



The Climate Connection

Episode 2: Speaking youth – to power

#TheClimateConnection
www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection



Episode overview

Young people are heavily affected by the climate crisis. It is they who will have the job of cleaning up the mess left by previous generations. Episode 2 talks to two young climate activists who have already made a significant impact in this area: Jouja Maamri and Sophia Kianni. Jouja is the UK's delegate to the G7 Youth Summit, where she covers climate policy. She talks about the vital role language plays in addressing the climate crisis, effective ways in which young people can help this fight, and the links between climate and racial justice. Sophia shares with us her experience of setting up *Climate Cardinals*, a volunteer-led not-for-profit which translates climate information into 100+ languages.

Continuing the focus on how young people are taking the lead, *From the Field* shares some fascinating insights into a project run by the Moldova English Teachers' Association, who are bringing young people together, through language, to talk about the climate crisis. Perhaps the most famous youth activist of all is the focus of *The Green Glossary*, as we dissect the meaning of the phrase 'The Greta Effect'.



Jouja Maamri



Sophia Kianni

In this episode

There's so much that we can be learning from indigenous communities around the world... who, despite contributing the least to climate change, are facing some of the worst effects.

Even if our current governmental leaders aren't taking the climate crisis seriously ... the next generation of leaders absolutely will.

It's another kind of happiness if we plant some trees and plants.

Let's be brave enough!

Of the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change, nine of them are not majority English speaking.

I think that if I change myself, if my Mum changes herself, if my Dad changes himself. We make a big community, and therefore, the changes will come.



From the field

In this episode, we visit the small Eastern European country of Moldova, where we hear from the participants in an online project run by META, the Moldova English Teachers' Association. The project brings together young people from around the world to discuss climate-related issues, and what they can do to make the world a better place to live.



Green glossary

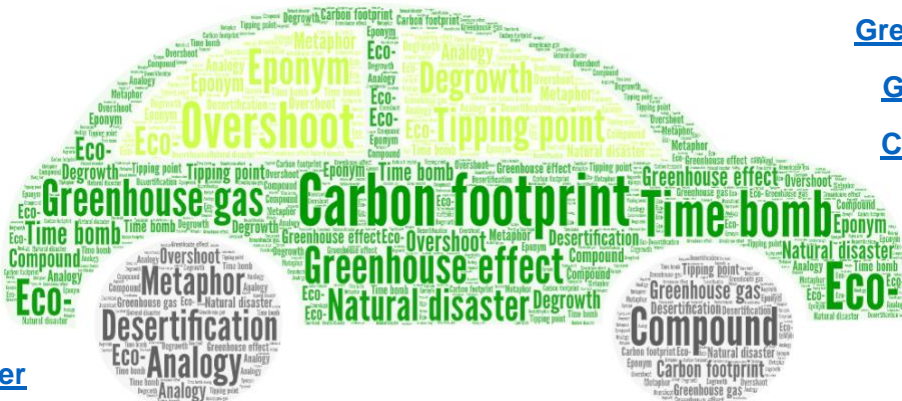
Greta Thunberg in Paris, February 22th by stephane_p (CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0)



In this episode, Oxford University Press talk to us about a phrase which relates to perhaps the most famous youth climate activist in the world, Greta Thunberg, as we hear about the 'Greta Effect'.

The word cloud below shows the climate and English language related words used in this episode. Find out more about some of these words at the Oxford English Dictionary website: www.oed.com. The OED have kindly made these words open access, so you can look them up even if you are not subscribed.

- [Eco-](#)
- [Compound](#)
- [Eponym](#)
- [Metaphor](#)
- [Analogy](#)
- [Tipping point](#)
- [Natural disaster](#)



- [Greenhouse effect](#)
- [Greenhouse gas](#)
- [Carbon footprint](#)
- [Time bomb](#)
- [Degrowth](#)
- [Overshoot](#)
- [Desertification](#)



Teaching ideas

Why not use extracts from the podcast in your classroom? Here are some ideas of how you can use the two interviews in Episode 2.

Interview 1: Jouja Maamri

Before listening: Prediction task

1. Jouja mentions several examples of environmental problems in her interview. In pairs or small groups, students should discuss what they already know about these topics.
 - Problems in coastal areas
 - Farming and land management
 - Air pollution
 - Plastic straws
2. Take class feedback. Tell them to check if Jouja had the same ideas as them when they listen.

