

Rubbish? Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!

1. Read.

Everything we use in our daily lives is made from the earth's **natural resources**: water, coal, oil, gas, rocks, plants and animals.

Unfortunately, making things does not only use up a lot of energy and resources, but also results in loads of rubbish.

Rubbish is made up of all the things we throw away when we don't want them any longer. Today we produce a lot of rubbish as a result of population growth and increased standards of living. But what happens to rubbish if you don't collect it properly?

1- We put our rubbish into a **bin**.



2- The bin is emptied into a **refuse-collecting lorry**.

3- The refuse-collecting lorry takes the rubbish to a landfill site, where it is buried, or to an **incinerator**, where it is burnt.



It is not so easy to get rid of rubbish and, if we don't handle it properly, rubbish leads to **pollution**.

The most obvious form of pollution is **litter** on the ground, but pollution also affects air and water as well as land. For example, spilled crude oil can cause a lot of harm to the **environment**.

So how can we best deal with rubbish and help make the world a better place?

We can apply the 3 Rs - reduce, re-use and recycle. '**Reduce**' means producing less rubbish in the first place. An example is to reduce the **packaging** of products. '**Re-use**' means using something again and giving things a second life; for example, you can give your old clothes to someone else or refill your ink cartridges. '**Recycle**' means making something new out of old things. We can recycle many materials, including glass, paper and metal. In fact, it is possible to recycle up to 80% of our rubbish. By reducing, re-using and recycling the quantity of rubbish we produce, we can make a difference - we can use up less of the world's resources and cause less pollution.

Just do it!



2. Use the 8 highlighted words/phrases from Exercise 1 to complete the definitions.

- _____ is rubbish that people drop in a public place.
- Water, coal, oil, gas, rocks, plants and animals are all _____.
- A _____ is a vehicle which collects rubbish and takes it to a landfill site.
- The _____ is the natural world where we live.
- An _____ is a container where rubbish is burnt at high temperatures.
- _____ is the materials used to wrap and protect products.
- A _____ is a container where we put rubbish.
- _____ is the process of making air, water and land dirty.

3. Read the text again and answer these questions. Then, practise in pairs.

- Can you mention a few natural resources?
- Can you give a definition of 'rubbish'?
- Why do we produce a lot of rubbish today?
- What happens to rubbish in everyday life?
- Can you name a common form of pollution?
- What are the 3 Rs?
- Can you give some information about each of them?

4. How good are you at separate refuse collection? Put the items into the correct bins.

jam jar



magazine



cardboard



yoghurt pot



olive oil bottle



can



envelope



washing-up liquid bottle



apple core