



Pollution and Recycling

Task: Reducing, Reusing, Recycling

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 7.

You are going to hear a talk about **reducing, reusing and recycling**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

The three Rs are very important, and just about everybody knows about them. They stand for reduce, reuse and recycle. This is beneficial to society, and the world as a whole. This is why it is in your interest to make them part of your life. People didn't use to recycle so much in the past, but nowadays society is much more aware about this.

So, the problem is that everybody should be following these rules, but they don't. Let's consider some of the problems by not following them. One part is that a good portion of the plastic that we use ends up in the oceans, and it is hurting, as well as killing, sea life. Another aspect is that plastic creates greenhouse gases, which is heating the atmosphere and warming the planet. In addition, by not taking the time to recycle, landfills are filling up faster. When they are filled, new land needs to be used and repurposed for this, which is not ideal. Looking at another problem is there are certain things that we throw away that could have been recycled and therefore we are wasting resources since they have to be replaced, finding new materials through mining. This is especially true about plastic. Furthermore, as plastic decomposes, it can produce chemicals into the soil and groundwater. Scientists have discovered that this can notably alter the hormones in animals and humans, and other risks are still being investigated.

Now, if we consider some solutions, a way of simply decreasing the problem is reusing what we can. For example, before throwing a bottle away, consider if you can refill it or upcycle it into something else. For example, 5 litre plastic bottles can become buckets, pot holders and be used for multiple crafts. Also, if we were to recycle more, this would keep materials like plastic out of landfills and would reduce the greenhouse gases that we are creating. Moreover, when items are thrown into the garbage the materials are lost, and in order to not have to replace it with new material, the simplest thing we ought to do is recycle. This will help waste less resources. Another thing that is easy to recycle is paper and by doing this it may help reduce deforestation. Preserving trees are important for the carbon dioxide they absorb and oxygen they produce. Paper can be recycled over and over again. Finally, if we reduce the use of certain materials, we are preventing creating waste and protecting our water sources, soil, production of oxygen and so on.

To sum up, there is no doubt that this is something important, but how might we convince people to reduce, reuse and recycle. The problem is considerable and present and the



solution is as simple as those three words. However, everybody must be on board so as to make a real difference in the world. Will reducing, reusing and recycling be carried out by you?

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me the problems of not reducing, reusing and recycling, as well as the solutions.

Now tell me the problems of not reducing, reusing and recycling, as well as the solutions. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• plastic ends up in the oceans: hurting and killing sea life• plastic creates greenhouse gases: heating the atmosphere and warming the planet.• landfills filling up faster: new land needs to be repurposed• wasting resources by not recycling• plastic can produce chemicals into the soil and groundwater
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reusing by upcycling: 5 litre bottle into a bucket, pot holders, crafts• Recycling: keep plastic out of landfills• Recycle: waste less material and resources• Recycle: paper / absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen• Reduce: preventing creating waste, protecting water sources, soil, production of oxygen

Marks: +_ / +10