Deforestation

Deforestation used to be something that few people apart from environmentalists talked about, but in the last twenty years or so, it has received increasing (1) ________ from governments and the media, and is now generally considered one of the world’s most serious environmental problems.

There is (2) ________ about how much forest has been disappearing, but few people doubt there is much less forest now than there was, say, fifty years ago.

Deforestation leads to the extinction of many (3) ________ of forest animals and the erosion of soil after trees have been removed, but the (4) ________ of deforestation that we hear most about is its contribution to global warming. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) from the Earth’s atmosphere, so (5) ________ trees means higher levels of CO2, which contributes to the atmosphere becoming warmer. Many scientists estimate that about 20% of global warming is due to (6) ________.

Deforestation is taking place mostly in developing countries in tropical regions of South and Southeast Asia, Central and South (7) ________, and Africa. Perhaps the most well-known case is the (8) ________ size of the huge Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil.

Many people around the world say these developing countries should do more to (9) ________ their forests – although the developing countries could point out that most of the world’s developed countries destroyed most of their own forests many centuries (10) ________.

In some cases, deforestation is caused by poor people who want to use the wood for fuel or to clear a small amount of land in order to grow (11) ________ for their families. In many cases, however, it happens because there are large profits to be made – for example, from selling the wood, or from growing crops (such as soybeans), or raising animals (such as cattle, for beef) on the land after the trees are gone. Produce from (12) ________ land is often exported, so there is often a link between what people choose to buy in their local stores and what happens to forests in countries thousands of miles (13) ________.

Deforestation will be among the subjects discussed at the very important United Nations climate change summit taking (14) ________ in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December, when it is hoped that developed and developing countries will be able to come to an agreement about ways to (15) ________ down global warming.
## Deforestation

### Exercise 1
Fill in the blanks in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the table below. There are five extra words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>consequence</th>
<th>increasing</th>
<th>protect</th>
<th>less</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>slow</td>
<td>place</td>
<td>deforestation</td>
<td>deforested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>food</td>
<td>attention</td>
<td>cut</td>
<td>species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decreasing</td>
<td>part</td>
<td>fewer</td>
<td>away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ago</td>
<td>disagreement</td>
<td>facts</td>
<td>America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deforestation

Exercise 2
The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains twenty mistakes – can you find and correct them?

Deforestation used to be something that few people apart from environmentalists talked about, but in the last twenty years and so, it has received increasing attention from governments and the media, and is now generally considered one of the world’s most serious environmental problems.

There is disagreement about how much forest has disappearing, but few people doubt there is much less forest now than there was, say, fifty years ago.

Deforestation leads to the extinction of many species of forest animals and the erosion of soil after trees have been removed, but the consequence of deforestation that we hear most about is its contribution to global warming. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the Earth’s atmosphere, so fewer trees means higher levels of CO₂, which contributes to the atmosphere becoming warmer. Many scientists estimate that about 20% of global warming is due to deforestation.

Deforestation is taking place mostly in developing countries in tropical regions of South and Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and Africa. Perhaps the more well-known case is the decreasing size of the huge Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil.

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In some cases, deforestation is cause by poor people who want to use the wood for fuel or to clear a small amount of land in orders to grow food for their families. In many cases, however, it happens because there are large profits to be done – for example, from selling the wood, or from growing crops (such as soybeans), or railing animals (such as cattle, for beef) on the land after the trees are gone. Produce from deforested land is often exported, so there is often a lank between what people choose to buy in their local stores and what happens forests in countries thousands of miles away.

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