

Environmental crisis? – Glossary

catch someone/something up phrasal verb
to improve in order to reach the same standard or rate as someone or something
He's missed so much school that he's going to find it hard to catch up.

consume verb
to use a supply of something such as time, energy, or fuel
The new light bulbs consume less electricity.

crisis noun [count/uncount]
an urgent, difficult, or dangerous situation
a period of economic/financial/political crisis

development noun [uncount]
change, growth, or improvement over a period of time
We encourage our staff in their development of new skills.

economic adjective
relating to business, industry, and trade
an attack on the government's economic policies

fair adjective
if a situation is fair, everyone is treated equally and in a reasonable way
Life is not always fair.

gas noun [count/uncount]
a substance such as air that is neither a solid nor a liquid
regulations to cut the emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide

global adjective
including or affecting the whole world
global changes in climate

harm noun [uncount]
injury, damage, or problems caused by something that you do
projects that lead to environmental harm

industry noun [count/uncount]
the production of goods, especially those made in factories; a particular industry, trade, or service and the people who work in it
the nuclear/chemical/pharmaceutical industry

invent verb
to design or create something such as a machine or process that did not exist before
Alfred Nobel invented dynamite.

mixture noun [singular]
a combination of two or more different things, people, qualities etc
The building was a strange mixture of styles.

nuclear adjective
relating to energy produced by changing the structure of the central part of an atom

pollute verb
to make air, water, or land too dirty and dangerous for people to use in a safe way
The oil spillage has polluted the harbour.

realistic adjective
based on facts and situations as they really are
Changing your job is the only realistic solution.

run out of phrasal verb
to use all of something and not have any left
Many hospitals are running out of money.

selfish adjective
thinking only about yourself and not caring about other people
I decided to go for purely selfish reasons.

solution noun [count]
a way to solve a problem or to deal with a bad situation
UN leaders are working hard to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

solve verb
to find a solution to something that is causing difficulties
We can help you solve your financial problems.

technology noun [count/uncount]
advanced scientific knowledge used for practical purposes, especially in industry
computer/software/military technology

valuable adjective
worth a lot of money

waste adjective
waste substances are what is left of something after the valuable parts of it have been used

way noun [count]
someone's individual manner of behaving or speaking
Greg has really changed his ways since he went to prison.