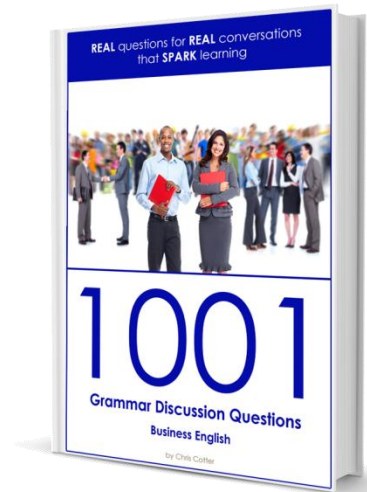
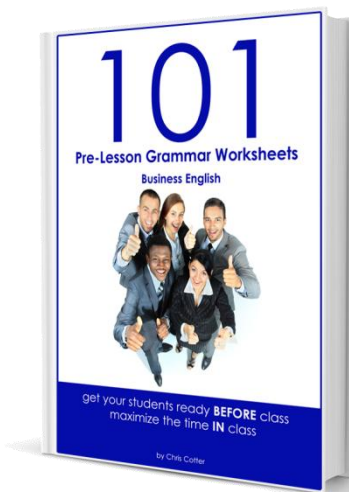


HEADS  ENGLISH's store


find solutions.
reach goals.
engage your students.

awesome resources ready for immediate download!



Become a Better Language Teacher

..... Join the Newsletter for Ideas, Answers, and Help!

 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

 Secure Checkout



the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

What if it came to the point where a second child in every household tipped the scales irreparably towards environmental apocalypse? After all, despite treaties, bans, conferences, and Nobel winning former Vice Presidents, environmental degradation continues to seriously hamper humankind's future survival.

America, for example, consumes huge amounts of resources, arguably inefficiently. The ecological footprint of the US is twenty-four acres. If everyone on Earth lived like Americans, then it would take 5.5 planets to sustain our consumption of resources. China consumes far less than America, yet they are a major polluter. And although European countries pollute less and maintain smaller ecological footprints, they also pay poorer, less developed countries in a pollution barter. In other words, Europe pays some countries to pollute less so that Europeans can pollute more.

Let's return to the original question: What if a second child brought about extinction? There are some organizations who surprisingly favor the end of humankind, as they advocate voluntary human extinction through a halt on reproduction. Others look at the numbers, and suggest that two children per family wouldn't ever tip the balance. They suggest that the birthrate of developed nations, by and large the planet's greatest polluters, has actually dropped. Population increases there now come primarily from immigrants. As a result, most nations will eventually achieve an equilibrium, then pollute less and less as green technologies also come on line. This will stave off the end.

In the end, the question doesn't really allow a black-and-white analysis. It's more a matter of raising an altruistic and responsible child. After all, what if the second child became a champion of the environment, or developed a clean energy source?

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1: Define: What does "apocalypse" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2: Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "apocalypse" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

3: Title: Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Could Too Many Children End Humankind?"

4: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. | Global warming will kill the human race. |
| b. | Humankind will end in one hundred years. |
| c. | America is the biggest polluter in the world. |
| d. | If couples have fewer children and lower the population of the planet, this will help the environment. |
| e. | I don't care about the environment! |

5: Rank It!: Which of disasters will likely end the human race? Rank them in order, and support your decisions!

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| a. | pollution and global warming |
| b. | war |
| c. | disease |
| d. | not enough food and water |
| e. | an alien invasion |

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	irreparable	q.	trade
b.	degradation	r.	continue
c.	hamper	s.	balance
d.	sustain	t.	breakdown
e.	barter	u.	unselfish
f.	advocate	v.	begin
g.	equilibrium	w.	hinder
h.	come on line	x.	recommend
i.	stave off	y.	prevent
j.	altruistic	z.	unreparable

2: Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	come on line	barter	degradation	altruistic	sustain
	irreparably	hamper	stave off	advocate	equilibrium
a.	Could a second child in every household tip the scales () towards environmental apocalypse?				
b.	Despite treaties, bans, and conferences, environmental () continues.				
c.	A damaged environment continues to seriously () humankind's future survival.				
d.	If everyone on Earth lived like Americans, then it would take 5.5 planets to () us.				
e.	Europe pays poorer, less developed countries in a pollution ().				
f.	There are some organizations who surprisingly () voluntary human extinction.				
g.	Most nations will eventually achieve an () in terms of population.				
h.	The countries will pollute less and less as green technologies ().				
i.	This will () the end.				
j.	It's a matter of raising an () and responsible child.				

