

Environmental issues

Exercise 1. Match the words with its meaning below.

biodegradable

eco-warrior

food chain

irreparable damage

single-use plastics

1. _____ = pollution
2. _____ = plastic that can be used only once
3. _____ = somebody who is passionate about the environment
4. _____ = irreversible, negative change
5. _____ = broken down naturally by bacteria
6. _____ = a series of living creatures, where each one eats the one preceding it

Exercise 2: Match the two statements. Use the words in bold to help you.

1. Try to avoid buying a **single-use plastics**

2. It's important that all of our waste is **biodegradable**.

3. **Contamination** of the air by dangerous gases is a serious problem.

4. People who don't believe in climate change think **eco-warriors** are wrong.

5. Our actions are doing **irreparable damage** to the Earth.

6. Removing just one species from the **food chain** destroys the whole system.

- A** That's why we need to find different forms of energy for our cars.
- B** So if smaller fish die, larger ones will starve, and so on.
- C** However, who else is fighting to protect the natural world?
- D** Otherwise, we can't get rid of it and it's with us forever.
- E** For instance, polar bears could die out if Arctic ice melts due to global warming.
- F** Instead, use glass, paper or aluminium containers that can be recycled.

Exercise 3: Complete the text with the words in bold from Exercise 1&2.

One of the biggest threats to the quality of the natural environment is (1) _____ such as drinks bottles, bags, straws and packaging. Unlike paper packaging, plastic is not (2) _____, so it stays on the ground and in the oceans for many, many years and causes (3) _____ of land and water. When plastic is in the ocean, sea creatures mistake it for food, eat it and die. These deaths affect the (4) _____ in terrible ways as it means there is less for other animals to eat. We should produce less plastic and get rid of plastic waste more responsibly to stop the (5) _____ that it causes. It isn't enough for us to depend on (6) _____ to fight for the environment. Everyone has a duty to protect the planet.

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1.

1. contamination
2. single-use plastics
3. eco-warrior
4. irreparable damage
5. biodegradable
6. food chain

Exercise 2.

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|------|------|------|
| 1. F | 2. D | 3. A |
| 4. C | 5. E | 6. B |

Exercise 3:

1. single-use plastic
2. biodegradable
3. contamination
4. food chain
5. irreparable damage
6. eco-warriors