

EPISODE 93
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



GLOBAL PROBLEMS

In the past eight lessons we have looked at feelings and emotions – what makes us happy, sad, angry or worried. We talked about personal problems. Today I want to ask you: how do you feel about some global problems?



Are you the sort of person who would join a protest march or a demonstration if you felt strongly about some issue? **Are you aware of** (= do you know about) the problems that the world and your country **face** (= have to deal with) today? Which of them are you really **concerned** (= worried) about?

More and more people these days worry about the **destruction** (= damage) of the environment by cars and factories that pollute the air, by the effects of **global warming** and **cutting down** (= destroying) rainforests. Supporters of environmental protection try to convince people to **conserve** (= save) **natural resources** like water, wood and oil, **recycle** (= use again) bottles and cans as well as protect animals.

So, are you worried? Afraid? Or maybe you don't care?

More contexts for the new words:

- Don't you think we should **cut down on** sugar? (= reduce the amount consumed)
- You can recycle glass by putting it in a **bottle bank**.



EXERCISE 1

Decide if the statements below are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. When you recycle materials, you use them again.
2. When you face a problem, you have solved it.
3. 'Destruction' and 'damage' are synonyms.
4. Cutting down rainforests is bad for our planet.
5. When you are concerned about something, you don't care about it.
6. Conserving natural resources can mean e.g. saving water.



EXERCISE 2

Use the pictures to help you fill in the gaps. Then answer the questions.



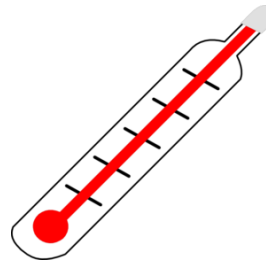
1. What problems have you had to

recently?



2. Do you

rubbish? Why/ Why not?



3. Do you believe that global
problem? Why/ Why not?

is a serious

ENGLISH IN USE



In the text above you have seen a comparative form repeated in the following sentence:

More and more people worry about the destruction of the planet.

Such repeated comparatives are used to suggest continuing change. The rule can be applied to any other adjective. Look at the examples below:

The speech seemed to be getting longer and longer.

I'm starting to feel more and more tired.

The prices are getting higher and higher these days.

Everyone is getting older and older all the time.

As you can notice in the sentences quoted, such repeated comparatives are often used with verbs suggesting change, e.g. 'get' and 'become'.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ How much can you win in this game?

B/ **THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.**

When you say that **the sky is the limit**, you think that there are no limits to the possibilities something could have.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **DRIVE** something **DOWN**, you make something fall to a lower level.

*With the growing concern for the environment, factories will have to **drive down** their CO₂ emissions.*

*Big competition among restaurants has **driven down** prices.*

2. When you **PHASE** something **OUT**, you gradually stop using it.

*Producers have to **phase out** substances which are dangerous to the environment.*

*Over the following five years, the drug will be **phased out**.*



EXERCISE 3

Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Polonez car will soon be | a. what professional sportsmen can earn. |
| 2. The sky is the limit to | b. phased out. |
| 3. The company's main concern was | c. to drive down prices. |

NEWS



TERRORISM

Global warming is not the only global problem. Quite a different issue, yet definitely a global one, is terrorism. Now everyone seems to be potentially exposed to the dangers of terrorist attacks. Terrorists are known for **planting** bombs and **hijacking** planes and buses, which they do in order to make governments **meet their demands**. They also take **hostages**, and then – perhaps – release them for **ransom**. Being totally unpredictable, they are a **nuisance** to modern societies.

Unlike environmental destruction, we do not know how to fight terrorism, so we live **under constant threat**.

GLOSSARY

- **planting** – hiding before explosion
- **hijacking** – illegally taking control of
- **meet their demands** – do what the terrorists want
- **hostages** – prisoners
- **ransom** – money paid to release a hostage
- **nuisance** – an annoying, continuing problem
- **under constant threat** - possible to be harmed

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

1. True
2. False – you have to deal with it.
3. True
4. True
5. False – you care about it.
6. True

Ex.2

1. face
2. recycle
3. warming

Ex.3

1. b
2. a
3. c