



VOCABULARY BANK

Environment and Conservation

Environment and Conservation | Bank 1: pollution, recycling and everyday action | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Quick confidence check

Before you study the topic, mark the column that best describes your confidence with each word or phrase.

Word or phrase	New to me	I recognise it	I can use it
air pollution	☐	☐	☐
water pollution	☐	☐	☐
plastic waste	☐	☐	☐
single-use plastic	☐	☐	☐
recycle waste	☐	☐	☐
reduce pollution	☐	☐	☐
save energy	☐	☐	☐
renewable energy	☐	☐	☐
carbon emissions	☐	☐	☐
environmentally friendly	☐	☐	☐
take action	☐	☐	☐
make a difference	☐	☐	☐

2. Vocabulary bank

Here are some useful words, adjectives, verbs and chunks that can be reused in exam answers. If you are not sure of their meaning, check online or ask your teacher.

Category	Useful vocabulary
Pollution	air pollution, water pollution, plastic waste, single-use plastic, carbon emissions, damage the environment
Everyday action	recycle waste, reduce pollution, save energy, reuse materials, cut down on waste, throw away less
Solutions	renewable energy, environmentally friendly products, public transport, local campaign, take action, make a difference
Opinion chunks	One way to help is..., People should try to..., This can reduce..., It is important because..., Small changes can...

3. Match the meaning

Match each word or phrase with the correct meaning. Then choose four and write your own examples.

Word or phrase	Meaning
1. air pollution	a. use old materials again instead of throwing them away
2. single-use plastic	b. gases released into the air, often from transport or factories
3. recycle waste	c. dirty or harmful substances in the air
4. renewable energy	d. not harmful, or less harmful, to the environment
5. carbon emissions	e. plastic used once and then thrown away
6. environmentally friendly	f. energy from sources that can be replaced naturally

4. Build useful chunks

Choose useful chunks from the grid. Then write three natural sentences you could use in a speaking or writing answer.

reduce pollution	recycle waste	save energy
cut down on waste	avoid single-use plastic	use public transport
environmentally friendly product	local campaign	make a difference

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Read in context

Read the text. The bold words are from the vocabulary bank.

Small Actions for the Environment

Environmental problems can feel too large for one person to solve, but everyday choices still matter. For example, people can **recycle waste**, save energy and use fewer products made from **single-use plastic**.

Transport is another important issue. Cars and planes produce **carbon emissions**, which can add to air pollution. Using public transport, walking or cycling can be more **environmentally friendly**.

Local communities can also help. A **local campaign** might encourage people to clean up a park, plant trees or **cut down on waste** at school and at home.

Small actions will not solve every problem immediately, but they can raise awareness and build better habits. When many people take action, they can make a real difference over time.

6. Check your understanding

Answer the questions in your own words. Use the vocabulary bank where it fits naturally.

READING CHECK

1. Give two everyday choices that can help the environment.

2. Why can transport be an environmental issue?

3. What might a local campaign encourage people to do?

4. Why can small actions still be useful?

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

What does 'single-use plastic' mean?

- A. Plastic used once and thrown away
- B. Plastic used to build houses
- C. Plastic that never breaks
- D. Plastic made by students

What is the writer's main view?

- A. Small actions can help when many people take part.
- B. Individuals can do nothing useful.
- C. Recycling is always impossible.
- D. Pollution only comes from schools.

7. Use the vocabulary

Task	What to do
Speaking 1	Describe one environmental problem in your area.
Speaking 2	Discuss this question: Are small individual actions enough to protect the environment?
Writing	Write a short paragraph giving advice about reducing waste.
Review	Return to the confidence table. Choose one item you want to improve and write a clear example sentence.

8. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

- What is the biggest environmental problem where you live?
- Should schools ban single-use plastic?
- How can families save energy?
- Is public transport better for the environment?
- What local campaign would you support?

**ANSWER KEY**

Environment and Conservation

3. Match the meaning

1. c = dirty or harmful substances in the air
2. e = plastic used once and then thrown away
3. a = use old materials again instead of throwing them away
4. f = energy from sources that can be replaced naturally
5. b = gases released into the air, often from transport or factories
6. d = not harmful, or less harmful, to the environment

6. Check your understanding

1. Any two from: recycle waste, save energy, use fewer single-use plastic products.
2. Cars and planes produce carbon emissions and can add to air pollution.
3. It might encourage people to clean up parks, plant trees or cut down on waste.
4. They can raise awareness and build better habits.

MCQ 1: A. Plastic used once and thrown away.

MCQ 2: A. Small actions can help when many people take part.