

## In this unit you are going to

- speak about how “green” you are (*Speaking A2 / B1*)
- discuss a green company policy (*Speaking B1*)
- write an informal e-mail on protecting the environment (*Writing A2 / B1*)
- read an article on going green in the workspace (*Reading B1*)
- listen to people giving advice on environmental protection (*Listening A2 / B1*)

## Warm-up

### How “green” are you?

1

Have a look at the statements (1–10) and tick the boxes that most closely match your behaviour. Then add up the points for your answers.

	always	sometimes	never
1. Do you cycle or walk to school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you use and refill your own water bottle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you use cotton bags when going grocery shopping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you print out only essential e-mails and documents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you climb the stairs instead of using the lift or the escalator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you try to use less water when brushing your teeth?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you turn off appliances rather than using stand-by mode?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you buy organic food?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you recycle at home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you throw away used batteries in special containers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*always* = 2 points; *sometimes* = 1 point; *never* = 0 points

Total points: .....



2

How did you do? Have a look at the score. Compare your results with those of at least three classmates.

### Score

**0–11:** You think it is not important to take care of the environment. In other words, you believe “going green” is too much of an effort and too expensive.

**12–16:** You try to protect the environment, however, there is still much more you could do. You are on the right track!

**17–20:** You have completely understood what “going green” is all about.

Congratulations! It would be really great if there were more teenagers who cared as much about the environment as you do.



## Listening

### We can all make a difference



1

Track 24



#### Green tip 1

"I don't want to give you just one tip, because that could make you ignore other tips. But we have to live with less. Less [ ], less [ ], less [ ], less [ ]."

#### Green tip 2

"I [ ] to work every day, rather than [ ] the car. It's better for the environment and I can [ ] with people on the way."

#### Green tip 3

"Plant a tree. If each of us 7 billion inhabitants of this planet [ ], the green balance [ ] once again."

#### Green tip 4

"I never use [ ]. Instead, I have little bags made out of jute material, like we had in the old days. Using the traditional jute bags not only [ ], but it creates jobs for people who sew the bags."

#### Green tip 5

"Take [ ]. You don't use any electricity and [ ] too."

#### Green tip 6

"Always clean up after yourself. You are responsible for [ ] you produce and you should ensure that it's disposed of in an [ ]."

#### Green tip 7

"A monitor uses a lot of energy, more than you may realise – it needs about [ ] of the energy your entire computer uses. So [ ]."



2

Get into pairs and compare your results. Decide on the three tips that both of you find most important. Write them down. Give reasons for your ranking.

1

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.....

2

.....

.....

3

.....

.....

## Language in use

### A green lifestyle

- 1 Have a look at the VocabBooster. Match the expressions in A with the appropriate ones in B. Make up meaningful collocations. Sometimes there is more than one possibility.

#### VocabBooster

	A	B
to separate	1	the PC on stand-by
to buy	2	public transport
to throw away	3	the waste
not to leave	4	light bulbs with energy-saving LEDs
to use	5	organic food
to limit	6	plants in your garden
to make use of	7	your energy use
to replace	8	your use of water
to grow	9	bottles and paper in bottle / paper banks
to reduce	10	natural light



- 2 Fill in the gaps. Use the appropriate collocations from activity 1. Then compare your results with a partner.

- 1 Everyone should \_\_\_\_\_ the waste in their homes.
- 2 A new law says that we have to replace \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Always \_\_\_\_\_ natural light instead of artificial light.
- 4 Limiting the output of carbon emissions requires that everyone has to reduce his / her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Paper and bottles should be thrown away \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 A lot of energy can be saved if we do not leave \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Make use of \_\_\_\_\_ whenever it is possible for you. Do not always go by car.
- 8 In order to limit our carbon footprint, we should buy \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 Growing \_\_\_\_\_ in your garden is not only beneficial to the environment; it is also much cheaper.
- 10 When brushing your teeth, \_\_\_\_\_ your use of water.

## Reading

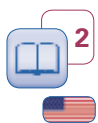
### Going green in your workspace

- 1 Complete the definitions by using the words from the VocabBooster.

