



The Rights of the Individual

Task: Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **the relationship between economic growth and environmental sustainability**. 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 relationship between economic growth and environmental sustainability is a **jaw-dropping** and **controversial** topic that demands thorough exploration. Balancing the pursuit of economic progress with the imperative to preserve our natural environment is an **absolutely** crucial endeavor. As the consequences of unchecked economic growth become increasingly evident, it is crucial to reflect upon the impacts of human activities on the planet. Despite the urgency, finding common ground and establishing effective measures can be a challenging task. It is essential to approach this complex issue with a clear understanding of the interconnectedness of economic development and environmental preservation. **Sadly enough**, **the written document** of our actions and decisions will shape the future of our planet, highlighting the importance of proactive and responsible decision-making to ensure a sustainable and harmonious coexistence between economic growth and environmental well-being.

The impacts of economic growth on the environment are profound and far-reaching. **Not only does economic growth drive increased industrial activities**, but it also amplifies the release of pollutants into the air, water, and soil, leading to air pollution, water contamination, and soil degradation. Additionally, the demand for land and resources fueled by economic growth often results in deforestation, as agricultural expansion, urbanization, and industrialization encroach upon forests. Moreover, economic growth is closely linked to increased energy consumption, resulting in heightened greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and global warming. Furthermore, economic growth places immense pressure on natural resources such as minerals, fossil fuels, and freshwater, depleting them at an alarming rate that cannot be replenished **relatively quickly**. These environmental consequences highlight the need to address the impacts of economic growth at the **highest possible level**, implementing sustainable practices and policies to ensure a more balanced and environmentally conscious approach to economic development. These environmental consequences, at an **extremely** concerning level, demand immediate attention and action. It is essential to address the challenges posed by economic growth and find solutions that can steer us towards a sustainable future. By adopting environmentally conscious practices and policies, we can navigate through **a confused** and complex landscape, working towards a harmonious coexistence between economic growth and environmental well-being.



With that in mind, achieving environmental sustainability requires the implementation of diverse strategies that address the pressing challenges faced by our planet. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, is the **best possible location** to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease carbon emissions. Encouraging sustainable agriculture practices, prioritizing soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity, while reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, is crucial for nurturing our ecosystems. Promoting a circular economy that minimizes waste, fosters the reuse and recycling of materials, and designs products for durability and resource efficiency is **only if we** aspire to create a sustainable future. Implementing conservation measures to protect natural habitats, endangered species, and biodiversity, including the establishment of protected areas and wildlife reserves, is the **most wanted** action to safeguard the richness of our ecosystems. Furthermore, enacting and enforcing environmental regulations and policies that promote sustainable practices, set emission targets, and encourage responsible resource management are **extremely well-needed** to guide our journey towards environmental sustainability. **Surprisingly enough**, by adopting these strategies **totally**, we can strive to achieve a more balanced and harmonious relationship between human activities and the natural world. For individuals from all walks of life, including the **well-to-do**, let's move forward with these strategies that pave the way for a sustainable future.

To sum up, the complex relationship between economic growth and environmental sustainability necessitates careful consideration and proactive measures. **Having said that**, it is clear that if **society had recognized the importance of balancing economic progress with environmental well-being earlier**, it would be in a much more sustainable position today. By acknowledging the interconnectedness of these aspects and implementing policies that promote responsible resource management, renewable energy adoption, sustainable agriculture, and conservation efforts, we can strive towards a more harmonious future. It is **perfectly well** within our reach to achieve both economic prosperity and environmental sustainability, provided that we prioritize long-term interests over short-term gains. Through collective action and commitment, we can pave the way for an **incredibly positive and sustainable future**. **Luckily enough**, the opportunity to shape a better world still lies within our hands.

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 point of view of the speaker, impacts of economic growth on the environment and strategies for achieving environmental sustainability**.

Now tell me **about the point of view of the speaker, impacts of economic growth on the environment and strategies for achieving environmental sustainability**. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

<p>Point of View</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental sustainability is crucial for long-term survival and prosperity. Prioritize responsible resource management, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and conservation. Balance economic growth and environment. Act now for a healthier planet and better future.
<p>Impacts of economic growth on the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution: Economic growth can lead to increased industrial activities and the release of pollutants into the air, water, and soil, causing air pollution, water contamination, and soil degradation. • Deforestation: Economic growth often leads to increased demand for land and resources, resulting in deforestation to make way for agriculture, urbanization, and industrial activities. • Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Economic growth is often accompanied by increased energy consumption, which in turn leads to higher greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change and global warming. • Depletion of Natural Resources: Economic growth can place significant pressure on natural resources such as minerals, fossil fuels, and freshwater, depleting them faster than they can be replenished.
<p>Strategies for achieving environmental sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy Transition: Promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower carbon emissions. • Sustainable Agriculture: Encouraging sustainable farming practices that prioritize soil health, water conservation, biodiversity, and reduced use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. • Circular Economy: Promoting the concept of a circular economy that focuses on minimizing waste, reusing and recycling materials, and designing products for durability and resource efficiency. • Conservation and Biodiversity Protection: Implementing conservation measures to protect natural habitats, endangered species, and biodiversity, including the establishment of protected areas and wildlife reserves. • Policy and Regulation: Enacting and enforcing environmental regulations and policies that promote sustainable practices, set emission targets, and encourage responsible resource management.



Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **inversions: not only....but**
- **compound adjectives: jaw-dropping / well-to-do**
- **modifiers: absolutely / extremely / incredibly / totally**
- **Past participle as adjective: the most wanted player / a written document / a confused girl**
- **superlative + postmodifier + noun: best possible location / highest possible level**
- **adverb + enough: surprisingly enough / sadly enough / luckily enough**
- **adverb + adverb: perfectly well / extremely well / relatively quickly**
- **Mix Conditional: If society had realized this mistake earlier, it would be a different world today.**
- **Perfect Infinitive: Having said that,...**