

1. Deforestation

The subject of this week's lesson is one of the world's most serious environmental problems – deforestation.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students to come up with a list of environmental problems – the chances are that deforestation will be mentioned. Where is deforestation happening, in what ways is it bad for the environment, and what do the students think are its causes?
2. Divide the students into pairs and give them five to ten minutes to read the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them that in the next exercise they are going to fill in the gaps with appropriate words. You could suggest that they guess what the words might be.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another five to ten minutes to fill in the gaps using the correct words from the box in Exercise 1. Make it clear that there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and that there are four extra words which should not be used.
4. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. attention 2. disagreement 3. species 4. consequence 5. fewer
6. deforestation 7. America 8. decreasing 9. protect 10. ago 11. food
12. deforested 13. away 14. place 15. slow

Words that should not be used: increasing, less, cut, part, facts

5. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to turn over their copies of Worksheet A, or to hand them back to you temporarily. Then ask them to attempt Exercise 2 on Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A but with 20 mistakes: their task is to identify and correct these mistakes. Point out that no line of text contains more than one mistake, that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
6. Check answers in open class. You could also hand out copies of Worksheet D, which contains the full text with the 25 corrections in bold.

Answers: See Worksheet D.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7963489.stm>

Ahead of the climate change summit in Copenhagen in December, a BBC article (March 2009) suggesting that 2009 would be a 'crunch year' for efforts to slow deforestation. Challenging for intermediate level.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_3540000/newsid_3546300/3546395.stm

A lesson on Amazon deforestation from the teachers' section of the BBC *Newsround* website. Appropriate for intermediate level.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/deforestation>

A collection of articles on deforestation on the website of the *Guardian* newspaper. Challenging for intermediate level.