




Be More Sustainable


The Environment

- Teacher's Insights -

At a Glance

-  60 minutes
-  **B2, B1**
-  expressing willingness & vocabulary

Preparation

-  0-5 minutes
- Print one worksheet for each student.
- Print the Teacher's Insights or keep them at hand as they contain notes on the exercises.

Exercise Summary

Kickoff: speaking intro / icebreaker

Expressions: learn different ways to express willingness

Speaking I: read tips on being sustainable and use the expressions of willingness to talk about them

Speaking II: end-of-class speaking topic

Debate: if you have extra time, there are some suggestions for holding a debate

Kickoff: What's your least sustainable habit?

The kickoff activity works as an icebreaker and encourages students to reflect on their own habits and identify their least sustainable or eco-friendly habit. This will help them engage with the topic and share their personal experiences, which can lead to a more meaningful discussion.

We all have one (or two) habits that might not be as sustainable as they could. Have a little think and own up: What do you think is the least sustainable or eco-friendly habit you have?

Expressions: Group the sentences below the table into the three categories.

that's impossible / I'm unwilling	I suppose I could	easy peasy lemon squeezy
1	Titled "It's not easy but it could happen" on the screen sharing version 2	3

Here, our goal is to teach students various phrases to express their willingness or unwillingness to do something. This will not only expand their vocabulary but also help them to express their opinions more effectively during the discussions.

The answers (below) are indicative. However, you may mention that the meaning can depend on the tone that students use.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There's no way I'm doing that. = 1 2. That seems doable. = 2/3 3. I don't see why not. = 3 4. I guess I could if I had to. = 2 5. Not a chance in hell. = 1, colloquial 6. That sounds pretty workable. = 3 7. That's out of the question. = 1 8. That's not even worth considering. = 1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. I'm hesitant but it's not impossible. = 2 10. That's very straightforward. = 3 11. It'd be tough but not unconceivable. = 2 12. That sounds effortless. = 3 13. It would be a pretty painless change. = 3 14. Piece of cake! = 3 15. That's easier said than done. = 2 16. It's totally unfeasible. = 1 |
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Speaking I: Have a look at the following tips for being more sustainable. Using your new expressions (above), discuss each of the points.

In this activity, students will apply their new expressions to discuss various tips for being more sustainable. This will help them practise using the expressions in context while also engaging in a meaningful conversation about sustainable habits.

This activity is not aimed to make students feel guilty about their habits, but to express their opinions on what they can and are willing to do, as well as to provoke conversation on the topic.



1. Switch to LED light bulbs around the house.
2. Turn off the lights when leaving a room.
3. Double up on your clothing in winter instead of turning on the heating.
4. Use a fan instead of air conditioning.
5. Stop eating meat.
6. Grow your own food.
7. Waste less food; buy and cook only what you will eat.
8. Avoid letting food go out of date.
9. Switch to an energy provider that uses only renewable energy.
10. Put solar panels on the roof.
11. Take the car less often.
12. Buy an electric vehicle.
13. Shower only once per week.
14. Buy plastic-free toiletries from zero-waste stores.
15. Stop taking flights.
16. Don't take your own vehicle when you travel.
17. Buy more second-hand clothes.
18. Collect scrap paper and use it to take notes, etc.

Speaking II: Are there any other tips you would add to the list?

This activity encourages students to think beyond the given tips and come up with their own suggestions for sustainable habits. This will promote critical thinking and allow students to contribute their unique ideas to the discussion.

The version for screen sharing has two extra questions for discussion:

2. How many of the changes were you willing to make?
3. Which changes do you think are the most important ones?

Extra Activity: If you have extra time, you can hold a debate.

As part of a family, school group, or workplace, ask students to debate and choose three of the sustainability tips to implement. You could ask them to work in groups or individually for this.