3: Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	irreparable	c.	hamper	e.	barter	g.	equilibrium	i.	stave off
b.	degradation	d.	sustain	f.	advocate	h.	come on line	j.	altruistic

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

WORD RECOGNITION

1: **Word Search:** Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

come on line	barter	degradation	altruistic	sustain
irreparably	hamper	stave off	advocate	equilibrium
I N C W H H N J R Y Y S G E E S R G I X A Q I L V U E Q C Q U H R I T K D B E S J U C A U S J Q E I S A V T O I D Z T I T K K Q P R I A O L L K L S L A R H C A A N U I C T X K I I I N M P X E R B R R A Y S U B N U E R E T R A B T E T L R R J R U V A U V X B E L P E T I I X N Z I P Y P E L U A M L U D C A M P Y E M K J Y T M A M D E G R A D A T I O N R Y C H E N I L N O E M O C P A Y A A S T A V E O F F G E C T P R B A T S R A J J U X I U M X H J				

2: **Target Word Pool:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

come on line	barter	degradation	altruistic	sustain
irreparably	hamper	stave off	advocate	equilibrium
batter come off line equalize alternate sustainable on line stave in gradation irreplaceable staved off advocating sustain hinder equaled barter hamper degrade come on come on line advocated altruistic irreparable vocal bartered hampered staff degraded repairable advocacy barley sustained unequal equilateral unsustainable altruism degradation stave off hampering altruisms irrepensible bartering irreparably came on line equilibrium pamper advocate degrading staving off sustaining altruistically				

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1: Word Association: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3: True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	The human race will end if everyone has a second child.	T / F
b.	If everyone lived like Americans, we would need more than five planets.	T / F
c.	China has the largest ecological footprint.	T / F
d.	Some organizations want the human race to end.	T / F
e.	Many developed nations have experienced a drop in birthrates.	T / F

4: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	Who is the world's greatest polluter?
b.	According to the article, what does Europe do to keep a smaller ecological footprint.
c.	According to the article, how do some groups recommend the human race end?
d.	What is happening to the birthrate in many developed countries?
e.	Why doesn't the main question in the article allow a clear answer?

5: Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	irreparably	c.	hamper	e.	barter	g.	equilibrium	i.	stave off
b.	degradation	d.	sustain	f.	advocate	h.	come on line	j.	altruistic

6: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	What if it came to the point where a second child...
b.	If everyone on Earth lived like Americans, then...
c.	There are some organizations who surprisingly favor the end of humankind...
d.	As a result, most nations will eventually achieve an equilibrium, then...
e.	After all, what if the second child...

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

post-COMPREHENSION

1: Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	Do you think humankind will become extinct? Why/not?
d.	Would you support a policy that limited the birthrate to two children per couple? How about one child?
e.	What is the birthrate of your country? If you don't know, is the population increase or decreasing?
f.	What's your opinion on organizations that want the human race to end?
g.	How would you raise your child? (Or how are you raising your child?)
h.	What's your opinion on pollution and global warming? Give as much detail as possible.
i.	How responsible are you when it comes to maintaining a low ecological footprint?
j.	Argue your value to the human race. In other words, what do you do that benefits humankind?

5: Discuss: Find five ways to lower your ecological footprint! Work with a partner to make a list, then share that list with another group of students. Lastly, in the group, reach a unanimous agreement on the best three.

#1:
#2:
#3:
#4:
#5:

6: Google Search: Type "ecological footprint" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

What if it came to the point where a second child in every household tipped the scales irreparably towards environmental apocalypse? After all, despite treaties, bans, conferences, and Nobel winning former Vice Presidents, environmental degradation continues to seriously hamper humankind's future survival.

America, for example, consumes huge amounts of resources, arguably inefficiently. The ecological footprint of the US is twenty-four acres. If everyone on Earth lived like Americans, then it would take 5.5 planets to sustain our consumption of resources. China consumes far less than America, yet they are a major polluter. And although European countries pollute less and maintain smaller ecological footprints, they also pay poorer, less developed countries in a pollution barter. In other words, Europe pays some countries to pollute less so that Europeans can pollute more.

Let's return to the original question: What if a second child brought about extinction? There are some organizations who surprisingly favor the end of humankind, as they advocate voluntary human extinction through a halt on reproduction. Others look at the numbers, and suggest that two children per family wouldn't ever tip the balance. They suggest that the birthrate of developed nations, by and large the planet's greatest polluters, has actually dropped. Population increases there now come primarily from immigrants. As a result, most nations will eventually achieve an equilibrium, then pollute less and less as green technologies also come on line. This will stave off the end.

