

Environmental generalisations and recommendations with ecological vocabulary, useful language for reports, and hedging language

Use language like that below to explain people's attitudes to environmental issues, people's actions related to environmental issues, etc. See if your partner agrees, discuss that generalisation for as long as you like, then do the same with other language/ topics below.

Useful language for discussing generalisations

- "That's exactly what I would say."
- "I wouldn't go that far. I would say that..."
- "I would go (even) further and say that..."
- "I totally disagree."/ "I have the opposite opinion. I would say that..."

● 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	● absolutely all ● all ● virtually all ● practically all ● very nearly all ● almost all ● the vast majority of ● most ● many ● a large number of ● a considerable number of ● a substantial number of ● 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	● 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	● always ● without fail ● almost always ● usually ● generally ● often ● frequently ● occasionally ● seldom ● rarely ● hardly ever ● almost never
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● 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)...	● (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	● 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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Share something you agreed on and see if the class agrees. Then ask about anything above you don't understand, working together to make suitable generalisations each time.

Environmental recommendations

Use language like that below to give (strong or weak) advice on how the environment could be improved, by consumers/ the general public, companies, the government, international organisations, etc.

● 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	●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... ● It is worth considering... ● ... could possibly... ● It might be worth considering...	● 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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Share one recommendation that you agreed on and see if the rest of the class agrees or would make it different in some way.

Ask about anything above you don't understand, working together to make suitable (strong or weak) recommendations each time.

Generalising and giving advice language presentation

First of all without any help, write suitable language in the right places below, with language with the same meaning/ the same strength next to each other.

- (absolutely) all

-

- virtually no

- always/ without fail

- • • • •

- almost never

●have no choice but to...



● It might be worth considering...

Look at the mixed answers below to help, putting equal ones next to each other.

Check your answers as a class or with the suggested answers below.

Mixed answers

Use these mixed answers to help with the brainstorming task above, putting equivalent ones next to each other.

- (absolutely) all
- a considerable number of
- a fairly large number of
- a large number of
- a small minority of
- a substantial minority of
- a substantial number of
- a tiny minority of
- almost all
- almost no
- many
- most
- 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 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

Other language and rankings are possible, so please check if you wrote something different.

- (absolutely) all
 - virtually all/ practically all/ very nearly all
 - almost all
 - the vast majority of
 - most
 - many/ a large number of
 - a considerable number of/ a substantial number of
 - 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.../ It is worth considering...
 - ... could possibly.../ It might be worth considering...