

to pollute [pə'lu:t]

water pollution

noise pollution

a polluter

a pollutant

polluting

to pollute little / a lot

non-polluting, eco-friendly products

to reduce, curb pollution

to waste

wastage

polluer

la pollution de l'eau

la pollution sonore

un pollueur

un polluant, une substance polluante

polluant

être peu / très polluant

produits non polluants

diminuer la pollution

gaspiller

le gaspillage OU les déchets

The "**polluter pays principle**" says that a polluter should bear (*supporter*) the cost of pollution. It was adopted at the Earth Summit of 1992 and is therefore included in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted during that summit.

air pollution

smog

a pollution peak

factory smoke, factory fumes [fju:mz]

car exhausts [ɪg'zɔ:sts], exhaust fumes

unleaded, lead-free petrol

a catalytic converter

to monitor air quality

to have difficulty breathing

asthma ['æsmə]

la pollution de l'air, la pollution
atmosphérique

le smog

un pic de pollution

les fumées d'usine

les gaz d'échappement

l'essence sans plomb

un pot catalytique

surveiller la qualité de l'air

avoir du mal à respirer

l'asthme

Britain passed its first **Clean Air Act** (*loi sur la pureté de l'air*) in 1956 in response to the **Great Smog** of December 1952 (a period of five days when a mixture of fog, chimney smoke and other pollutants formed a thick blanket over London, resulting in several thousand premature deaths). It stipulated that power stations (*centrales thermiques*) had to be relocated to rural areas. The 2008 EU's clean directive, which became law in 2010, set limits for nitrogen dioxide, a toxic gas produced by diesel vehicles. Since 2005 manufacturers throughout the EU have had to ensure that carbon emissions from cars are 130g CO₂ per kilometre, down from 188g in 1998. Nevertheless the situation remains critical in London, one of the most polluted cities on the planet, where 9,500 early deaths are caused by air pollution every year.

nitrates ['naɪtreɪts]	les nitrates
fertilizers ['fɜːtɪlaɪzə'z]	les engrais
groundwater	la nappe phréatique
to poison ['pɔɪzən] rivers	contaminer les rivières
to contaminate	contaminer
a contaminant	un polluant, une substance polluante
a toxic chemical	une substance chimique toxique
dioxin [daɪ'ɒksɪn]	la dioxine
harmful	nocif
the sewage system	les égouts
a sewer ['sjʊə]	un égout
sewage ['suːɪdʒ, 'sjʊːɪdʒ], waste water	les eaux usées
a sewage works, a sewage plant (US), a sewage farm (GB)	une station d'épuration des eaux
asbestos	l'amiante
to remove asbestos from a building	désamianter un bâtiment
lead poisoning [led 'pɔɪznɪŋ]	le saturnisme
PCBs	les PCB
CFCs	les gaz CFC
the ozone layer ['əʊzəʊn 'leɪə]	la couche d'ozone
acid rains	les pluies acides

The term **Anthropocene** (from the Greek *anthropos* 'man' and *kainos*, 'new, recent') has been coined to refer to a distinct geological era which started when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's ecosystems. Scientists do not agree when this was, however: many think it should be the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century, but others have proposed the mid-20th century, while yet others date it back to the invention of agriculture (the so-called **Agricultural Revolution** or Neolithic Revolution) about 12,000 years ago, in which case it would almost coincide with the **Holocene**.

an oil slick	une marée noire
an oil spill	un déversement accidentel de pétrole
oil-covered birds	des oiseaux mazoutés
to empty one's tanks, to flush out one's tanks	dégazer
oil tankers emptying their tanks, discharging waste oil	le dégazage

The **Blacksmith Institute** is a New York based NGO whose purpose is to support environmental projects in conjunction with donors and governments. It identifies locations in the developing world where human health is most affected by pollution and designs (*conçoit*) remediation strategies. According to the Blacksmith Institute, the top pollution problems in the world today include radioactive waste, industrial mining (*exploitations minières*), groundwater (*nappe phréatique*) contamination, untreated sewage and air pollution.

waste, rubbish (GB), garbage (US)	les ordures, les détrit, les déchets
toxic / organic waste	les déchets toxiques / organiques
litter	les détrit

to dispose of waste
 hazardous waste
 household refuse, household rubbish
 disposable [dis'pəʊzəbl]
 biodegradable
 to collect waste
 waste collection
 a waste collection centre
 a dustman (GB), a garbage man (US)
 a dustbin, a bin (GB), a garbage can (US)
 a wheelie bin
 a bin lorry, a dust cart (GB), a garbage truck (US)
 a bin liner

éliminer des déchets
 les déchets dangereux
 les ordures ménagères
 jetable
 biodégradable
 ramasser des déchets
 le ramassage des ordures
 une déchetterie
 un éboueur
 une boîte à ordures, une poubelle
 une poubelle (à roulettes)
 un camion poubelle
 un sac poubelle

