Nature and the Environment

The natural world, looking after it, and the words of green policy and green claims, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 28

leaves and stars · reduce, reuse, recycle · a drop in the ocean

Nature *A1–A2*

sun	moon
star	sky
the earth	flower
tree	leaf (leaves)
grass	rock
river	sea
mountain	island

no "the" with nature: I love nature (not the nature)

Looking after nature *A1–A2*

recycle	reuse
rubbish	litter
bin	throw away
plastic	paper
glass	bottle
can	save water
turn off the lights	pick up litter

We should recycle. We shouldn't drop litter. (no "to" after should)

The environment *B1–B2*

Problems: pollution, waste, landfill, litter, contamination, deforestation, emissions

Energy: renewable energy, solar panels, wind turbines, fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas)

Wildlife: endangered species, habitat, conservation

At home: carbon footprint, single-use plastic, compost, food caddy, general waste

The three Rs: reduce · reuse · recycle

Phrasal verbs: cut down on, use up, throw away, run out of, clean up

*We're trying to **cut down on single-use plastic**, and we **compost** our peelings.*

waste and rubbish are uncountable: a lot of waste

Policy and claims *C1–C2*

Policy: sustainability, biodiversity loss, ecosystem services, net zero, the circular economy

Two strategies: mitigation (cut the cause) · adaptation (cope with the effect)

Claims: greenwashing, offsetting, carbon neutral, substantiate, misleading

Reasoning: a trade-off, the precautionary principle, the burden of proof, irreversible

Idioms: go green, a drop in the ocean, the tip of the iceberg, nip it in the bud, turn over a new leaf, once in a blue moon

*The firm's "carbon neutral" label rests on **offsetting**, so it is only as good as the offsets: it must be **substantiated**.*

compostable ≠ biodegradable · mitigation ≠ adaptation

Green habits

- *Which bin does this go in?*
- *Please turn off the tap.*
- *Don't throw it away. Reuse it!*
- *We've run out of bin bags.*

Common mistakes

- ~~We should to recycle.~~ → We **should recycle**.
- ~~a lot of rubbishes~~ → a lot of **rubbish**
- ~~the air contamination~~ → air **pollution**
- ~~two leafs~~ → two **leaves**

Words with a past

- **rubbish**: first broken stone from building
- **solar**: Latin *sol*, sun (also solstice)
- **compost**: Latin *compositum*, put together
- **fuel**: Latin *focus*, a hearth

My new words

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