

Topic: Climate change

Level: B1/B2

Time: 90 mins

Aims:

- to help students develop their understanding of what climate change is
- to introduce and practise some vocabulary of climate change
- to ask and answer questions to find out about climate change
- to develop note-taking skills

Introduction

In this lesson students will gain an overview of what climate change is. They will read some short texts, exchange information and make notes. They will also learn some useful vocabulary on the topic.

Materials: Cut-up information cards, 3 x worksheets

Procedure:

1. Warmer: put on the board: 'What are the most important issues facing your country or town at present?' Give students a couple of minutes to discuss in pairs, and then feedback as a class.
2. Give out Worksheet 1 'Taking notes'. Students choose which notes are better and why. (Possible answer: the second set because they don't just repeat sentences from the text, they use bullet points, shorthand and their own words).
3. Give out Worksheet 3 - 'Mingle Worksheet' - and tell learners they are going to make notes under the appropriate heading. They can make notes in answer to the first question using the text from 'Taking Notes' worksheet.
4. Now give out the seven cut-up short texts on climate change (Worksheet 2), one to each student (if you have a bigger group you can either put students in pairs with one text, or allow more than one student to have the same text).
5. Learners go and speak to someone else and find out what the other person learned. They can refer to the short texts the first time. When they go on to speak to the next person they should give the texts to the teacher, and tell the next person the information from memory. They finish when they have got notes next to all the questions.
6. Language focus: climate change lexis. Learners match the vocabulary from the text to the definitions.

7. Discussion: In groups, learners make a list of things they can do to help reduce climate change, and feedback to the class.

Materials sourced from UK government website www.metoffice.gov.uk Permission for use granted.

Answers

Worksheet 4: Climate change vocabulary

1. The process in which gases in the atmosphere trap the sun's heat.

greenhouse effect

2. The types of gases that trap the sun's warmth in the atmosphere.

greenhouse gases

3. A greenhouse gas with the chemical name CO₂.

carbon dioxide

4. A change in the earth's climate over a period of time.

climate change

5. When the average temperature on Earth is getting hotter.

global warming

6. A verb or noun which is a synonym of increase.

rise

7. The scientific word for 'air'.

atmosphere

8. Greenhouse gases caused by human activity.

emissions

9. A system of plants and animals living together.

ecosystem

10. When a type of plant or animal disappears completely.

extinction

11. Televisions, fridges and other electrical goods.

electrical appliances