

THE DEBATE

CLUB 1

THE
ARGUMENT



Speaking CH.Lab

Banning Plastic Bags



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Does your native country allow plastic shopping bags?
2. Why are plastic bags bad for the environment?
3. What do some people have against canvas (cloth) shopping bags?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ___ 1. convenience | a) to block, to stop water from flowing |
| ___ 2. clog | b) something that makes life easier |
| ___ 3. ban | c) the removal of waste |
| ___ 4. disposal | d) to no longer allow a thing or action |
| ___ 5. devastating | e) complete, total |
| ___ 6. invoke | f) damaging, causing great hardship |
| ___ 7. scrap | g) to make a request for, to ask for aid |
| ___ 8. enforce | h) to make sure that a rule or law is followed |
| ___ 9. mandatory | i) required, obligatory |
| ___ 10. outright | j) to stop having or using, to get rid of |

Reading

BANNING PLASTIC BAGS

Bring your own basket

1. When a Swedish engineer developed the one-piece, lightweight plastic bag in the 1960s, everybody thought it was a great invention. The plastic bag soon became a **convenience** that shoppers couldn't imagine living without. However, as drains and waterways became **clogged** with plastic, the "single-use" bags were identified as a major environmental threat.
2. These days, governments around the world are **banning** plastic bags. In 2002, Bangladesh became the first nation to do this. Improper **disposal** of plastic bags was named as a major contributing factor to **devastating** floods in Bangladesh in the '80s and '90s. The first major US city to **invoke** a plastic bag ban was Los Angeles in 2010. That same year, Mexico City announced a one-billion-dollar annual investment to become a greener city. The Green Plan included a major campaign to **scrap** the use of plastic bags.
3. Despite bans and restrictions, the rules themselves are not always **enforced**. Some shopkeepers complain that they lose money by not offering plastic bags to customers. They may also feel that they have no incentive to obey bylaws since no fines are laid. The opposite occurs in Rwanda, where the nationwide plastic bag ban has been strictly enforced since 2008. Rwanda is one of the cleanest countries in the world due to a **mandatory** "Clean Up the City" day on the last Saturday of each month. Many shoppers in Rwanda have gone back to the traditional shopping basket.
4. Not all politicians are in favor of banning plastic bags. In 2012, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford called the idea to scrap plastic bags "dumb" when his city councillors voted to switch from a five-cent fee on plastic bags to an **outright** ban. Some health experts agree that it's not the smartest idea to switch to cloth bags. Reusable bags are typically full of germs. These bags could pose serious health hazards. Do the pros outweigh the cons?

"Think about it. Why would you make something that you're going to use for a few minutes out of a material that's basically going to last forever, and you're just going to throw it away?"

—Jeb Berrier, Bag It!

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

1. When and where were plastic bags invented?

2. Why was Bangladesh the first nation to ban plastic bags?

3. What did the government of Mexico City decide in 2010?

4. What do Rwandans do to keep their country clean?

5. Why do some health experts disagree with the use of reusable shopping bags?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. The drains were _____ with garbage, which caused a major flood in the city.
2. In Rwanda, the plastic bag ban is _____ by police officers on city streets.
3. That politician said there is no such thing as climate change. I think that's an _____ lie!
4. Before the _____, environmentalists estimated that people in Mexico City used about 20 million plastic bags per day.
5. It was _____ to see all of the plastic bags swirling around in the ocean.

B. Nations & Nationalities

Rewrite each sentence by changing the country (e.g., Sweden)
to the nationality (e.g., Swedish).

Ex. The plastic bag was invented in Sweden.

A Swedish engineer invented the plastic bag.

1. In Mexico, you can no longer dispose of plastic bags in the garbage.

2. A politician in Canada is against banning plastic bags.

3. In Rwanda, there is a mandatory "Clean Up Our City" day every month.

4. Several cities in America have a plastic bag ban.

Vocabulary Review cont.

C. Write Sentences

Write a sentence for each word. Change the word form if you can!