#### VocabBooster

■ bio-degradable ■ policy ■ carbon footprint ■ to share ■ public transport ■ to deliver ■ napkin  
■ plastic cutlery ■ carpool ■ usage

- 1 If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it means that material can be slowly separated into very small parts by bacteria so that it is not harmful to the environment.
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a small piece of cloth or paper used during a meal to clean your lips and fingers and to protect your clothes.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ means to have or use something with others.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ refers to a system of trains and buses that is run by the government.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ means to take or bring something to a person or place.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ includes forks, spoons, and knives made of plastic.
- 7 A \_\_\_\_\_ is an officially accepted set of rules or ideas about what should be done in a company, organisation or country.
- 8 The \_\_\_\_\_ indicates the amount of greenhouse gases produced by something or someone during a given period.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ refers to a group of people who regularly share a car when they are going to and from work.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ means the way that something is used.



- 2 Read the text and match the headlines (A–E) with the paragraphs (1–5). Write the headline of each paragraph in the blank grid.

<b>A</b> Digital documents	<b>C</b> Use eco-friendly lunch boxes	<b>D</b> Reduce paper usage
<b>B</b> Starting a carpool	<b>E</b> Saving energy	

**There are a few steps that could be followed by each employee to make the workspace greener.**



#### Step 1: .....

Computers use a lot of energy. If companies came up with rules to reduce wasted electricity, it would help to save energy. Instead of leaving the computer on stand-by mode, it would be good to switch off your PC when you are not using it.

**A** Digital documents**B** Starting a carpool**C** Use eco-friendly lunch boxes**D** Reduce paper usage**E** Saving energy**Step 2:** .....

In a world of technological progress, it is important that we try to reduce our carbon footprint. The best way to do that is to digitalize all documents. Instead of printing out page after page of documents, the documents should be shared via the Internet.

**Step 3:** .....

Paper waste could be reduced. It would be clever to get environmentally-friendly papers and print on both sides of the paper instead of just one. Only the very important documents should be printed, the rest should be shared as PDF files.

**Step 4:** .....

Employees who live close by to each other could start a carpool. It is definitely better for the environment to have four people in one car than to have each person driving his / her own car. The alternative would be biking to work or using public transport.

**Step 5:** .....

Instead of buying fast food daily, employees could bring their own food to work using metal or plastic lunch boxes. This would not only save the environment, it would also be good for the employees because they would eat more healthfully.



Get into pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1** Which of the steps to a greener workspace mentioned in activity 1 has your company already introduced?
- 2** Which of them would you be willing / not be willing to accept? Give reasons.
- 3** Which other things are done at your company to protect the environment?

## Speaking



### A green company policy

Get into groups of three. Your company wants to do something to protect the environment. Together with your colleagues, try to come up with some pieces of advice on what could be done. Take notes in the mind map on page 149. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

#### LanguageBox

I can see your point.

Sorry, but I have a different idea. I think ...

I totally agree / disagree with you because ...

Could you repeat that please?

So can we finally agree that ...



2

After your discussion, get ready to present your results in class. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

### LanguageBox

We think that separating the waste / starting carpool / ... would be a good idea because ...

What's more, our company could ... because ...

Another good piece of advice would be to ...

Going by public transport / by bike ... would also be a possibility to save the environment.

Finally, we also think that ... would be an option because ...

## Writing

### Writing an informal e-mail

1

Have a look at the pictures (1–6) and match them with the words from the VocabBooster.

### VocabBooster

■ barrel ■ trash ■ crude oil ■ tap water ■ steel water bottle / thermos ■ landfill



1

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2

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3

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4

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5

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6

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Read the e-mail you got from your American penfriend Tammy. Underline the most important information. Then complete the mind map on page 151.

Send

To...

Cc...

Bcc...

you@bestshots.com

Subject: Our school project

Hello my friend

How are you? How are things going?

I'm fine. I have a lot to do at the moment; we are doing a project on the environment in school. We have to work on different topics. My group is working on recycling plastic.

Did you know that producing plastic bottles uses up a lot of fossil fuels and pollutes the environment? In fact, Americans buy more bottled water than any other nation in the world. In order to make all those bottles, 17 million barrels of crude oil are used per year. Imagine a water bottle filled a quarter of the way up with oil. That's about how much oil was needed to produce the bottle.

