

## Speaking and Reading

- 1 a Do the quiz.

## On average, how many litres of water does ...



- 1 a British person use every day?  
a) 25                      b) 75                      c) 155
- 2 a person living in sub-Saharan Africa use every day?  
a) 20                      b) 55                      c) 80
- 3 a washing machine use?  
a) 25                      b) 65                      c) 90
- 4 a shower take?  
a) 35                      b) 40                      c) 45
- 5 a toilet flush use?  
a) 2                        b) 6                        c) 8

- b Work in pairs. Compare answers.

- 2 a Read the article about saving water. Check your answers to 1. Did the writer manage to use only 20 litres of water?
- b Read the article again. Tick the true sentences. Correct the false ones.
- Insufficient water and food will cause problems in Europe in the future. *No, It will cause problems globally.*
  - Water shortages could be the cause of wars in the near future.
  - Britain is likely to suffer from water shortages.
  - Sophie, the writer, used only one litre of water in the morning.
  - Her lunch increased her water use very little.
  - Using cotton wool at the end of the day put her consumption above 20 litres.
  - Since the 1970s, water use has increased at the same rate as the growth of food production.
  - It can take ten times more water to grow rice compared to potatoes.

## The big turn off: how little water can you consume?

By Sophie Morris

At the World Economic Forum in January 2008, the UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, warned that water and food shortages would be the next big global crises. In the next few years, we may well witness serious conflicts not over oil, but water shortages, provoked by climate change, population growth and poor water management.

The average Brit uses about 155 litres of water each day, compared with 20 litres for most people living in sub-Saharan Africa. Water might flow freely from our taps, but our small island is not immune to global shortages. Water is a limited commodity and is becoming more expensive as its supply grows more difficult to guarantee.

How do we get through almost nine times more water each day than someone living in Africa? Thirsty Planet, a bottled water brand, challenged me to survive on 20 litres for 24 hours to find out.

I discovered pretty quickly that we waste the larger part of those 155 litres. When I wake up, I fill a measuring jug with one litre of water, which I use to wash in and clean my teeth. I boil about 250ml for a cup of tea and drink a glass of water. As the morning continues I need to go to the toilet. A single flush of a toilet sends between six and ten litres of clean water to the sewers. Because I buy my lunch from the office canteen, I don't use any of my water allowance for cooking. But I count a couple of litres, hoping the salad I eat has been washed. I'm feeling rather good about the challenge as the day ends, but at the last minute, the toilet flush gets the better of me, taking my consumption way above the prescribed 20 litres.

Before going to bed I clean my face with cleanser and cotton wool to avoid using any more water. Doing this is somewhat pointless considering that irrigating cotton crops is one of the most water-intensive processes in farming.

We produce twice as much food as we did in the 1970s, to keep up with population growth, but we use three times more water to do this. Growing a bag of mixed salad in Kenya, where a good proportion of the UK's vegetables come from, uses about 300 litres of water. It takes between 2,000 and 5,000 litres of water to grow just 1 kilo of rice, 1,000 litres for 1 kilo of wheat and 500 litres for 1 kilo of potatoes.

Water is neither free nor unlimited. If we rethink our attitudes to it now, we should be able to avoid every day turning into a 20-litre challenge.

## Draining away: where does it all go?


- Average washing machine cycle – 65 litres
- Dishwasher cycle – 25 litres
- Flushing the toilet – about 8 litres
- Bath – 80 litres
- Shower – 35 litres

Figures from [www.USwitch.com](http://www.USwitch.com).

Adapted from the *Independent* 24/04/08

## Listening and Speaking

**TIP** When we have a lively discussion with several people, our language is often less organised. It contains repetitions and unnecessary words. It is important to listen for the key content words to help us understand what people are saying.

- 3 a**  **5.1** Listen to three flatmates, Graham, Nadine and Connor, talking about saving water. Tick the things they talk about.

- having baths
- using the washing machine
- having long showers
- washing the car
- watering the garden
- washing the dishes
- dripping taps
- buying bottled water

**b** Listen again. Answer these questions.

- 1 Graham gives two reasons for suggesting his flatmates save water. What are they?  
*Water shortages and expensive water bills.*
- 2 Why does Connor spend a long time in the shower?
- 3 What doesn't Nadine want to do with her flatmates' clothes?
- 4 What does Connor suggest they do with their clothes?
- 5 What bad habit did Nadine use to have?
- 6 Who will call the landlord to get a plumber?

- 4** Look at these sentences spoken by Graham. Underline the repetitions and unnecessary words.


*OK. Fair enough – yeah, well, that's probably an improvement. That's better – saving a little bit of water.*

- 5** Work in groups. Make a list of things you can do to save water. Tell the class some of your ideas.

## HELP WITH PRONUNCIATION


### Consonant clusters

- TIP**
- In English some words have two or three consonants together with no vowel between them. These 'consonant clusters' can come anywhere in the word: **Spain, destructive, lasts**.
  - One common group of clusters is /sps/, /sks/ and /sts/: **crisps, asks, lists**. They only appear at the end of words.
  - To practise these clusters try saying the words very slowly, letter by letter, in front of a mirror so you can see if your mouth is moving correctly. Then gradually say them more quickly.