1. convenience

2. disposal

3. clog

4. ban

5. devastating

Discussion

1. What other items do you think will be banned for environmental reasons in the near future?
2. What can a city do to become "greener"?
3. What are some alternatives to plastic bags? Which is the most convenient?
4. Do the potential health hazards of cloth bags outweigh the environmental threat of plastic ones?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

BANNING PLASTIC BAGS

Bring your own basket

1. When a Swedish engineer developed the one-piece, lightweight plastic bag in the 1960s, everybody thought it was a great invention. The plastic bag soon became a _____ that shoppers couldn't imagine living without. However, as drains and waterways became _____ with plastic, the "single-use" bags were identified as a major environmental threat.
2. These days, governments around the world are _____ plastic bags. In 2002, Bangladesh became the first nation to do this. Improper _____ of plastic bags was named as a major contributing factor to _____ floods in Bangladesh in the '80s and '90s. The first major US city to _____ a plastic bag ban was Los Angeles in 2010. That same year, Mexico City announced a one-billion-dollar annual investment to become a greener city. The Green Plan included a major campaign to _____ the use of plastic bags.
3. Despite bans and restrictions, the rules themselves are not always _____. Some shopkeepers complain that they lose money by not offering plastic bags to customers. They may also feel that they have no incentive to obey bylaws since no fines are laid. The opposite occurs in Rwanda, where the nationwide plastic bag ban has been strictly enforced since 2008. Rwanda is one of the cleanest countries in the world due to a _____ "Clean Up the City" day on the last Saturday of each month. Many shoppers in Rwanda have gone back to the traditional shopping basket.
4. Not all politicians are in favor of banning plastic bags. In 2012, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford called the idea to scrap plastic bags "dumb" when his city councillors voted to switch from a five-cent fee on plastic bags to an _____ ban. Some health experts agree that it's not the smartest idea to switch to cloth bags. Reusable bags are typically full of germs. These bags could pose serious health hazards. Do the pros outweigh the cons?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read a brief history of plastic bags. They learn why governments around the world are starting to ban what was once considered a brilliant invention. The lesson includes vocabulary review exercises and discussion questions.

TAGS: discussion, plastic, environment, bags, plastic bags, reusable bags

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. d | 5. f | 7. j | 9. i |
| 2. a | 4. c | 6. g | 8. h | 10. e |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 6. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

1. Plastic bags were invented in Sweden in the 1960s.
2. Bangladesh was the first nation to ban plastic bags because a report found that bags contributed to major flooding.
3. In 2010, the government of Mexico City decided to put one billion dollars a year into a Green Plan. As part of the plan, they put a ban on plastic bags.
4. Rwandans take part in a "Clean Up the City" day once a month.
5. Some health experts fear that reusable shopping bags are a health hazard.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. clogged | 3. outright | 5. devastating |
| 2. enforced | 4. ban | |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Vocabulary Review cont.

B. NATIONS & NATIONALITIES

Answers may vary. Challenge your students to think of other nationalities. Are there any they don't know? Here are some to try: England/English, France/French, Germany/German, Australia/Australian, Korea/Korean, Thailand/Thai.

1. Mexicans can no longer dispose of plastic bags in the garbage.
2. A Canadian politician is against banning plastic bags.
3. Rwandans take part in a mandatory "Clean Up Our City" day every month.
4. Several American cities have a plastic bag ban.

C. WRITE SENTENCES

Individual answers. Possible word form changes include dispose, enforcement, enforcer, scrap (noun), and devastate.

Discussion

Answers will vary. Discuss in small groups or pairs.
Can also be done individually as written answers.

Listening

1. convenience, clogged
2. banning, disposal, devastating, invoke, scrap
3. enforced, mandatory
4. outright

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Favor*.
Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Favour*.
Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.

Camping

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Which do you prefer, camping or staying in hotels?
2. What is the most enjoyable part about camping?
3. What activities do campers enjoy?
4. If you could camp anywhere, where would you like to camp?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. roughing it | a) enough |
| ___ 2. tarp | b) a bed that you fill with air |
| ___ 3. motor home | c) a plastic covering |
| ___ 4. cushion (<i>verb</i>) | d) a large vehicle that can be used as a traveling home |
| ___ 5. brew | e) a small home out in the country or near a lake, used in the summer months |
| ___ 6. SUV | f) sports utility vehicle |
| ___ 7. not be caught dead | g) to prepare a liquid meal or drink |
| ___ 8. cottage | h) to make something softer |
| ___ 9. air mattress | i) spending time in nature with only the essentials |
| ___ 10. sufficient | j) to not ever be seen doing something |

Reading

CAMPING

Whatever happened to “roughing it”?

