

The environment

1 Match the first part of each sentence in the left-hand column with its second part in the right-hand column. Use the words and phrases in bold to help you. Check that each sentence you put together is grammatically correct.

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| 1. Some modern agricultural methods have been heavily criticised,... | (A) ...in many countries poaching is considered more serious than drug smuggling. |
| 2. If you wear a fur coat in public,... | (B) ...and rare breeds parks are very popular with many. |
| 3. It is illegal to kill pandas, tigers... | (C) ...in wildlife management . |
| 4. If we don't do more to protect pandas,... | (D) ...the government's conservation programme has been very successful. |
| 5. A lot of British people are interested in unusual animals,... | (E) ...they'll soon be extinct . |
| 6. National parks in Kenya are currently recruiting experts... | (F) ...with battery farming in particular receiving a lot of condemnation. |
| 7. In an attempt to preserve forests around the country... | (G) ...it was fascinating to observe their natural behaviour . |
| 8. We would like to carry out more scientific study into rainforests... | (H) ...on a successful panda breeding programme. |
| 9. I don't like zoos because I think... | (I) ...keeping animals in captivity is cruel. |
| 10. I saw a fascinating documentary about the way animals live in Venezuela and thought... | (J) ...or any other endangered species . |
| 11. The Chinese government has spent a lot of money... | (K) ...but it is often difficult to get people to fund the research . |
| 12. Hunters have killed so many animals that... | (L) ...you risk coming under attack from animal rights activists . |

2 Replace the phrases in bold in these sentences with a word or phrase from the box so that the sentences sound more natural. There are three words or phrases that you do not need.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| acid rain | biodegradable packaging | contaminated | deforestation |
| ecosystem | emissions | environmentalists | erosion |
| genetically modified | global warming | green belt | greenhouse |
| organic | pesticides | pollution | rain forest |
| | | recycle things | renewable |

- In Britain, building is restricted or completely banned in the **area of farming land or woods and parks which surrounds a town**.
- Many companies are developing **boxes, cartons and cans which can easily be decomposed by organisms such as bacteria, or by sunlight, sea, water, etc.**
- The burning of some fuels creates **carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, methane and other** gases which rise into the atmosphere.
- Farmers have cleared hectares of **thick wooded land in tropical regions where the precipitation is very high**.
- Planting trees provides some protection from the **gradual wearing away** of soil.
- We should all try to **process waste material so that it can be used again**.
- These potatoes are **cultivated naturally, without using any chemical fertilisers or pesticides**.
- This bread is made from wheat which has been **altered at a molecular level so as to change certain characteristics which can be inherited**.
- The process of removing the trees from an area of land** is destroying millions of acres of woodland every year.

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10. *Polluted precipitation which kills trees* falls a long distance away from the source of the pollution.
.....
11. Human beings have had a devastating effect on the *living things, both large and small*, in many parts of the world.
12. The *gases and other substances* which come from factories using oil, coal and other *fuels which are the remains of plants and animals* can cause serious damage to the environment.
13. Don't drink that water! It's been *made dirty by something being added to it*.
14. Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and other *people concerned with protecting the environment are holding a forum in London next month*.
15. *The heating up of the earth's atmosphere by pollution* is threatening life as we know it.
.....

3 Now look at this essay and complete the gaps with one of the words or phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. In some cases, more than one answer will be possible. You may need to change the form of some of the words.

'Environmental degradation is a major world problem. What causes this problem, and what can we do to prevent it?'

There is no doubt that the environment is in trouble. Factories burn 1..... which produce 2....., and this kills trees. At the same time, 3..... gases rise into the air and contribute to 4....., which threatens to melt the polar ice cap. Meanwhile farmers clear huge areas of 5..... in places such as the Amazon to produce feeding land for cattle or wood for building. Rivers and oceans are so heavily 6..... by industrial waste that it is no longer safe to go swimming. Cars pump out poisonous 7..... which we all have to breathe in. 8..... and overfishing are killing off millions of animals, including whales, elephants and other 9..... . In fact, all around us, all living things large and small which comprise our finely balanced 10..... are being systematically destroyed by human greed and thoughtlessness.

There is a lot we can all do, however, to help prevent this. The easiest thing, of course, is to 11..... waste material such as paper and glass so that we can use it again. We should also check that the things we buy from supermarkets are packaged in 12..... packaging which decomposes easily. At the same time, we should make a conscious effort to avoid foods which are 13..... (at least until someone proves that they are safe both for us and for the environment). If you are truly committed to protecting the environment, of course, you should only buy 14..... fruit and vegetables, safe in the knowledge that they have been naturally cultivated. Finally, of course, we should buy a smaller car, as these cause less 15..... than large saloons or SUVs. Even better, we should try to make more use of public transport.

The serious 16....., however, do much more. They are aware of the global issues involved and will actively involve themselves in 17..... by making sure our forests are kept safe for future generations. They will oppose activities which are harmful to animals, such as 18..... . And they will campaign to keep the 19..... around our towns and cities free from new building.

We cannot all be as committed as them, but we can at least do our own little bit at grass roots level. We, as humans, have inherited the earth, but that doesn't mean we can do whatever we like with it.