

A. Environment

Here are some statements about the environment. Can you identify the authors?
What is your opinion?

Environmentalism is a religion that is based more on political ambitions than science. Communism has been replaced by the threat of an ambitious environmentalism.

Resources would be better spent investing in ending hunger and disease in developing countries than on climate change projects.

Our world faces a true planetary emergency.

Freezing carbon emissions would harm Americans and lead to "no new industry, no new people and no new cars".

Bjorn Lomborg, Director of the Danish Environmental Assessment Institute

Al Gore, former US vice-president

Joe Barton, the leading Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee

Václav Klaus



"YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE'D BE IMPRESSED WE VOTED FOR AL GORE?"

**B. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),
February 2007, Paris.**

What do you know about the event? What are the findings?

Global climate change is "very likely" to have a human cause, an influential group of scientists has concluded.

Below you will find the key findings from Paris. However, the expressions of probability are omitted.

First try to identify the probability of occurrence as defined in the IPCC Report.

very unlikely	more than 99%
extremely likely	more than 95%
more likely than not	more than 90%
very likely	more than 60%
likely	more than 50%
unlikely	less than 33%
virtually certain	less than 10%
extremely unlikely	less than 5%

adjectives: probable – improbable, possible - impossible

Now complete the statements from the IPCC Report with some of these expressions:

- It is that human activities are causing global warming temperature rise by the end of the century will be between 1.8C and 4C (3.2-7.2F)
- temperature rise by the end of the century will be between 1.8C and 4C (3.2-7.2F)
- temperature rise by the end of the century ranges between 1.1C and 6.4C (2-11.5F)
- Sea levels are to rise by 28-43cm
- Arctic summer sea ice is to disappear in second half of century
- It isthat parts of the world will see an increase in the number of heatwaves
- Climate change is to lead to increased intensity of tropical storms

C. The Article: Big Rise of CO₂

Available at

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2006/03/060315_co2.shtml

1. Vocabulary Building: Match the words correctly with the definitions.

key	to watch
global warming	governments begin to follow the rules of the agreement
to monitor	the increase of the world's temperature
level	to be what is expected
that's a record	to have said for a long time that something would be a problem or danger
to confirm a trend	amount
mankind	most important
Kyoto Treaty takes effect	the world's people
to curb	to limit
to have long warned about	it has never been so big, so fast, the best etc

2. Listening:

a) Comprehension I - Listen to the BBC piece of news and answer this question:

Scientists feel optimistic about the earth's future. True or false?

b) Gapfill - Listen again and fill in the gaps.

Learning English - Words in the News

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Big rise in CO2

US climate scientists in Colorado have recorded a big rise in the amount of carbon dioxide in the world's atmosphere. Their research indicates that 2005 saw one of the largest increases ever recorded. David Shukman reports from Colorado:



Air samples have been taken from the Rocky Mountains and other parts of the world

Carbon dioxide is seen as the **key** gas driving **global warming** so its **level** is **monitored** very closely. of air are gathered all over the world and sent here to Boulder in Colorado to the US government's global project. Studies show that the level of carbon dioxide now stands at three hundred and eighty one

..... **.That's a record**, according to the researchers. It's the result of one of the largest annual increases for the past fifty years and **it confirms a trend** - that the has doubled in the last thirty years. We asked the British government's chief scientist for his reaction. Sir David King says the new are worrying.

Today we're at three hundred and eighty parts per million, we're over three eighty parts a million. This is higher than the of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere for at least a million years, possibly for thirty million years. So **mankind** is changing the climate.

This sharp increase comes just as the **Kyoto Treaty takes effect**. It's meant to bring down. The evidence of this new is clear though - that efforts to **curb** the rise in greenhouse gases are,, failing, and the consequences that climate scientists **have long warned about** look far more likely.

c) Comprehension II: Are the following questions true or false? Read the text again and circle the correct answer:

1. Carbon dioxide is an important indicator of how healthy the earth's atmosphere is. T/F
2. The level of carbon dioxide has never been higher than it is today. T/F
3. The increase this year was very unexpected. T/F
4. David King says that climate change is part of nature's cycle. T/F
5. The Kyoto agreement was signed and came into force in 1977. T/F
6. People are succeeding in trying to cut CO₂ levels. T/F

D. Follow-up activities: Take part in a short debate

You are going to take part in a short debate on climate change. The title of the debate is: ‘**Climate change – trivia or truth?**’

(‘trivia’ means unimportant facts often used for entertainment)

Divide the into two equal groups, A and B. To prepare for the debate, students in group A have to agree the most powerful arguments they can think of for dealing with the problem of climate change. Students in group B have to agree the strongest arguments they can think of for discrediting the concept of climate change.

ARGUMENTS:

Advantages/disadvantages (Pros and cons)

It has both (its) advantages and disadvantages

One of the advantages / disadvantages of ... is ...

There are advantages / disadvantages to ... (-ing)

A further advantage (of) / problem (with) ... is ...

There are certain drawbacks

The (main) advantage / disadvantage of ... is ...

The (main) drawback (of) / problem (with) ... is

What are the advantages and disadvantages of ...

Different points of view are included

While it is true to say that ...

On the other hand, ...

It is not always the case that ...

On the contrary, ...

This (question) can *be looked at* from several points of view. Firstly ...

Opponents of ... take a very different view

It *is* often *suggested* that ...

This (problem) should be considered in relation to ...

It can *be examined* in terms of ...

... must *be taken into account* ...

Your own point of view

In my opinion

The first thing to *be considered* is ...

It is a fact that ...

There is no doubt that ...

I believe that (x I think)

One of the main arguments in favour X is that ...
against

Agreement

I *agree with X* when he writes that ...
says

Partial agreement

On the one hand on the other hand
... but ...
... however ...

Emphatic agreement

X is certainly correct when he says that ...
I completely agree with X writes

Cautious agreement

X may be correct when he says that ... (is saying that)

Disagreement

I *disagree with X* when he says that ...

Contrast with what has preceded

instead in comparison
on the contrary on the other hand by contrast

Conclusions

in conclusion	in brief	overall	thus
to <i>conclude</i>	to <i>summarize</i>	then	finally
to <i>sum up</i> briefly	altogether	therefore	in addition