

Environmental generalisations and recommendations

Ecological vocabulary/ Useful language for writing reports/ Hedging language

Objective Proficiency Unit 13

Use phrases like those below to explain people's attitudes to, actions related to etc on environment issues. Does your partner agree?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to ● Amongst people I know ● In my experience ● I get the feeling that ● (From discussions I've had on the subject) I have formed the impression that ● A survey has shown that ● It wouldn't surprise me if 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (absolutely) all ● virtually all ● practically all ● very nearly all ● almost all ● the vast majority of ● most people ● many people/ a large number of people ● a considerable number of/ a substantial number of people ● quite a lot of/ a fairly large number of ● a substantial minority of ● not many/ few ● a small minority of ● very few ● a tiny minority of ● almost no ● practically no ● virtually no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● activists ● baby boomers ● civil servants ● experts ● Generation X ● middle-aged people ● millennials ● people in developed countries ● people in developing countries ● people in East Asia ● people in this city ● people in this country ● politicians ● researchers ● retired people ● rich people ● students ● teachers ● teenagers ● the middle class ● the upper middle class ● voters ● young children ● young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● always/ without fail ● almost always ● usually/ generally ● often/ frequently ● occasionally ● seldom/ rarely ● hardly ever ● almost never
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● accept ● are (un)informed about ● are concerned/ worried about ● are confused by ● are considering ● are cutting down ● are interested in ● are sceptical about ● are well informed about ● aren't... ● believe ● buy ● can afford ● can't... ● consider ● discuss ● don't... ● expect ● go to ● have opinions on ● ignore ● know about ● listen to/ watch ● look into ● misunderstand ● panic about ● pay attention to ● prioritise ● read ● realise ● spend money on ● support ● think about ● trust... on ● try to... ● understand ● use ● visit ● vote for ● wonder about ● would(n't)... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (air/ water/ noise/ light) pollution ● (commercial) fishing/ whaling ● (hydroelectric) dams ● (plastic/ glass) bottles ● (soil) erosion ● acid rain ● air miles ● allergies (hay fever etc) ● arresting/ fining/ imprisoning people for... ● asthma/ breathing difficulties ● banning... ● biodiversity ● biofuels ● birth defects ● carbon dioxide/ CO2 ● carbon footprint ● carpools ● charismatic megafauna ● consumer campaigns ● coral bleaching ● deforestation ● disposable razors/ pens/ nappies/ chopsticks ● ecological education ● ecoterrorism ● electric vehicles ● endangered animals ● energy consumption ● energy efficiency ● environmental activists (Greenpeace, Sea Shepherd, etc) ● extinctions ● extreme weather (blizzards, hurricanes, etc) ● farming ● fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, oil) ● fuel cells/ hydrogen fuel ● gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● global warming ● GM crops/ GM foods ● green activism ● green belt ● green goods ● green parties ● green spaces ● green taxes/ carbon tax ● greenhouse gases ● hybrid cars ● insulation ● invasive species (Japanese knotweed, etc) ● ivory ● landfills ● locally produced foods ● national parks/ wildlife preserves ● nuclear energy/ waste ● organic food/ farming ● packaging ● pesticides/ herbicides ● plastic (carrier) bags ● population ● public transport ● radiation (sickness) ● renewable energy (wind farms, solar energy, etc) ● rising sea levels ● rubbish (= garbage/ trash) ● rubbish dumps ● sewage ● skin cancer ● smog ● subsidies for... ● the construction industry ● the ozone layer ● the smart grid ● the three Rs ● thermal energy ● urbanisation ● vegetarianism/ veganism ● water use ● zoos
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Ask about anything above you don't understand, making generalisations each time.

Environmental recommendations

Give advice on how the environment could be improved, by:

- consumers
- companies
- the general public
- the government
- international organisations
- etc

using the right level of strength of language each time.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Although it depends on your situation ● For most people... ● In this country ● In the short term ● In the medium term ● As soon as possible ● Over the long term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ...have no choice but to... ● By far the best option is... ● ... must make sure to... ● ... needs to.../ It is necessary to... ● I would recommend.../ My (main) recommendation would be.../ My (main) suggestion would be.../ My advice would be to.../ It is worth.../ I would suggest.../ I'd advise.../ ... would be effective./ ... would benefit from.../ ... ought to... ● ... would probably work. ● It might be a good idea to.../ It might be useful to... ● ... could... ● ... could possibly... ● It can't hurt to... ● It is worth considering... ● It might be worth considering... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● accept ● attempt to ● ban/ forbid ● be sceptical about ● build more ● buy ● consider ● cut (down on) ● decrease ● do something about ● find an alternative for ● find out ● fund ● ignore ● increase ● invest money in ● listen to ● look into ● pay attention to ● prioritise ● read ● research ● spend money on ● stop ● support ● take an interest in ● think about ● trust... on ● try to ● use ● visit ● vote for ● watch ● worry (more) about
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Generalising and giving advice language presentation

● (absolutely) all



● virtually no

● always/ without fail



● almost never

Mixed answers

- (absolutely) all
- a considerable number of
- a fairly large number of
- a large number of people
- a small minority of
- a substantial minority of
- a substantial number of people
- a tiny minority of
- almost all
- almost no
- many people
- most people
- not many/ few
- practically all
- practically no
- quite a lot of
- the vast majority of
- very few
- very nearly all
- virtually all
- virtually no

- almost always
- almost never
- always
- frequently
- generally
- hardly ever
- occasionally
- often
- rarely
- seldom
- usually
- without fail

- ... could possibly...
- ... could...
- ... must make sure to...
- ... needs to...
- ... ought to...
- ... would be effective.
- ... would benefit from...
- ... would probably work.
- ...have no choice but to...
- By far the best option is...
- I would recommend...
- I would suggest...
- I'd advise...
- It can't hurt to...
- It is necessary to...
- It is worth considering...
- It is worth...
- It might be a good idea to...
- It might be useful to...
- It might be worth considering...
- My (main) recommendation would be...
- My (main) suggestion would be...
- My advice would be to...

Suggested answers

- (absolutely) all
- virtually all
- practically all
- very nearly all
- almost all
- the vast majority of
- most people
- many people/ a large number of people
- a considerable number of/ a substantial number of people
- quite a lot of/ a fairly large number of
- a substantial minority of
- not many/ few
- a small minority of
- very few
- a tiny minority of
- almost no
- practically no
- virtually no

- always/ without fail
- almost always
- usually/ generally
- often/ frequently
- occasionally
- seldom/ rarely
- hardly ever
- almost never

- ...have no choice but to...
- By far the best option is...
- ... must make sure to...
- ... needs to.../ It is necessary to...
- I would recommend.../ My (main) recommendation would be.../ My (main) suggestion would be.../ My advice would be to.../ It is worth.../ I would suggest.../ I'd advise.../ ... would be effective./ ... would benefit from.../ ... ought to...
- ... would probably work.
- It might be a good idea to.../ It might be useful to...
- ... could...
- ... could possibly...
- It can't hurt to...
- It is worth considering...
- It might be worth considering...