

Do you know about the three Rs?

The first R is for 'reduce'.

When we reduce something, we use it less or we buy it less.

For example, books. We don't buy a new book. We borrow a book from the library.

Or toys. We don't buy a new toy. We swap toys with a friend. 'Swap' means I give something to you, and you give something to me.

I give my friend a toy car, and my friend gives me a board game.

The second R is for 'reuse'.

When we reuse something, we use it again and again.

We reuse paper at school. We collect old paper in a box.

Then we use the paper again. We write on the other side. At home I put my old comics in a box. Then my mum uses the comics to wrap birthday presents.

The third R is for 'recycle'.

When we recycle something, we use it again but we use it for something different.

At school we keep pencils in old jam jars. You can also make a game with old bottle tops and a piece of card.

Recycling is fun.

But do you know there are more Rs? Let's look at two more Rs.

The fourth R is for 'repair'.

When we repair something, we mend it when it breaks.

We don't throw it in the bin. We make it good again.

Sometimes I get a hole in my sock. My mum can sew. She mends the sock. Then I can wear it again and again.

My dad mends things too. He uses tools to mend his car.

The fifth R is for 'refuse'.

When we refuse something, we say no to something.



We say, 'No, thanks!' Sometimes in a shop, the shop assistant asks, 'Do you want a bag?' Mum says, 'No, thanks.' She refuses the bag because she always carries her own shopping bag.

Sometimes in a café, they ask me, 'Do you want a straw for your juice?' I say, 'No, thanks.' I refuse the plastic straw because they are not good for our planet.

Don't forget the five Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, repair and refuse!

