



Designs

Task: The Future of Sustainable Design

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 9.

You are going to hear a talk about **the future of sustainable design**. 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

In the world of environmental sustainability, there are always ongoing discussions about the best ways to balance progress with conservation. Little did we know that this conversation would become increasingly controversial, with differing opinions on the most effective ways to mitigate our environmental impact and leave a positive legacy for future generations. Over the years, many strides will have been created towards creating a more sustainable world, but there is still much work to be done. Will we have been seeing significant progress in the near future, or will we continue to struggle with finding equitable solutions for our environment and society?

No sooner had designers embraced sustainable design than it became evident that it could have been the future of design all along. Sustainable design not only benefits the environment, but it also benefits society and promotes a circular economy. Hence, it's a win-win situation since it reduces waste and conserves resources. What is more, sustainable design prioritizes the use of local materials and labor, thereby promoting social equity and supporting local economies. Namely, sustainable design does not only improve the quality of life through better air quality and comfort, but it also promotes creativity and innovation. Designers have to think outside of the box when it comes to traditional design practices, so they end up creating solutions for complex problems. Therefore, doing sustainable design is not only about designing for the present but also for future generations. Sustainable design can lead to cost savings in the long run through energy efficiency and reduced maintenance costs, that is to say, companies and individuals should consider having a sustainable design approach when building or renovating their spaces to not only save money but also help protect the environment.

On top of that, whereas sustainable design has been noted as having many potential benefits, it also faces several challenges. In other words, sustainable design is not without its drawbacks. For instance, designers may struggle to incorporate sustainable materials and technologies into existing buildings and infrastructure, which can limit the scope for impact. Additionally, the availability of sustainable materials and technologies can vary depending on location, which can create barriers for designers in certain regions. Sustainability may also be seen as a luxury that some people struggle to see as a priority. Furthermore, sustainable design can sometimes sacrifice aesthetics and functionality for environmental



considerations. Not to mention, the adoption of sustainable design practices and policies may be hindered by political and economic factors, such as lack of government regulation and corporate resistance to change. Nevertheless, sustainable design has been seen as an important solution for addressing environmental concerns, and designers must consider incorporating sustainable practices in their work despite the challenges.

All in all, if only we might have embraced sustainable design earlier, we could have avoided some of the challenges it currently faces. However, we have reached a critical juncture where either we prioritize sustainable design or we face the dire consequences of inaction. Neither iconic architecture nor short-term cost savings should take precedence over the long-term health of our planet. Only when we collectively recognize the urgency of the situation and commit to sustainable design practices can we hope to create a better future for ourselves and future generations. So the question begs to differ: if we have the power to make a positive impact on our planet through sustainable design, why not take action now and make it a priority for the future?

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 about **the benefits and drawbacks of sustainable design.**

Now tell me about **the benefits and drawbacks of sustainable design.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Benefits of Sustainable Design:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable design promotes a circular economy, reducing waste and conserving resources.• Sustainable design prioritizes the use of local materials and labor; promoting social equity and supporting local economies.• Improves quality of life through better air quality, comfort and promotes creativity and innovation.• Designers end up creating solutions for complex problems.• Sustainable design can lead to cost savings in the long run through energy efficiency and reduced maintenance costs.
Drawbacks of Sustainable Design:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designers may struggle to incorporate sustainable materials and technologies into existing buildings and infrastructure, limiting the scope for impact.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Availability of sustainable materials and technologies can vary depending on location, creating barriers for designers.• Sustainability may also be seen as a luxury that some people struggle to see as a priority.• Sustainable design can sometimes sacrifice aesthetics and functionality for environmental considerations.• The adoption of sustainable design practices and policies may be hindered by political and economic factors, such as lack of government regulation and corporate resistance to change.
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Marks: +_ / +10



Grammar Used in the listening task:

- Verbs with infinitive or Gerunds
- Passives with Modal Verbs
- should / must / might / could + perfect infinitive
- wish / hope / if only
- either....or (else)..... / neither.....nor.....
- hence / whereas / what is more / On top of that
- namely / in other words / for instance / that is to say
- Inversion:
 - Little did I know / realize / think (Little did I know that I would end up moving here.)
 - Only by....will you.... (Only by working hard will you pass your exam.)
 - Only when....did I.... (Only when he explained it did I understand it.)
 - No sooner.....than.... (No sooner had we left than it started raining.)