

Unit 2

Environmental concerns

Part 1 - Beyond small environmental gestures

1.1 - Wealth & the climate crisis

Government action **is necessary to** avoid further pollution.

→ *Avoiding further pollution **requires** government action.*

There is a difference of responsibility between the rich and the poor.

→ *The rich and the poor **differ** in terms of responsibility.*

The main problem is wealth. **It causes** some disruption in the planet's ecosystems.

→ *Wealth, being the main issue, induces some disruption in the planet's ecosystems.*

Part 1 - Beyond small environmental gestures

1.2 - Protecting the planet

Burning fossil
fuel

Destroying
carbon-absorbing
nature

Releasing
carbon dioxide

Greenhouse effect
=
Trapping heat in
the atmosphere
=
Global warming

Shrinking water
supplies

Extreme weather
events & natural
disasters

Wildfires,
disappearance of
coral reefs,...

Capping the hiking temperatures:

- Cutting man-made GGEs
- Phasing out fossil fuel
- Switching to cleaner, sustainable, renewable energy
- Changing our behaviour (energy, food, the excessive consumption of goods)
- Structurally changing society through government actions

Part 1 - Beyond small environmental gestures

1.2 - *Protecting the planet*

Classify the words in italics to differentiate the pronunciation:

climate - *wildlife* - *dioxide* - *fossil* - *greenhouse* - *heat* - *naturally* - *feeling* - *reefs* -
living - *crisis* - *driven* - *rising* - *GGEs* - *need* - *promises* - *policies*

/ai/ as in ice	/ɪ/ as in hit	/i:/ as in speed	/ə/ as in peril

Part 1 - Beyond small environmental gestures

1.2 - *Protecting the planet*

- Extreme weather events: intense rains & floods, droughts, wildfires, monster hurricanes, record heat, and more.
- COP21 → the 2015 Paris Agreement = limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) = National climate action plans = countries pledge (=commit) to reduce their GGEs through targets of:
 - *Carbon neutrality*: buying carbon credits to offset fossil fuel emissions
 - *Net-zero carbon emissions*: eliminating all sources of GGEs
- Current NDCs = on course to +2.6-2.8°C → collapse of ecosystems → extinction of species, food shortages, unlivable places, etc.
- November 2024: COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan:
 - Role of emerging economies? Role of G20 countries?
 - More drastic commitments to reduce emissions?

Part 1 - Beyond small environmental gestures

1.2 - *Protecting the planet*

Find the English words for:

une catastrophe climatique

un engagement, un promesse

sécheresse

les émissions de gaz à effet de serre

un feu de forêt

un récif de corail

un ouragan

être compétitif en terme de coût

une chaleur record

une inondation