British women discard (*se débarrassent de*) their hairdryers after three years, usually in favour of another one that simply looks different. The average ownership of a mobile phone lasts 18 months... "We don't throw things away because they are broken - it's usually because we have fallen out of love with them (*on ne les aime plus*)," says Jonathan Chapman, a senior lecturer in design at the University of Brighton, who is trying to promote what he calls "emotionally durable" design as a way of reducing the generation (*production*) of toxic waste.
New Statesman, February 5th, 2007

to dump rubbish
 to throw away
 a rubbish dump (GB), a garbage dump (US), a rubbish tip, a dumping ground
 an illicit rubbish dump
 to bury
 a landfill
 to burn
 to destroy
 an incinerator
 to melt
 a leak [li:k]

déposer, jeter des ordures
 jeter
 une décharge, un dépotoir
 une décharge sauvage
 enterrer, enfouir
 un site d'enfouissement des ordures
 brûler
 détruire
 un incinérateur
 fondre
 une fuite

Any time space shuttles travel into space they leave debris behind. It might be tools, old engine parts, fuel tanks or even an astronaut's gloves. Satellites eventually wear out (*s'user*) and stop working. They, too, become **space junk**. Most of this junk orbits around the Earth, although some of it is found deeper in space. It can cause serious problems: working satellites can crash into space junk, creating even more space junk. Sometimes space junk falls back to the Earth. Most of the time it burns up before it reaches the ground, but not always. So far, no-one's been seriously hurt because because it often lands in oceans or places where very few people live.

nuclear waste
 radioactive fallout ['fɔ:laut]

les déchets nucléaires
 retombées radioactives

radioactivity
 carcinogenic [ka:rsi'nə'dʒenɪk]
 to dispose of nuclear waste
 nuclear waste disposal
 a container
 hermetically sealed containers
 a leak [li:k]
 the storage of nuclear waste
 the precautionary principle,
 the safety-first principle

la radioactivité
 cancérogène
 éliminer les déchets nucléaires
 l'élimination des déchets nucléaires
 un conteneur
 des conteneurs hermétiquement fermés
 une fuite
 le stockage des déchets radioactifs
 le principe de précaution

On 28 March, 1979, a malfunction (*dysfonctionnement*) in the cooling system of a reactor at the **Three Mile Island** nuclear facility (in Pennsylvania, USA) caused a partial meltdown (*fusion*) of the reactor core (*cœur*). This led to the release of a significant amount of radioactivity. The incident is said to have caused deaths from lung cancer and leukemia (*leucémie*) but this is disputed (*contesté*) by the nuclear industry. It was the worst civilian nuclear accident in the US.

to process waste
 to sort
 sorting, waste separation
 a bottle bank
 rags
 cardboard
 scrap metal
 packaging
 a can of beer, a beer can
 a glut [glʌt]

traiter, transformer des déchets
 trier
 le tri sélectif
 un conteneur de verre
 des chiffons
 le carton
 la ferraille
 les emballages
 une boîte de bière
 un surplus, un excès

As the world's population grows, people are consuming more, creating more trash, and countries are looking for ways to deal with it that put less stress on the environment.

Many are part of a growing movement sometimes called Zero Waste or the Circular Economy. It entails trying to eliminate tough-to-recycle items like flimsy (*mince*) plastic bags and also pioneering new ways to recycle or compost everything else. Often, cities around the world have led the way, including Portland, Oregon; Seattle; and Milan, as well as the Basque region in Spain. That has given rise to a trash tourism circuit... [But] skeptics contend that the energy and other resource costs required to recycle some items are not worth the investment.

The New York Times, 2016

recycling
 to recycle plastic
 recyclable
 a recycling plant
 recycling costs

le recyclage
 recycler le plastique
 recyclable
 une usine de recyclage
 les coûts de recyclage

Don't just bin it, recycle it (slogan on London bin lorry)

Exercices

01. La traduction des mots suivants ne pose qu'un problème d'orthographe.
1. l'asthme • 2. la dioxine • 3. contaminer • 4. détruire • 5. toxique

02. Tous les mots nécessaires pour compléter ces phrases ont la même racine.
1. The river has been heavily with dangerous industrial waste.
2. The "..... pays principle" is mentioned in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted by the Earth Summit in 1992.
3. Sulphur dioxide is one of several that are released into the atmosphere by coal-fired power stations.
4. Lake Erie was considered a "dead" body of water because of its severe
5. The reliance on vehicles is exacerbating climate change.

03. Trouver les dérivés des mots-racines à gauche.

du mal harm
le plomb lead
le cancer cancer
recycler to recycle
fertiliser to fertilize

.....
.....petrol
.....
.....
.....

nocif
essence sans plomb
cancérigène
recyclage
engrais

04. Quelle est la traduction correcte des faux-amis suivants

1. to collect waste • 2. to monitor air pollution • 3. to curb pollution • 4. to sort waste •
5. hazardous waste

05. Compléter avec la préposition ou particule adéquate ou bien mettre Ø.

1. It will cost a fortune to remove asbestos all public buildings.
2. The amount of rubbish people throw increases as they become richer.
3. The main concern about nuclear energy is how to dispose the waste it generates.
4. With air pollution on the rise, more city-dwellers have difficulty breathing.
5. Owners of tankers flushing their tanks at sea should be brought to justice.

06. Associer les mots suivants: sewage, rag, leak, glut, exhaust à leurs définitions.

1. A is a piece of cloth, often used for cleaning things.
2. is the gas produced when an engine is working.
3. is the mixture of waste from the human body and used water that is carried away from houses by pipes under the ground.
4. A is a supply of something, especially a product or crop, that is more than is needed.
5. A is an escape of gas or liquid through a hole in something.