

Garbage Solutions



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you feel guilty when you throw out garbage?
2. How have your recycling habits changed in the past ten years?
3. What do cities do when landfills fill up?
4. What are some alternatives to dumping garbage?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. frequent | a) the cement edge at the end of a property |
| ___ 2. restriction | b) waste material turned into reusable soil |
| ___ 3. curb | c) to completely remove |
| ___ 4. compost | d) to search underground |
| ___ 5. eliminate | e) a large space in the ground where garbage is placed |
| ___ 6. landfill | f) usual |
| ___ 7. profitable | g) the opposite outcome of a goal |
| ___ 8. obsolete | h) no longer necessary or in use |
| ___ 9. mine | i) a limit |
| ___ 10. treasure | j) able to make money |
| ___ 11. reverse effect | k) an item with value |

Reading

GARBAGE SOLUTIONS

Don't throw your junk in my backyard.

1. Garbage collection is less **frequent** than it used to be. Many cities have **restrictions** on how many bags you can put out at the **curb**. Recycling and **compost** programs reduce the need for garbage collection. In some cities, you can even recycle diapers. The goal is to reduce or **eliminate** the need for **landfills**.
2. Did you know the garbage industry is **profitable**? Some cities, such as New York, sell their garbage to other countries. Garbage pickers make a living out of sorting through trash. Many people think old dumps should be reopened and **mined** for **treasures** such as metal. Nobody wants to live near a landfill, though.
3. Environmentalists hope that landfills will one day become **obsolete**. One alternative to dumping is to use garbage as fuel. This might have **reverse effects**. Would you bother to recycle if it wasn't necessary? What if all garbage bags were clear? Perhaps our habits would change if everyone could see our trash.

“There is no such thing as ‘away.’ When we throw anything away, it must go somewhere.”

—Annie Leonard,
creator of *The Story of Stuff*

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. How has garbage collection changed in recent years?
2. Why does the reading mention diapers?
3. What does New York do with its garbage?
4. Why might old landfills be reopened in the future?
5. What is implied about using clear garbage bags?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. We are only allowed to put out two bags of garbage at the _____ .
2. You can _____ a lot of waste by starting a _____ bin.
3. The children searched city parks for _____ like bottles and cans.
4. The latest _____ say that we can only water the grass once per week.
5. Composting has the _____ if animals get into the bin and spread garbage around.

B. Place the Word

Where does the word in bold fit in each sentence? Circle the correct letter.

1. **landfill**
Residents are a trying to stop the b city from building a new c in the area.
2. **profitable**
The government a thinks it will be b to reopen c the old landfill to miners.
3. **frequent**
The a garbage truck makes b stops along the c main street.
4. **obsolete**
Wasteful a items like paper towels b will be c in the near future.

Discussion

1. Do you think garbage solutions will have reverse effects?
2. How do you feel about people who pick through garbage?
3. What do you think people will find if closed landfills are reopened?
4. What is the best solution to reducing or eliminating garbage?



Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Do you think garbage will ever be 100% reused or recycled?	Name one wasteful habit you have.	Does your country have a landfill problem?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

GARBAGE SOLUTIONS

Don't throw your junk in my backyard.

1. Garbage collection is less _____ than it used to be. Many cities have _____ on how many bags you can put out at the _____. Recycling and _____ programs reduce the need for garbage collection. In some cities, you can even recycle diapers. The goal is to reduce or _____ the need for _____.
2. Did you know the garbage industry is _____? Some cities, such as New York, sell their garbage to other countries. Garbage pickers make a living out of sorting through trash. Many people think old dumps should be reopened and _____ for _____ such as metal. Nobody wants to live near a landfill, though.
3. Environmentalists hope that landfills will one day become _____. One alternative to dumping is to use garbage as fuel. This might have _____. Would you bother to recycle if it wasn't necessary? What if all garbage bags were clear? Perhaps our habits would change if everyone could see our trash.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about and discuss problems and solutions related to garbage. Includes vocabulary review activities and listening practice.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1–1.5 hours

TAGS: discussion, garbage, waste, garbage solutions, compost, environment, earth

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class. Answers will vary.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. f | 3. a | 5. c | 7. j | 9. d | 11. g |
| 2. i | 4. b | 6. e | 8. h | 10. k | |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- Garbage collection is less frequent now and there are often bag restrictions.
- The reading mentions diapers to show that recycling programs have come a long way.
- New York sells its garbage to other countries.
- Old landfills could be reopened and mined for things like metal.
- The reading implies that people might be more environmentally responsible if garbage bags were clear.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. curb | 4. restrictions |
| 2. eliminate, compost | 5. reverse effect |
| 3. treasures | |

B. PLACE THE WORD

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. b | 3. b | 4. c |
|------|------|------|------|

Discussion

Answers will vary.
Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

- frequent, restrictions, curb, compost, eliminate, landfills
- profitable, mined, treasures
- obsolete, reverse effects