушение (зданий)
- 9. **Tsunami** – цунами

Volcanoes

- 1. **Eruption** – извержение
- 2. **Lava flow** – поток лавы
- 3. **Magma** – магма
- 4. **Ash cloud** – облако вулканического пепла
- 5. **Pyroclastic flow** – пирокластический поток
- 6. **Crater** – кратер
- 7. **Dormant volcano** – спящий вулкан
- 8. **Active volcano** – действующий вулкан
- 9. **Geothermal activity** – геотермальная активность

4 Wildfires

- 1. **Blaze** – сильный пожар
- 2. **Inferno** – адское пламя
- 3. **Conflagration** – крупный пожар
- 4. **Arson** – поджог
- 5. **Firebreak** – противопожарная полоса
- 6. **Backfire** – контролируемый поджог (для остановки пожара)
- 7. **Embers** – тлеющие угли
- 8. **Smoke inhalation** – вдыхание дыма

Droughts

- 1. **Water scarcity** – нехватка воды
- 2. **Crop failure** – неурожай
- 3. **Famine** – голод
- 4. **Desertification** – опустынивание
- 5. **Arid conditions** – засушливые условия

Avalanches & Landslides

- 1. **Snowslide** – снежная лавина
- 2. **Avalanche** – лавина
- 3. **Landslide** – оползень
- 4. **Rockfall** – обвал камней
- 5. **Debris avalanche** – обломочная лавина

Extreme Weather

- 1. **Heatwave** – аномальная жара
- 2. **Blizzard** – снежная буря
- 3. **Hailstorm** – град
- 4. **Ice storm** – ледяной шторм
- 5. **Dust storm** – песчаная буря

Вы услышите 6 высказываний. Установите соответствие между высказываниями каждого говорящего A–F и утверждениями, данными в списке 1–7

- 1. I feel unhappy because I can't change public attitude to our planet.
- 2. I would like to see new energy saving laws introduced.
- 3. I am afraid of the after-effects of human activities.
- 4. I am sure that wise attitude to basic earth supplies is necessary.
- 5. I do not want my family to live in polluted environment.
- 6. I am for the use of energy saving practices in house construction.
- 7. I find many simple ways to help our planet in everyday life.

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Говорящий	A	B	C	D	E	F
Утверждение						



Вы услышите диалог. Определите, какие из приведённых утверждений **A–G** соответствуют содержанию текста (**1 – True**), какие не соответствуют (**2 – False**) и о чём в тексте не сказано, то есть на основании текста нельзя дать ни положительного, ни отрицательного ответа (**3 – Not stated**). Занесите номер выбранного Вами варианта ответа. Вы услышите запись дважды.

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- A.** Sara and Nick came together to the meeting.
- B.** Volunteering helped Sara's mom to become more confident.
- C.** Nick's dad used to be a volunteer while at school.
- D.** Volunteering helped Nick to make new friends.
- E.** Sara read the leaflet from cover to cover.
- F.** Last year Nick volunteered at the local hospital.
- G.** Sara speaks French fluently.

Svetlana Belyaeva

Вы услышите выступление специалиста по проблемам ядерной энергии. Запишите в поле ответа цифру 1, 2 или 3, соответствующую выбранному Вами варианту ответа. Прослушайте запись дважды.

According to the narrator, nuclear power

1. is a solution to climate change.
2. is protected against climate change.
3. can be susceptible to climate change.

Nuclear power plants are usually located

1. in the mountains.
2. near rivers, seas or oceans.
3. in the deserts.

Nuclear power plants face the greatest danger from

1. hurricanes.
2. rising water temperatures.
3. flooding.

During hurricanes,

1. preventive measures are always taken.
2. all doors in a nuclear plant should be left open.
3. safety equipment must be protected from flying debris.

In the future, floods are going to become

1. quite rare.
2. rather infrequent.
3. more common.

During the 2003 heat wave, the French government relaxed the environmental regulations

1. to keep up the supply of energy.
2. to increase the amount of electricity.
3. to reduce their power output.

New nuclear reactors are likely

1. to be less vulnerable to climate change.
2. to be too expensive.
3. to have higher water requirements.

Установите соответствие между заголовками 1 — 8 и текстами А — G. Используйте каждую цифру только один раз. В задании один заголовок лишний.

1. Losing habitat
2. Helping cheetahs
3. Natural surroundings
4. What does a cheetah look like?
5. Sign language
6. Setting speed records
7. Unique hunting habits
8. How can cheetahs speak?

