

IELTS Environment Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Are there any environmental problems in your country?

Kelly: Yes ... we have a serious issue with **pollution levels** in some of our big cities ... **exhaust fumes** from cars and lorries are definitely one reason for the problem but we also have a lot of **heavy industry** in some areas and this also results in poor **air quality** ...

Examiner: Do you take an interest in nature?

Jenny: Well ... I'm a city person through and through and don't **get back to nature** very often I'm afraid ... but like everyone else I'm fascinated by **the natural world** and I like watching documentaries showing wild animals in their **natural habitat** ...

Examiner: Do you or your family take steps to help the environment?

Mira: My parents have always tried to make us aware of our **impact on the environment** ... they're really into **energy conservation** ... and always try to buy **environmentally friendly** products if they have the chance ...

Part 2-style task

Describe an environmental problem that has been in the news. You should say

- when this was
- where the event happened
- what actually took place

and say how you felt about this problem.

Martin: Well ... this is an interesting question ... there are so many issues I could think of ... **natural disasters** like earthquakes and floods seem to be in the news almost every year ... but there was one story recently about some animals that were **under threat** ... it wasn't focused on one place in particular ... it was looking at various animals that could actually **become extinct** in different African countries ... if we don't take steps to protect them ... these were really iconic animals like gorillas ... leopards ... rhinos ... and apparently they're now listed as **endangered species** ... what made it really depressing was they were in danger thanks to us ... in some cases it was due to a **loss of habitat** either because people need more agricultural production ... or even worse I think ... because of hunting and **poaching** ... I hate to think of **future generations** being robbed of the chance to see creatures like these in their **natural environment** ... it's lucky we have lots of organisations that focus on **wildlife conservation** ... hopefully with their help we can put pressure on those in power to do something to stop creatures like these **dying out** ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?

Spencer: Well ... **climate change** is a real issue ... in my country we have **flash floods** and heatwaves on a yearly basis ... so yes ... I think **global warming** is the biggest issue.

Examiner: What examples are there of how we damage the natural world?

Stella: There are so many examples ... there are factories that empty **toxic waste** into rivers and oceans ... **oil spills** that damage the coastline ... the way we destroy vast areas of land and rain forests in search of **fossil fuels** or to increase agricultural production ...

Examiner: In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?

Mathius: Well ... on the one hand there are various worldwide agencies that are always the first on the scene with **humanitarian aid** after natural and **man-made disasters** ... and on the other hand we have environmental **pressure groups** that are constantly raising awareness of issues and trying to stop disasters happening ...

Definitions

- **air quality**: the cleanliness of the air we breathe
- **to become extinct**: to no longer exist
- **to be under threat**: to be in danger of becoming extinct
- **climate change**: the change in worldwide weather patterns
- **to die out**: see 'to become extinct'

- **endangered species**: categories of animals or plants that are in danger of becoming extinct
- **energy conservation**: the careful management of energy resources to ensure they last as long as possible
- **environmentally friendly**: behaviour and products that do not harm the environment
- **exhaust fumes**: the toxic gases given off by vehicles powered by petrol
- **flash floods**: floods that happen quickly
- **fossil fuels**: energy resources like gas and oil that are produced deep below the ground over millions of years
- **future generations**: the people who live after us
- **to get back to nature**: to live a life that is closer to nature
- **global warming**: the increasing temperature of the world brought about by gases such as carbon dioxide
- **heavy industry**: the manufacture of heavy articles and materials in large numbers
- **humanitarian aid**: the act of showing support to people struggling to survive
- **impact on**: the effect on
- **loss of habitat**: the decline in areas of land where animals and plants would normally exist
- **man-made disaster**: widespread damage or loss of life brought about by the action of humans
- **natural disaster**: an event such as an earthquake, flood or hurricane which causes widespread damage or loss of life
- **natural environment**: the place where animals and plants would normally be found in nature
- **the natural world**: the world of nature

- **oil spill:** waste usually deposited in the seas and oceans after an accident at sea
- **poaching:** to hunt and kill wild animals illegally
- **pollution levels:** the amount of toxic waste
- **pressure group:** a group of people who try to raise awareness of issues and try to affect the views and actions of people and organisations
- **toxic waste:** poisonous, unwanted rubbish often produced by industrial processes
- **wildlife conservation:** to protect animals and plants and their habitats

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Environment

Vocabulary:

- **air quality:** the cleanliness of the air we breathe. *Due to the opening of a new factory nearby, the air quality here went down.*
- **bio-diversity:** a diversity in nature, among plants and animals. *Nowadays, we suffer the loss of bio-diversity.*
- **endangered species:** a category of animals or plants that might become extinct. *White rhinos are endangered species. There are only 5 white rhinos left in the world.*
- **environmentally friendly:** products that do not harm the environment. *I try to use only environmentally friendly goods in order to preserve the nature.*
- **exhaust fumes:** gases, ejected from an engine as waste products. *I bought an electric car to avoid producing exhaust fumes when I drive.*
- **fossil fuels:** energy resources like gas and oil. *Gas is one of the most well-known fossil fuels.*
- **global warming:** an increase in temperature all-over the world, as a result of greenhouse effect. *Global warming is a very serious problem that our society is dealing with.*
- **greenhouse effect:** heating of the atmosphere due to the carbon dioxide and other gases. *Greenhouse effect causes global warming.*
- **melting of glaciers:** the process of icebergs' melting. *Melting of glaciers increases the sea-level.*
- **natural disaster:** an event like an earthquake, hurricane etc. *I experienced a natural disaster in the form of an earthquake last year.*
- **paper recycling:** the processes of reprocessing waste paper for reuse. *It was found that paper recycling causes 35% less water pollution and 74% less air pollution than making virgin paper.*
- **poacher:** one who kills or takes wild animals illegally. *Poaching is considered a violation of hunting rules and impedes wildlife conservation.*
- **toxic waste:** poisonous rubbish, produced by industrial processes. *Many factories in my city dump toxic waste into rivers and lakes.*

Useful phrases:

- **to become extinct:** to stop existing. *Dinosaurs became extinct many centuries ago.*
- **to be under threat:** to be in danger of becoming extinct. *White Rhinos are under the threat of becoming extinct.*

- **to dry up:** to have all the water drained away. *The small river in my hometown dried up this summer due to the enormous heat.*
- **to get back to nature:** live a life that is closer to nature. *My friend decided to leave his boring job and move to the countryside to get back to nature.*
- **to litter:** to throw rubbish in inappropriate places. *I always try to find a garbage bin to throw my trash in. I don't like to litter.*