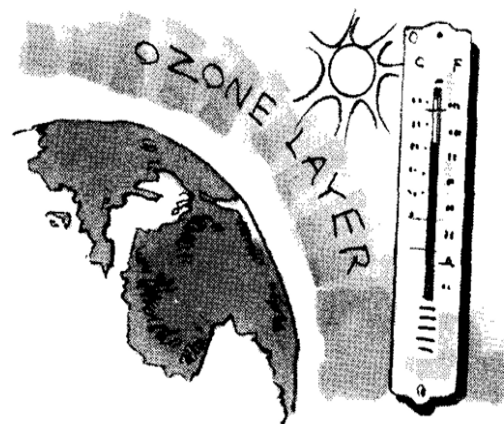


# 85 Pollution and the environment

## A Important definitions

People are more worried about the **environment** (= the air, water, and land around us) as a result of the **harmful** (= dangerous/damaging) effects of human activity. Some of these activities cause **pollution** (= dirty air, land and water) and some are **destroying** the environment (= damaging it so badly that soon parts will not exist). Here are some of the problems:



**the ozone layer:** a layer of gases which stop harmful radiation from the sun reaching the earth; recent research shows that there is now a hole in parts of the ozone layer.

**global warming:** an increase in world temperature caused by an increase in carbon dioxide.

**acid rain:** rain that contains dangerous chemicals; this is caused by smoke from factories.

## B The 'greens'

Because of these problems, there are many groups of people whose aim is **conservation** (= the **protection** of natural things, e.g. plants and animals). They are often referred to as **greens**, e.g. 'Greenpeace' and 'Friends of the Earth'.

## C Common causes of damage

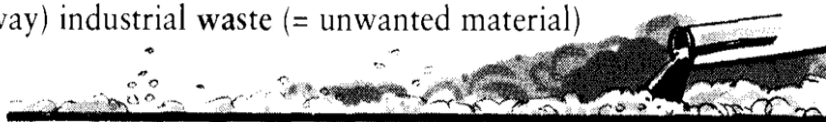
smoke from factories



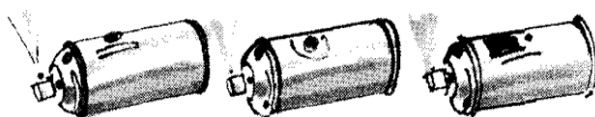
car exhaust fumes



**dumping** (= throwing away) industrial waste (= unwanted material) in seas and rivers



**aerosol cans** (usually called **sprays**). Some of these contain **CFCs** (= a chemical) which can damage the ozone layer.



**cutting down tropical rainforests** (e.g. The Amazon). This increases carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



## D How can we help?

- Don't **throw away** bottles, newspapers, etc. Take them to a **bottle bank** or newspaper bank, and then they can be **recycled** (= used again).
- Plant more trees.
- Don't **waste** (= use badly) **resources**, e.g. water, gas. Try to **save** (≠ waste) them.

*Note:* a **resource** is a valuable possession. There are **natural resources**, e.g. water or gold and **human resources**, e.g. knowledge and skills. The word is usually plural.



# Exercises

**85.1** Fill the gaps to form a compound noun or phrase from the opposite page.

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 the ..... layer | 5 ..... warming          |
| 2 ..... rain      | 6 ..... fumes            |
| 3 ..... waste     | 7 ..... rainforests      |
| 4 a bottle .....  | 8 natural or human ..... |

**85.2** Complete these word-building tables. If necessary, use a dictionary to help you.

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Verb</i>
waste	.....
.....	protect
.....	destroy
pollution	.....
damage	.....

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>
damage	.....
environment	.....
harm	.....
danger	.....
.....	safe

**85.3** Complete the definitions.

- Conservation is the protection of natural things, e.g. .... and .....
- Acid rain is rain that contains dangerous chemicals. It is caused by .....
- The ozone layer is a layer of gases that stop dangerous radiation from the sun from reaching .....
- Global warming is an increase in world temperature caused by an increase in .....
- CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) is a chemical which .....

**85.4** If we want to look after the environment, there are certain things we should and shouldn't do. Complete these two lists in suitable ways.

We should:

- ..... paper, bottles and clothes.
- ..... tropical rainforests.
- ..... more trees.
- ..... water and energy.

We shouldn't:

- ..... paper, bottles and clothes.
- ..... the ozone layer.
- ..... water and energy.
- ..... tropical rainforests.

**85.5** Test your knowledge of words from the opposite page and 'green' issues. Are these statements *true* or *false*?

- CFCs protect the ozone layer.
- 'Greens' believe in conservation.
- A hole in the ozone layer could increase skin cancer.
- Cutting down tropical rainforests increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Plastic cannot be recycled.