

e-lesson

Week starting: November 30, 2009

1. UN Climate Change Conference

This week's lesson is about the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in which countries have an opportunity to make concrete commitments to tackling global warming.

Level

Upper intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B2 and above).

How to use the lesson

1. Do your students agree with the consensus that global warming is a serious problem? What should be done to reduce it? Do all countries have equal responsibilities? Are your students aware of the important United Nations conference about to take place in Copenhagen? What would they say at the conference if they were one of their country's representatives?
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the true/false/doesn't determine questions in Exercise 1 and the comprehension questions in Exercise 2.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. F 2. D 3. T 4. T 5. F 6. F 7. F 8. D

Exercise 2

1. They don't agree about how to share the burden of cutting total emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. They want the world's richest countries to reduce their emissions to at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020.
3. He did it as a publicity stunt to call attention to the fact that The Maldives are particularly threatened by global warming.
4. An international environmental treaty with legally binding commitments with regard to emissions cuts.
5. They predict global temperatures will rise by at least five degrees Celsius by 2100.
6. They were wearing scuba diving equipment.
7. Human activities such as fossil-fuel burning and deforestation.
8. The three principles are that developed nations must make substantial cuts to their emissions, that developing countries must agree to limit the future growth of their emissions, and that rich countries must provide financial help to poor countries to help them achieve their goals and cope with the effects of global warming.

Exercise 3

1. emissions 2. stunt 3. burden 4. deforestation 5. principles 6. cope
7. calling 8. diving 9. reluctant 10. substantial 11. commitments 12. fossil 13. lying

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *European Union* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related Websites

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

<http://en.cop15.dk/>

The official website of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, December 2009. Accessible to upper intermediate level.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/11/23/ap/business/main5752690.shtml?tag=contentMain;contentBody>

The latest update about the USA's plans for an emission target at the Copenhagen conference, from CBS News. Accessible to upper intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8345343.stm>

A useful summary from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) of the positions of the key countries attending the Copenhagen conference. Accessible to upper intermediate level.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/asiapcf/10/17/maldives.underwater.meeting/index.html>

A CNN article on the underwater cabinet meeting held by the president of The Maldives in October 2009 to raise international awareness of the implications of climate change for low-lying islands. Accessible to upper intermediate level.