

Environment and Nature Vocabulary in English

Level: B1

Learn 29 words to talk about the environment, nature and energy. Read each word and its example, then do the exercises. These words are useful for opinions and news: you can say what has happened to the planet and what you would do to protect it.

Environmental problems

pollution	dirty air, water or land	Air pollution is a big problem in many large cities.
rubbish	☐☐	People left a lot of rubbish on the beach after the festival.
waste	things we throw away because we do not need them	We produce too much waste , and a lot of it is food.
plastic	☐☐	A lot of plastic is thrown into the sea every year.
global warming	the Earth is getting hotter	Global warming is making the summers longer and hotter.
climate	the usual weather in a place over many years	The climate here has changed: the winters are warmer than they used to be.
drought	a long time with no rain	The drought has lasted three months, and the farmers have no water.
flood	too much water on land that is usually dry	Heavy rain caused a flood , and many streets were under water.
fuel	petrol, gas or coal that gives energy	Most cars use fuel such as petrol, and it is getting more expensive.

Nature and the planet

environment	the air, water, land and nature around us	We must protect the environment for the next generation.
nature	plants, animals and the natural world	I love spending weekends in nature , far from the city.
planet	☐☐	There is no other planet where we can live.
forest	☐☐	A huge forest was cut down to build the new road.
wildlife	animals and plants that live in nature	The park is a safe place for wildlife , like rabbits and birds.
species	one kind of animal or plant	Many species of animals are disappearing because of humans.
ocean	☐☐	The ocean is full of plastic, and the fish are eating it.

Energy

energy	power for light, heat and machines	Our school saves energy by turning off the lights at night.
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renewable	never finishes; it can be used again and again	More and more countries are using renewable energy.
solar power	energy from the sun	If I had a bigger roof, I would use solar power at home.
electricity	⚡	The village didn't have electricity until 2005.

What we do to nature

protect	keep safe from harm	The new law will protect wild animals and the places where they live.
recycle	♻️	In my town, we recycle glass, paper and plastic.
reduce	make smaller or less	We need to reduce the amount of plastic we use.
reuse	use again	I reuse my shopping bags instead of buying new ones.
throw away	put in the bin	Don't throw away old clothes; give them to a charity.
damage	hurt or break something	Cars and factories damage the air we breathe.
destroy	end something completely	Fires have destroyed a large part of the forest.
endangered	in danger of disappearing for ever	The tiger is an endangered animal, so it is protected by law.
harmful	bad for health or nature	Some chemicals are harmful to fish and birds.

Exercise 1: Match the Words

Match each word with its picture or meaning.

- forest → _____
- ocean → _____
- planet → _____
- recycle → _____
- electricity → _____
- rubbish → _____
- drought → _____
- renewable → _____

a long time with no rain never finishes; it can be used again and again ♻️ ⚡ ☀️ ☁️ 🌧️ 🌳

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Word

Choose the correct answer for each sentence.

- Factories and cars cause a lot of air ____.
a) pollution b) climate c) wildlife

10. Please put your ___ in the bin. Don't leave it on the street.
a) energy b) rubbish c) forest
11. Solar power and wind power are examples of ___ energy.
a) harmful b) endangered c) renewable
12. Tigers are ___ animals. There are very few left in the wild.
a) endangered b) harmful c) recycled
13. If we didn't use so much plastic, the oceans ___ cleaner.
a) will be b) would be c) are
14. Scientists say that global ___ is making the Earth hotter.
a) energy b) waste c) warming
15. Which word means the usual weather in a place over many years?
a) climate b) drought c) flood

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

Type the missing word.

16. The fire has ___ the whole forest. Nothing is left. (destroy)
17. Heavy rain caused a ___ in the town, and the streets were under water.
18. I ___ my old school bag instead of buying a new one every year. (use again)
19. A lot of animals live in the ___. It is full of trees. (□□)
20. Most cars use ___, and it is getting more expensive. (energy for cars)
21. We must ___ the environment for our children. (keep safe from harm)
22. The village didn't have ___ until 2005, so people went to bed early. (↗)

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Words

1. forest → ☐
2. ocean → ☐
3. planet → ☐
4. recycle → 
5. electricity → 
6. rubbish → ☐
7. drought → a long time with no rain
8. renewable → never finishes; it can be used again and again

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Word

9. a) pollution
10. b) rubbish
11. c) renewable
12. a) endangered
13. b) would be
14. c) warming
15. a) climate

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

16. destroyed
17. flood
18. reuse / re-use
19. forest
20. fuel / fuels
21. protect / save
22. electricity / power