A. Adult cheetahs are, on average, 2.5 feet tall at the shoulder, and up to nearly 5 feet long from head to rump, with their tails adding another 26 to 33 inches. Typically, these large cats weigh between 75 and 140 pounds. Cheetahs have black spots scattered across their tan coats. Their spots are evenly distributed across the body. Cheetahs’ spotted coats help them blend into the environment when resting, stalking prey and hiding from predators. Like a human fingerprint, these markings are unique from cat to cat.

B. Cheetahs’ long, slender bodies, powerful legs and flexible spine enable them to fully stretch their bodies when they sprint and cover significant ground – around 20 to 22 feet per stride. Cheetahs have been known to accelerate from 0 to 45 mph (72 km/h) in just 2.5 seconds. For comparison, the fastest cars in the world can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph (97 km/h) in 3.5 seconds. The fastest a human can run is about 28 mph (45 km/h), which means it’s impossible for a person to outrun a cheetah on foot.

C. Cheetahs are native to Africa and Asia, although the Asiatic cheetah has become all but extinct. According to the African Wildlife Foundation, the large cats currently only inhabit about 10 % of their historic range, and are primarily found in North Africa, the Sahel (the region between the Sahara Desert and the Sudanian savanna), eastern Africa (Kenya and Tanzania), and southern Africa (Namibia and Botswana). A small population also lives in Iran, where they are critically endangered.

D. Cheetahs do not have one home location where they seek shelter day in and day out. Instead, these nomadic cats have home territories or ranges – expanses of grasslands, savannas, forest land and mountainous terrain, ranging from 5 to over 300 square miles (13 to over 780 square kilometres) in size, which they regularly roam, according to the Smithsonian National Zoo. When cheetahs are not actively hunting, they prefer to sleep and rest in tall grasses, under trees, or on rocky outposts.

E. Cheetahs are carnivores, or meat-eaters, whose typical prey are small to medium-size animals, such as birds, hares, warthogs, gazelles and young wildebeest. During daybreak and dusk, cheetahs spend their time stalking and catching prey. Because their teeth are short compared to other big cats, cheetahs do not go for the throat right away in an attack. Instead, they suffocate their prey by clamping down on the animal’s throat with their strong jaws. Despite being carnivores, cheetahs are the shyest of the big cats.

F. Unlike other large cats, cheetahs can’t roar. But they can purr just like cats. Compared with other big cats, such as lions, tigers and leopards, cheetahs have a wide vocabulary. In addition to purring, they are able to produce a large range of vocal cues, such as chirping, hissing, yelping and an “eeaoow” sound, which is similar to a cat’s meow. Each vocalization has a specific meaning. Various types of chirping, for example, could be a mother giving instructions to her cubs, or a female trying to attract a male.

G. The cheetahs’ steep population decline is tied to habitat loss, human conflict, illegal trade and poaching. Conservation efforts are underway to try and support the population rebound. Groups, such as the African Wildlife Foundation and the Cheetah Conservation Fund, work locally with communities near cheetah populations to create sustainable solutions for agriculture and population growth, so that both the cats and humans have sufficient space. Protected areas and wildlife parks save cheetahs too.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

Прочитайте текст и заполните пропуски A — F частями предложений, обозначенными цифрами 1 — 7. Одна из частей в списке 1—7 лишняя.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum Lindsay Wildlife Museum is a unique natural history and environmental education centre where visitors can listen to the cry of a red-tailed hawk, go eye-to-eye with a grey fox and watch a bald eagle eat lunch. More than fifty species of native California animals are on exhibit here.

Thousands of school children learn about the natural environment in their classrooms ____ (A) of the museum. Nature- and science-oriented classes and trips are offered for adults and children. More than 600 volunteers help to feed and care for wild animals, ____ (B). Volunteers are active in the museum's work, contributing ____ (C).

The museum was founded by a local businessman, Alexander Lindsay. Sandy, as friends knew him, started teaching neighborhood children about nature in the early 1950s. Initially housed in an elementary school, the museum began offering school-aged children summer classes, ____ (D).

After nearly a decade of the museum operation, it became apparent ____ (E). With a new 5,000 square-foot home, the museum could now develop and display a permanent collection of live, native wildlife and natural history objects.

People came to the museum for help with wild animals ____ (F) urban growth. In response, a formal wildlife rehabilitation programme – the first of its kind in the United States of America – began in 1970.