While listening: Notetaking task

1. Ask students to make notes about Jouja's interview. You could suggest that they use the following headings:
 - G7 Youth Summit and policy recommendations
 - Experience of climate change in the Global North and Global South
 - Environmental and racial justice
 - Climate education in schools
 - Language and the climate crisis
2. After listening, students compare their notes. They should add and change information as necessary.

After listening: Project task

1. Work in small groups. Imagine you are the headteacher of your school. What changes would you make to climate education?
2. Share your plan with the rest of the class.

Interview 2: Sophia Kianni

Before listening: Prediction task

1. Look at the following quotations from this interview. Working in a small group, predict some of the things you think Sophia will say:
 - "I was really inspired to start it, after going to Iran in middle school and realising that my relatives knew very little about climate change."
 - "We've already translated over 500,000 words of climate information."
 - "We have eight thousand student volunteers in over 41 countries."
 - "Of the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change, nine of them are not majority English speaking."



2. Take class feedback. Tell the students to check their predictions when they listen.

While listening: Project task

1. In the interview, the host Chris asks these questions. Summarise the answers which Sophia gives:

- Can you tell us about the work of Climate Cardinals and what motivated you to set it up in the first place?
- Why do you see language as such an important component in the fight against the climate crisis?
- Would you like to see a change in policies in terms of the medium used in those discussions as well?
- What are some of the things that young people are worried about regarding the climate crisis?
- What do you think organisations such as the British Council and others like that should be doing in terms of the language and the climate crisis?

2. Share your answers.

After listening: Project task

1. Work in small groups. Identify words and phrases in your language(s) which you think should be translated. Try and translate them into English.

2. Share your translations with the rest of the class.

Glossary

The following words and phrases appear in Episode 2. You may wish to look them up if you are unfamiliar with any of them.

- A fine line
- Acronyms
- Activist
- Catastrophic
- Cliché
- Coastal
- Communique
- Communities of colour
- Corporate
- Delegate
- Devastation
- Disruption
- Drastic
- Empower
- Interdisciplinary
- Investor
- Livelihood
- Militarised
- Oppressive
- Pension
- Policymaking
- Resignation
- Silo



Bonus material

Visit the podcast website, www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection for bonus material, including the full, unedited interview with Jouja Maamri.

You can find a link to the podcast and the transcript of this episode at <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast>

Social media

Please share your views about this episode, and the series as a whole, on social media using the hashtag **#TheClimateConnection**.

Let us know your thoughts, reflections, comments and whether you have been able to use any of the ideas in your teaching.

Podcast feedback survey

Please tell us what you thought about this episode of the podcast and our podcast show notes by completing this short online survey.

Survey link: <http://bit.ly/PodcastFeedbackSurvey>



Links



British Council TeachingEnglish
www.teachingenglish.org.uk



Climate Cardinals
www.climatecardinals.org



Moldovan English Teachers' Association
<https://meta-moldova.md/>



Oxford Languages, the home of language data
languages.oup.com



Detailed notes

Use these notes to find out more about the contents of Episode 2.

Phrase	Explanation and Further Information
Interview 1: Jouja Maamri	
'Impact Regenerative Creations'	You can discover more about where Jouja works at https://www.regenerative-group.com .
'G7 Youth Summit'	Click here to find out more about this group.
'In coastal towns'	An article by the World Economic Forum on how some coastal cities are trying to fight the climate crisis.
'the way that the climate crisis is affecting young people in the UK specifically'	Read this article to see how young people around the world are becoming climate activists: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/28/generation-greta-young-climate-activists-around-world
'at the more marginalised communities within the UK as well as the Global South'	This blog by the United Nations shows how climate change negatively affects disadvantaged groups.
'air pollution ... has a huge and significant impact ... on children's learning'	A report by the Philips Foundation on how improving air quality can have positive benefits on children's memories and their ability to learn.
'your race is more indicative of whether you will be affected by air pollution than poverty'	This report by HEART shows the strong links between air pollution and poverty. This report by the New Scientist presents data from the USA that black and Hispanic people are exposed to more dirty air than white people, despite generally being responsible for less air pollution.
'There was a survey recently that said just 4% of young people surveyed felt that they know a lot about climate change'	See, for example, this report by Amnesty International
'It is embedded across the curriculum'	In Episode 3 of The Climate Connection we look at Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), and the relationship between language and academic content. .
'Eco anxiety'	In Episode 8 of The Climate Connection we look at the topic of eco anxiety.
'Green economy and green jobs'	Read about the green economy at the United Nations Environment Programme .
'Make my money matter'	You can visit this website at https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/
'The Big Issue'	The Big Issue is one of the UK's leading social businesses and exists to offer homeless people, or individuals at risk of homelessness, the opportunity to earn a legitimate income
'Junior ISA'	A type of financial investment for children.
'So not using plastic straws being an example of that'	This article by the World Wildlife Fund explains the huge challenges presented by plastic straw usage.
'A lot of people are adopting the phrase climate emergency'	The Green Glossary section in Episode 1 of The Climate Connection talks specifically about this phrase.
From the Field	
'Moldova'	Find out more about this Eastern European country here .



