

UNDERSTAND AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental topics appear frequently in newspapers, magazines, websites, and even in workplace reports. To understand texts about the environment, you need to:

- Identify the **main idea**
- Recognize **supporting details**
- Understand **cause-and-effect relationships**
- Recognize **solutions** and **problems**
- Interpret **opinions, facts, and predictions**

This subtopic will help you read environmental articles with confidence—especially those related to pollution, recycling, climate change, and sustainability.

Key Environmental Vocabulary

Word / Phrase	Meaning	Example
Environment	Natural world around us	<i>Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility.</i>
Ecosystem	Community of living organisms	<i>Plastic waste damages marine ecosystems.</i>
Climate change	Long-term changes in temperature	<i>Climate change affects the entire planet.</i>
Sustainable	Environmentally friendly and long-lasting	<i>We need sustainable solutions.</i>
Carbon footprint	Total amount of CO ₂ produced	<i>You can reduce your carbon footprint by recycling.</i>
Pollution	Contamination of air, water, or land	<i>Air pollution is a serious issue in big cities.</i>
Habitat	Natural home of an animal or plant	<i>Deforestation destroys animal habitats.</i>
Conservation	Protection of natural resources	<i>Conservation programs help endangered species.</i>

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Reading Strategies for Environmental Articles

- ✓ **Skim for the main idea.** Read the title and the first sentence of each paragraph to understand the overall message.
- ✓ **Scan for specific details.** Look for numbers, names, statistics, and examples.
- ✓ **Identify problem-solution structure.** Many environmental articles follow this pattern:
 - **Problem:** plastic pollution, climate change
 - **Cause:** human activity, waste
 - **Effect:** endangered animals, dirty oceans
 - **Solution:** recycling, laws, education
- ✓ **Recognize signal words.** These words guide understanding:
 - **Cause:** because, due to, as a result
 - **Contrast:** however, but, although
 - **Result:** therefore, so, consequently
 - **Possibility:** may, might, could

Main Reading: “Protecting Our Planet: Small Actions, Big Impact”

Read the following article as if it appeared on an environmental website.

“Protecting Our Planet: Small Actions, Big Impact”

Every year, the world produces millions of tons of waste, and much of it ends up in landfills or oceans. This pollution harms ecosystems and may affect human health. One of the biggest problems is single use plastics, which often break down into microplastics. These tiny pieces might enter the food chain and could damage marine life.

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Climate change is another growing concern. Rising temperatures affect weather patterns, cause stronger storms, and put many species at risk. Scientists say that if global temperatures continue to rise, many habitats will disappear. However, communities around the world are taking action.

Schools, companies, and governments are promoting recycling programs, banning plastic bags, and reducing carbon emissions. Many people are also choosing reusable products, saving energy, and supporting sustainable brands. These everyday actions may seem small, but together they can make a big difference. If more people adopt eco-friendly habits, the environment might slowly recover.

Protecting the planet is a shared responsibility. With awareness, education, and small changes, we can help create a cleaner and healthier world for future generations.

Language Focus from the Article

Useful Expressions

- *“One of the biggest problems is...”*
- *“Scientists say that...”*
- *“These actions may seem small, but...”*
- *“If more people adopt eco-friendly habits...”*

Describing cause and effect

- *Pollution harms ecosystems.*
- *Plastics break down into microplastics.*
- *Climate change affects weather patterns.*

Reference:

English Club. (s.f.) Enviroment vocabulary. English Club. Recovered from:
<https://www.englishclub.com/glossaries/environment-vocab.php>