- 1. that needed public attention and a new building
- 2. through education programmes and on-site tours
- 3. many hours of service to wildlife care and fundraising
- 4. that a permanent, year-round site was necessary
- 5. as well as field trips focused on the natural world
- 6. that had been injured or orphaned because of intense
- 7. as well as teach children and adults about nature

	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
:							

Прочитайте текст и запишите в поле ответа цифру 1, 2, 3 или 4, соответствующую выбранному Вами варианту ответа.

What volunteering taught me

Today I am member of the UN Global Education First Youth Advocacy Group. Many young people have come to me to ask how I got to be in such an initiative. It has always been a pleasure for me to share my volunteer experiences, and it is because of these experiences that I was selected out of 500 applications to serve in this group. It all started when I was in secondary school. I was engaged in student affairs as the president of the UNESCO club, a school platform that brings students together to discuss school matters and the pressing current issues concerning them.

After secondary school, I started volunteering within non-governmental organizations. It was at this moment that I began to understand a lot about community development. I was involved in projects and activities relating to peace, human rights and the environment. It was a great pleasure for me to contribute to the development of my community through volunteering because the impact was visible.

I had many obstacles while volunteering because people don't value volunteer work. In Cameroon and especially in my community, people consider volunteering as waste of time and resources. They cannot conceive the fact that someone can work without remuneration or a salary. My friends and family advised me on several occasions to stop volunteering. I felt very discouraged at some point, but I could not stop because I loved doing it. Volunteering was the top priority in my life. I decided not to pay attention to their advice but to concentrate on my work.

By spending time with host families in various regions I got used to cultural differences, which was really helpful during the projects. I learned a lot about what belonged to the norms and values of the local people. For example, how to dress appropriately, eat and even how to shower and go to the bathroom the local way. Most of the things are totally different than in my area, so it took some time to adapt.

In Nigeria I taught English conversation, 3 times a day. I had the opportunity to come up with my own ideas for the classes and tried to be as creative as possible making my lessons not only informative, but also fun. Apart from having conversations, we also cooked food, listened to English music and painted. Having a lot of conversations in English on different topics, I understood how to look at things from a different perspective. It also made me think in a more creative way, out of the box, one can say. I think this will help me in the future, looking at things through different glasses.

One day, a group of young people came to me and said they had something to say. I was very surprised. They said they were all grateful for the changes I brought into their lives through peer education. I was so happy to hear this that it aroused joy in my heart. This experience made me understand that only volunteer work can have such a profound impact on people's lives.

There are three elements that permitted me to succeed in a life dedicated to volunteering: passion, determination and patience. Volunteering helped me become a job creator, not a job seeker.

My advice to my peers is that we cannot succeed in life overnight. We have to work hard to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Even if you have a diploma from the best school in the world, it is not enough because what matters most is your skills, your talent. The best way to discover who you are in order to integrate yourself into society is to volunteer. Volunteering not only allows you to offer your services, but to learn and discover new things and improve your skills. One secret in volunteer work is to avoid thinking about money because that is where the problem is. Young people expect to be paid as they are volunteering.

The author was chosen for her current position because of

- 1. her passion for volunteering.
- 2. the advice she gave others.
- 3. her volunteering background.
- 4. her leadership skills.

Why did the author enjoy her work in community development?

- 1. She took part in interesting events.
- 2. She became part of the community.
- 3. She developed her skills.
- 4. She saw the results of her work.

Why did the author have difficulties when volunteering?

- 1. People did not understand the purpose of volunteering.
- 2. Employers did not want to pay volunteers.
- 3. She spent too much time volunteering.
- 4. Her family did not approve of her work.

The main idea expressed in paragraphs 4 and 5 is that volunteering

- 1. develops creativity and talent.
- 2. becomes more adaptive and flexible.
- 3. helps build closer relations with locals.
- 4. helps understand other cultures and lifestyles.

The pronoun this in “I was so happy to hear this ...” (paragraph 6) refers to the

- 1. offer to study together.
- 2. young men's gratitude.
- 3. surprising information.
- 4. advice on how to change her life.

The word profound in “volunteer work can have such a profound impact” (paragraph 6) means

- 1. significant.
- 2. instant.
- 3. severe.
- 4. visual.

Which piece of advice about volunteering does the author NOT give to her peers?

- 1. Do not to expect quick results.
- 2. Develop through volunteering.
- 3. Become part of a social group.
- 4. Do not count on earning money.