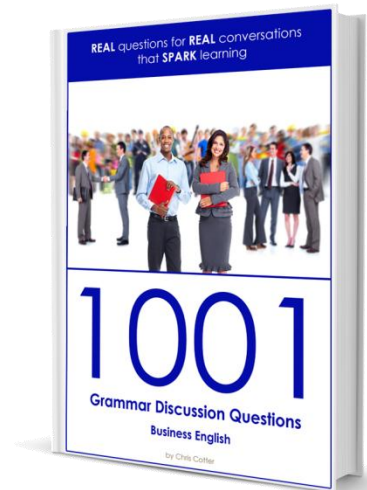
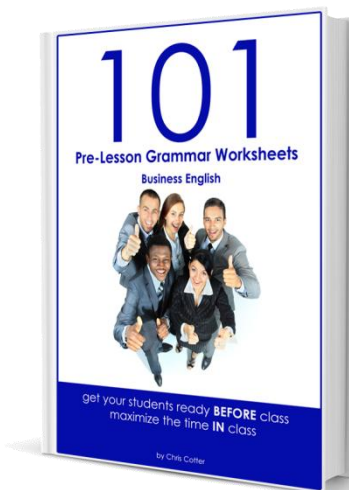


HEADS  ENGLISH's store

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



Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced - Vocabulary

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 answers.

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced - Vocabulary

the Article (for students)

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 - Vocabulary

STEP ONE

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

STEP TWO

Word Search: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

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				

STEP THREE

Vocabulary Match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

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.			

Could Too Many Children End Humankind?

Advanced - Vocabulary

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	Do you think humankind will become extinct? Why/not?
b.	Would you support a policy that limited the birthrate to two children per couple? How about one child?
c.	What's your opinion on organizations that want the human race to end?
d.	What's your opinion on pollution and global warming? Give as much detail as possible.

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for additional practice.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.