META – The Moldova English Teachers Association	You can join META's Facebook group here .
'Pesticide pollution'	Read about the problems of pesticides and drinking water at the Safe Drinking Water Foundation .
Interview 2: Sophia Kianni	
'Climate Cardinals'	Climate Cardinals is an international youth-led non-profit working to make the climate movement more accessible to those who don't speak English. Visit their website at www.climatecardinals.org
'Extinction Rebellion'	Extinction Rebellion is a decentralised, international and politically non-partisan movement using non-violent direct action and civil disobedience to persuade governments to act justly on the climate and ecological emergency. Visit their global website at https://rebellion.global .
'Non-profit'	An organisation which has social or charitable goals. Whatever money they make from their work is reinvested in their projects.
'Farsi'	Persian, known to its native Iranian speakers as Farsi, is the official language of modern-day Iran, parts of Afghanistan and the central Asian republic of Tajikistan. Read more about it here .
'Of the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change, nine of them are not majority English speaking'	See, for example, this index by Iberdrola .
'The six UN languages'	The six official languages of the United Nations are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian. Find out more about these languages at www.un.org/en/our-work/official-languages .
'Environmental justice'	Learn more about this issue at the Environmental Justice Foundation (https://ejfoundation.org/).
'There's still a sizable portion of the US population that doesn't even believe that climate change exists'	This article in 'The Conversation' discusses this issue in more detail, looking at some of the reasons for this.
'Climate migration'	The Brookings Institution discusses the underlying causes of climate migration in this article . We will also discuss it in more detail in future episodes of the Climate Connection.
'It was established in 1934'	You can read a short history of the British Council here .
'Echo chamber'	Information can come from many different sources and perspectives. But when you're only hearing the same perspectives and opinions over and over again, you may be in something called an echo chamber. This YouTube video explains more.
'Minority languages'	A minority language is a language spoken by a minority of the population of a territory. Find out more here .
'Global North ... Global South'	Click here for a description and overview of these terms by the Royal Geographical Society.



‘The Paris Climate Agreement’	The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Find out more here.
The Green Glossary	
‘Greta Thunberg’s school strike’	A report by Reuters about this strike.
‘Greta effect’	Read this article for more information.
‘Google Books Ngram viewer’	When you enter phrases into the Google Books Ngram Viewer , it displays a graph showing how those phrases have occurred in a corpus of books. It shows you how the use of that word has changed over time. Click here for the Ngram Viewer about ‘school strike’.
‘#FridaysForFuture’	Visit https://fridaysforfuture.org/ for more information.
‘Greenhouse effect’	Click here for a useful source of information about this issue.
‘The main culprits of the climate crisis, who are generally in economically developed countries’	This article provides some background information about this issue.
‘The need to migrate to more secure areas’	Click here for a story in the New York Times about climate migration. We will also discuss this issue in later episodes.
‘Extinction Rebellion’	Extinction Rebellion (abbreviated as XR) is a global environmental movement with the stated aim of using non-violent civil disobedience to make government act on the climate crisis. The global website for the organisation can be accessed here.
‘Tipping point’	This Wikipedia article contains more information about this concept.
‘The form of a short film’	You can watch the video which Rosamund refers to on YouTube.
‘Our house is on fire’	A video of Greta Thunberg discussing this phrase can be seen here.