In the end, the question doesn't really allow a black-and-white analysis. It's more a matter of raising an altruistic and responsible child. After all, what if the second child became a champion of the environment, or developed a clean energy source?

Notes:

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

hamper	come on line	extinction	equilibrium	tipped
altruistic	birthrate	barter	degradation	stave off
advocate	irreparably	footprints	champion	sustain

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

What if it came to the point where a second child in every household (a. _____) the scales (b. _____) towards environmental apocalypse? After all, despite treaties, bans, conferences, and Nobel winning former Vice Presidents, environmental (c. _____) continues to seriously (d. _____) humankind's future survival.

America, for example, consumes huge amounts of resources, arguably inefficiently. The ecological footprint of the US is twenty-four acres. If everyone on Earth lived like Americans, then it would take 5.5 planets to (e. _____) our consumption of resources. China consumes far less than America, yet they are a major polluter. And although European countries pollute less and maintain smaller ecological (f. _____), they also pay poorer, less developed countries in a pollution (g. _____). In other words, Europe pays some countries to pollute less so that Europeans can pollute more.

Let's return to the original question: What if a second child brought about (h. _____)? There are some organizations who surprisingly favor the end of humankind, as they (i. _____) voluntary human extinction through a halt on reproduction. Others look at the numbers, and suggest that two children per family wouldn't ever tip the balance. They suggest that the (j. _____) of developed nations, by and large the planet's greatest polluters, has actually dropped. Population increases there now come primarily from immigrants. As a result, most nations will eventually achieve an (k. _____), then pollute less and less as green technologies also (l. _____). This will (m. _____) the end.

In the end, the question doesn't really allow a black-and-white analysis. It's more a matter of raising an (n. _____) and responsible child. After all, what if the second child became a (o. _____) of the environment, or developed a clean energy source?

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

What if it came to the point where a second child in every household tipped the scales irreparably towards environmental apocalypse? After all, despite treaties, bans, conferences, and Nobel winning former Vice Presidents, a) _____.

America, for example, consumes huge amounts of resources, arguably inefficiently. The ecological footprint of the US is twenty-four acres. b) _____, then it would take 5.5 planets to sustain our consumption of resources. China consumes far less than America, yet they are a major polluter. c) _____, they also pay poorer, less developed countries in a pollution barter. In other words, Europe pays some countries to pollute less so that Europeans can pollute more.

Let's return to the original question: What if a second child brought about extinction? There are some organizations who surprisingly favor the end of humankind, as they advocate voluntary human extinction through a halt on reproduction. Others look at the numbers, and suggest that two children per family wouldn't ever tip the balance. They suggest that the birthrate of developed nations, by and large the planet's greatest polluters, has actually dropped. Population increases there now come primarily from immigrants. As a result, most nations will eventually achieve an equilibrium, d) _____
_____. This will stave off the end.

In the end, the question doesn't really allow a black-and-white analysis. e) _____
_____. After all, what if the second child became a champion of the environment, or developed a clean energy source?

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

STUDENT HANDOUT (notes)

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	z	f.	x
b.	t	g.	s
c.	w	h.	v
d.	r	i.	y
e.	q	j.	u

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	irreparably	f.	advocate
b.	degradation	g.	equilibrium
c.	hamper	h.	come on line
d.	sustain	i.	stave off
e.	barter	j.	altruistic

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	F
b.	T
c.	F
d.	T
e.	T

2. Fragments:

a.	in every household tipped the scales irreparably towards environmental apocalypse?
b.	it would take 5.5 planets to sustain our consumption of resources.
c.	as they advocate voluntary human extinction through a halt on reproduction.
d.	pollute less and less as green technologies also come on line.
e.	became a champion of the environment, or developed a clean energy source?

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	tipped	i.	advocate
b.	irreparably	j.	birthrate
c.	degradation	k.	equilibrium
d.	hamper	l.	come on line
e.	sustain	m.	stave off
f.	footprints	n.	altruistic
g.	barter	o.	champion
h.	extinction		

2. Extended Listening

a.	environmental degradation continues to seriously hamper humankind's future survival
b.	If everyone on Earth lived like Americans
c.	And although European countries pollute less and maintain smaller ecological footprints
d.	then pollute less and less as green technologies also come on line
e.	It's more a matter of raising an altruistic and responsible child