- 1**  **5.2** Listen to these words. Notice the consonant clusters at the end of each word.

- 1 lists
- 2 nests
- 3 crisps
- 4 wasps
- 5 asks
- 6 discs



- 2 a**  **5.3** Listen to these words. Which word do you hear twice, a or b?

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 1 a crisp   | b crisps   |
| 2 a goats   | b ghosts   |
| 3 a boats   | b boasts   |
| 4 a Mark's  | b masks    |
| 5 a text    | b texts    |
| 6 a suggest | b suggests |

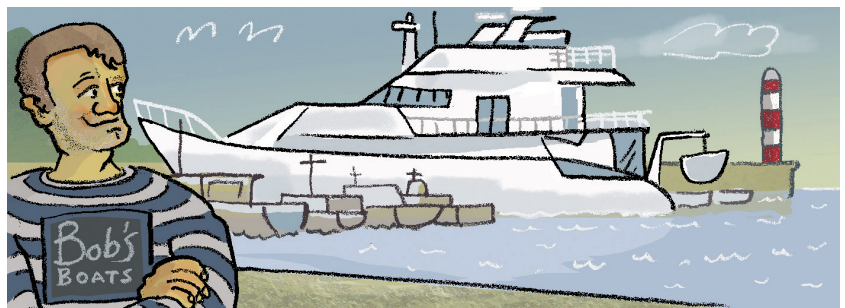


**b** **PRONUNCIATION** Listen again and practise.

- 3 a**  **5.4** Listen and fill in the gaps.

- 1 Bob \_\_\_\_\_ that his boats are the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Insects like \_\_\_\_\_ live in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Have you seen \_\_\_\_\_ anywhere?
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ put \_\_\_\_\_ on the shopping \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 There's a series of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ in the coming \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Steve always \_\_\_\_\_ Stan if he \_\_\_\_\_ his new \_\_\_\_\_.

**b** **PRONUNCIATION** Listen again and practise.





### Future meaning after *when, before, after* and *by the time*

**TIP** We use the Present Simple or Present Perfect after *when, before, after, until* and *by the time* to refer to the future: *I'll finish this letter before I go out.* not *I'll finish this letter before I'll go out.* *I won't go out until I've finished this letter.* not *I won't go out until I'll have finished this letter.*

**1** Fill in the gaps with the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

- We need to start looking after the planet before it \_\_\_\_\_ too late. (need / be)
- I \_\_\_\_\_ you after the meeting \_\_\_\_\_. (call / finish)
- You \_\_\_\_\_ out until you \_\_\_\_\_ your homework. (not go / finish)
- Let's wait for Jenny. When she \_\_\_\_\_ home, we \_\_\_\_\_ dinner. (get / have)
- By the time the politicians \_\_\_\_\_ to do anything, the economic crisis \_\_\_\_\_ over. (decide / be)

### Adverb or adjective?

**2** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- The roses smelled absolutely beautiful. (beauty)
- He tasted the food \_\_\_\_\_ because he wasn't very keen on spicy food. (care)
- Before email was invented, you couldn't keep in touch as \_\_\_\_\_ as you can now. (ease)
- In the eighteenth century, roses became so \_\_\_\_\_ that many people used them as currency. (value)
- I went there because Dom said it was really \_\_\_\_\_. (interest)
- The latest news about climate change is very \_\_\_\_\_. (disturb)
- In some countries you are \_\_\_\_\_ obliged to recycle. (legal)

### Verbs and prepositions: *for* and *of*

**3** Choose the correct preposition.

- I'd like to pay (for) of all the phone calls I made.
- We were thinking *for/of* going to New York for Christmas.
- I'll be waiting *for/of* your answer.
- The police accused him *for/of* the crime.
- I'm writing to ask *for/of* a refund.
- I'm applying *for/of* a new job.

### Confusing words: nature

**4** Fill in the gaps with a word in the box.

environment nature countryside field land pitch

- I'm worried about the effect of biofuel production on the environment.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ in northern Spain is beautiful.
- I think cloning animals and humans is unnatural. It goes against \_\_\_\_\_.
- I love Van Gogh's painting of flowers in a \_\_\_\_\_ in Arles.
- The football stadium looks great, but the \_\_\_\_\_ is in a terrible condition.
- My dad bought some \_\_\_\_\_ by the river and he's thinking of building a summer house there.

### Spelling: *ie* and *ei*

*i* before *e*, except after *c* when the sound is *ee*

**TIP**

- We can sometimes work out how to spell a word by the way it sounds.
  - piece* – the vowel sound before the *c* is long, /i:/, so we write *ie*.
  - receive* – the vowel sound is long, /i:/, but it comes after the *c*, so we write *ei*.
  - science* – the vowel sound is not /i:/, so we write *ie*.
- There are some exceptions, for example, *either* /'aɪðə/.



**5** Fill in the gaps in these words with *ie* or *ei*.

- rel i e f
- rec \_\_\_ pt
- c \_\_\_ ling
- bel \_\_\_ f
- fr \_\_\_ ndship
- n \_\_\_ ther