

**Nature discussion questions and vocabulary brainstorming**  
**nature vocabulary/ IELTS Speaking Part One**  
**Focus on IELTS New Edition Unit 10**

*Answer the questions on the next page in pairs, with a different person answering first each time.*

*Brainstorm examples of the underlined things in each question that people could use in their answers into the gaps given.*

*Compare as a class or with the answer key. Many other answers are possible, so please check if you wrote something different.*

*Circle any words which would be useful for your own answers to those questions. Then share them with your original partner.*

*Change pairs and ask the same questions again, this time using the lists to help if you like.*

*Change pairs and ask the same questions again, this time without the lists to help but using relevant vocabulary from the lists if you can remember it.*

How important is nature to you?

Are there any green spaces near where you live? What are they like?

Do you have a favourite natural spot? What is it like?

How often do you go to the countryside? What do you do there?

Do you do anything to be ecologically friendly?

How worried are you about the environment?

What ecological problems worry you most?

How worried are you by natural disasters? Which ones and why?

### **Suggested answers to the brainstorming task**

How important? – absolutely vital/ crucial/ essential, incredibly/ extremely important, really/ very important, pretty important, fairly important, not very/ not so important, not at all important, totally unimportant

green spaces – riverside/ canal side, park, rooftop garden, rose garden, Japanese-style garden, botanical gardens, courtyard, patch of countryside, outskirts of the city, farm, city farm, graveyard/ cemetery, overgrown wasteland, patch of weeds, field/ meadow, tree-lined street/ avenue, grassy verge, allotment, lawn

natural spot – (foot)hills/ hilly area, lake/ pond/ reservoir, mountain (range/ peak), cliff, wood/ forest/ rainforest/ jungle, swamp/ bog, valley, (natural) hot springs, river mouth/ delta, river/ stream, path/ hiking course, island/ peninsula, picnic area, waterfall, nature reserve/ national park, field/ meadow, orchard

What do you do in the countryside? – go for a walk/ go hiking, get some fresh air, go bird watching, go rafting, go canoeing, go hunting, camping/ caravanning, have a picnic, hot springs, wild swimming, fishing, landscape painting, barbecue, wildlife photography, orienteering, campfire, paintball

do to be ecologically friendly? – the three Rs (reduce reuse recycle), using public transport, vegetarianism/ veganism, not using plastic carrier bags/ Bag for Life/ reusable shopping bag, driving a hybrid/ electric car, flying less often/ taking the train instead of flying, eating organic food, using solar power, reducing your carbon footprint, using green goods, setting the air-conditioner at a higher temperature, buying rainforest-/ bird-friendly coffee, buying second-hand goods, alternative sources of protein such as bugs, alternative fuels, using a heat pump, insulating your home, ecotourism, donating to environmental charities/ NGOs/ NPOs, joining the Green Party, protesting/ going on demonstrations, environmental direct action, paper-free office

How worried? – totally petrified/ panicking/ beside myself, incredibly/ extremely/ so worried, very/ really worried, rather worried, fairly worried, not very/ not so worried, totally unconcerned/ don't care at all

ecological problems – deforestation/ shrinking rain forests, climate change/ global warming/ the climate crisis, nuclear energy/ radioactivity, air pollution/ low air quality, the ozone layer, greenhouse gases/ the greenhouse effect, GM foods/ genetic engineering, use of pesticides, desertification, light pollution, noise pollution, rising sea levels, melting/ shrinking polar ice caps, demographics/ growing world population, urbanisation, whaling, overfishing, endangered species/ reduced biodiversity/ extinctions, wildfires/ forest fires, shifting seasons, changing humidity, microplastics, invasive species

natural disasters – volcano, typhoon/ cyclone/ hurricane, tsunami/ tidal wave, flooding, drought/ famine, earthquake, landslide/ avalanche/ mudslide, wildfires/ forest fires, extreme weather