We have also asked ourselves why more people don't drink tap water. Some people drink bottled water because they think it's better for them than tap water, but that's not true. In the United States, tap water is safe in most areas, whereas scientists warn that chemicals in the bottles themselves may get into the water. We also found out that people love the comfort of bottled water. But maybe if they realized the problems it causes, they would try drinking from a glass at home or carrying water in refillable steel water bottles instead of plastic ones. Unfortunately, for every six water bottles we use, only one is recycled. The rest are sent to landfills. Or, even worse, they end up as trash in rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Plastic bottles take many hundreds of years to decompose. What about the situation in Austria? Do you also use plastic bottles or do you use refillable steel water bottles? Do you drink tap water in your country?

It'd be really helpful if you could answer my questions because I need the information for my project. Thanks in advance. Hope to hear from you soon!

All the best

Tammy



3

Get into pairs. Summarise the e-mail with the help of your mind map. Take turns.



4

You have decided to write an e-mail to your pen-friend in the US.

In your e-mail you should

- say what is going on in your life right now
- answer Tammy's questions
- say how important recycling is in Austria.

Use the phrases from the LanguageBox. Write about 150 words.



### LanguageBox

Dear Tammy

Thanks for your e-mail. I'm fine.

I have / do not have a lot to do at the moment because ...

Back to the questions in your e-mail.

Here in Austria, we ...

I also use plastic bottles quite often. / I don't use plastic bottles, I prefer to ...

In Austria we have to recycle, which I think is really important to protect the environment.

In the company where I work we separate the waste / try to save energy / try to save paper ...

At home I ...

I hope I was able to answer all your questions.

Hear you soon.

All the best



## Language in use

Speak up – talk about it – say something – tell the world to stop destroying our planet!

### Trouble-free grammar: say, tell, talk, speak

#### say

We use **say** before reported speech and in some common phrases.

She **said** that she felt very sorry.

**say** { something  
yes / no  
a few words  
goodbye / hello

The article **says** that the ozone layer is growing.

The clock **says** it is six a.m.

#### tell

We use **tell** when giving information, when we report commands and in common phrases.

He **told** me to close the window.

**tell** { the truth  
a lie  
a story  
a joke

#### Please note:

Use **talk** only:

Stop **talking** nonsense!

Theo often **talks** rubbish.

Use **speak** only:

I can **speak** three languages.

Could you **speak** up a bit?

#### talk / speak

We use **talk / speak** when two or more people are having a discussion and in some common phrases.

Let's **talk / speak** about the problem of global warming.

Who were you **talking / speaking** to on the phone?

My grandpa often **talked / spoke** about his days as an environmental activist.

1

Match the words from the box with the appropriate word in the mind maps and make useful phrases. Compare your results with a partner.

the truth	hello	about the novel	goodbye
me more about it	a joke	a lie	about the problem
to your family	a prayer	to somebody on the phone	yes / no

talk / speak

tell

say

- 2 Fill in *speak / talk / say / tell*. Use the correct tense. Sometimes there is more than one possibility. Compare your results with a partner.

- 1 The article [ ] that the number of environmental disasters is increasing.
- 2 I really appreciate that my best friend always [ ] the truth.
- 3 Please [ ] hello to your family.
- 4 My cousin can [ ] three different languages.
- 5 In our last English lesson we [ ] about the latest movie we saw in the cinema.
- 6 George claims that he never [ ] a lie.
- 7 The comedian [ ] jokes that were not really funny.
- 8 Let's [ ] about it later.
- 9 I can [ ] to her about everything under the sun.

## Review

- 1 Tick the correct verb to fill the gap in each sentence. Compare your results with a partner.

- 1 How many languages can Sheila [ ]?  
 A tell                      B say                      C speak                      D talk
- 2 When you see Fred, [ ] hello to him from me!  
 A tell                      B say                      C speak                      D talk
- 3 It is always great when grandpa [ ] us a joke.  
 A tells                      B says                      C speaks                      D talks
- 4 I can never hear what the teacher [ ]. Her voice is so quiet.  
 A is telling                      B is saying                      C is speaking                      D is talking
- 5 Never [ ] a lie. Lies do not travel far.  
 A tell                      B say                      C speak                      D talk
- 6 Could you please stop [ ] nonsense!  
 A telling                      B saying                      C speaking                      D talking
- 7 If you have a problem, please just [ ] me about it.  
 A tell                      B say                      C speak                      D talk
- 8 They left without [ ] anything. I did not even manage to [ ] goodbye.  
 A telling                      B saying                      C speaking                      D talking  
 A tell                      B say                      C speak                      D talk