

IELTS Speaking #17 – Topic 1.14: Environment

1. Are there any environmental problems in your country?

“Yes, of course. we have a serious issue with pollution levels in some of our big cities. You know, the fact that global warming is leading to severe climate change brings out many problems. Also, exhaust fumes from cars and lorries are definitely another cause for this issue but we also have a lot of heavy industry in some areas and this also results in poor air quality. It is actually getting worse.”

Từ vựng:

pollution levels	khí độc thải ra
global warming	nóng lên toàn cầu
climate change	thay đổi khí hậu
heavy industry	ngành công nghiệp nặng
poor air quality	chất lượng không khí tồi tệ
exhaust fumes	nhiên liệu thải ra

2. Are you interested in nature?

“Yeah, I think so. Although I’m kind of a city – belonging person and don’t have many chances to get back to nature very often but like everyone else I’m fascinated by the natural world. I mean, when I watch documentaries showing wild animals in their natural habitat, I feel excited. And sometimes, I just wanna dig myself deeper into, you know, the amazing sceneries of nature mother. You don’t know, right?”

Từ vựng:

city – belonging person	lối sống thành thị
natural world	thế giới tự nhiên
documentary	phim tài liệu
natural habitat	môi trường sống tự nhiên

3. Are people concerned about environmental problems in your country?

“Well, it’s hard to say for sure. I think some people are concerned but probably not enough and others are absolutely not, in my point of view. Yeah, admittedly, there are people who take environmental problems seriously enough to actually have environmentally friendly behaviours like recycling their rubbish, doing energy

conservation and stuff. But almost all of our people are indifferent to environmental related issues coz they think that's not theirs to care. We don't care about resource depletion, about natural disasters, man-made disasters, we don't care about any kind of pollutions or conservation. We all know that the world's resources are being used at an alarming rate but no one seems to actually feel it's their responsibility to change the way they live. Yeah, so that's pretty much the answer for whether people are concerned or not."

Từ vựng:

environmentally friendly behaviours	hành vi thân thiện với môi trường
recycle rubbish	tái chế rác thải
energy conservation	bảo tồn nguồn năng lượng
resource depletion	suy giảm tài nguyên
natural disasters	thiên tai
man-made disasters	thảm họa do người gây ra
at an alarming rate	tình trạng đáng báo động

4. Why do some people not consider environmental problems to be serious?

"I think there might be some possible reasons for that. In some cases it is simply because people are not affected on a day-to-day basis so it does not concern them. They just saw the problems on the news affecting other people. It does not mean they do not care but they will soon forget about it. Also, some people think, including us, you can't deny, as it is a long-term problem, we will be dead by the time it will affect us so we think it is not important for us right now. Live for the moment, you know, not the future. Bullshit! Sorry."

Từ vựng:

a day-to-day basis	hàng ngày
long-term problem	vấn đề dài hạn

5. What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?

"Well, climate change is a real issue. With the ever presence of deforestation and desertification, in my country we even have flash floods and heatwaves on a yearly basis... so yes... I think global warming is the biggest issue we should worry about right now."

Từ vựng:

deforestation	nạn phá rừng
desertification	xói mòn đất
flash floods	floods that happen quickly
heatwaves	nắng nóng

6. Do you think that governments around the world are doing enough to tackle the environmental problems?

“I don’t think so. There are countries that do what they can do to help their people when problems occur and they are trying to come up with measures to mitigate the effects but when it comes to the major issue of global warming countries are not doing enough or sometime doing it wrong. Like the marine pollution happening in Vietnam last month is a typical example. This is usually because governments know that to make a serious step toward this they will have to sacrifice economic or political growth and they are not prepared to do this. Governments think very short-term. They know that if there is economic decline, then they will be voted out but they don’t know that, if they do not take steps, they will be turned back on by their own people.”

Từ vựng:

come up with	nghĩ ra
mitigate	giảm thiểu
marine pollution	ô nhiễm nguồn nước, đại dương, biển..
short-term	ngắn hạn
voted out	không được ủng hộ
turn back on sb	quay lưng lại

7. In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?

“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. However, nothing will work without efforts from each of our own. So wake up and save yourself.”

Từ vựng:

humanitarian aid	the act of showing support to people struggling to survive
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

Một số từ vựng khác về chủ đề này các bạn có thể dùng cho câu trả lời riêng của mình. Các bạn hãy tự tra từ điển các từ này để biết nghĩa và cách đọc, cách phát âm của nó nhé. Hãy cố gắng đặt một câu với một từ, một câu có nghĩa nhé, không đặt đối phó!!!

biodegradable	something that is able to decay naturally and harmlessly
extinction	the complete dying out of species
habitat	a place where animals and plants live
natural resources	resources derived from the environment. For example, wood and oil
renewable energy	describes a form of energy that can be produced as quickly as it is used, such as solar energy
to become extinct	to no longer exist
to be under threat	to be in danger of becoming extinct
fossil fuels	a natural fuel such as coal, gas, or oil formed over long periods of time from the remains of living organisms
biodiversity	refers to the number and variety of plant and animal species that exist in a particular environmental area or in the world generally
to die out	to become extinct
endangered species	categories of animals or plants that are in danger of becoming extinct
loss of habitat	the decline in areas of land where animals and plants would normally exist
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
toxic waste	poisonous, unwanted rubbish often produced by industrial processes
wildlife conservation	to protect animals and plants and their habitats

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

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