1. Once upon a time, camping was all about **roughing it** in the wilderness. People set up tents and cooked meals on an open fire. Children played in the woods, adults sat at picnic tables, and pets got tied to trees. When it rained, family and friends gathered under **tarps** to play games.
2. These days, camping is more about luxury. Many people use campers or **motor homes**. Their house on wheels is a mini version of their home in the city. If they do use tents, they bring **air mattresses** to **cushion** their bodies from the hard ground. Many campers bring their own stoves for cooking meals and **brewing** coffee. Beach and sand toys fill up overhead bins. **SUVs** allow campers to pack extra supplies, including bicycles, spare clothes, comfortable bedding, and emergency supplies.
3. Some people refuse to camp, regardless of how comfortable it is. They don't like sleeping outdoors and they hate the smell of bug spray and skunks. These people may stay in hotels or **cottages**, but they would **not be caught dead** at a campsite.
4. Serious campers still prefer roughing it. They love being outdoors in the wilderness. Water, a change of underwear, and instant noodles are **sufficient** for those who want to be one with nature. These people wouldn't be caught dead checking their smartphones at camp!

“It always rains on tents. Rainstorms will travel thousands of miles, against prevailing winds for the opportunity to rain on a tent.”

—Dave Berry, humor columnist

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What type of vehicle offers a house on wheels?
2. How do campers make sleeping more comfortable?
3. How do campers transport extra stuff when they go camping?
4. Why do some people hate camping?
5. What does it mean to be “one with nature”?

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the Correct Word

Which word from the vocabulary is being described in each sentence?

#	Sentence	Word
1	Put it over your picnic table when it rains.	
2	Go here when you need a break from the city.	
3	Blow one up and place it inside your tent.	
4	This verb is often used in combination with the word "coffee."	
5	This is the short form of a type of spacious vehicle.	

B. Marshmallow Madness

1. Divide into two teams. One team is "Roughing It." The other team is "Living in the Lap of Luxury" (camping in a motor home).
2. Place two chairs facing away from the board. Choose one member from each team to start.
3. The first two players must each draw a long stick on the board. (This is the stick for roasting marshmallows.)
4. The team member that is living in the lap of luxury gets to sit down. The other team member has to stand on the mountain (chair). These team members must not look at the board.
5. Your teacher will write a word from the reading on the board. Team members will try to get the camper on the chair to guess the word. They will try to define the word or give examples of it.*
6. The first camper on the chair to guess the word correctly gets to draw a marshmallow on their stick.
7. Two new players go to the chairs. The teacher writes a new word on the board.
8. Continue the game until one team has 10 marshmallows.

***Note:**

Team members that are not at the front cannot *say* any form of the word that is on the board. If they do, their team loses a marshmallow.

Discussion

1. What is your idea of the perfect campsite?
2. Do you prefer roughing it or living in the lap of luxury? Explain.
3. If you could only bring ten things on a camping trip, what would you bring?
4. What types of rules do campsites usually have?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Do you like camping?	What's the worst part of camping?	What activity would you not be caught dead doing?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

CAMPING

Whatever happened to "roughing it"?

1. Once upon a time, camping was all about _____ in the wilderness. People set up tents and cooked meals on an open fire. Children played in the woods, adults sat at picnic tables, and pets got tied to trees. When it rained, family and friends gathered under _____ to play games.
2. These days, camping is more about _____. Many people use campers or motor homes. Their house on wheels is a mini version of their home in the city. If they do use tents, they bring _____ to cushion their bodies from the hard ground. Many campers bring their own stoves for cooking meals and _____ coffee. Beach and sand toys fill up overhead bins. SUVs allow campers to pack extra supplies, including bicycles, spare clothes, comfortable bedding, and emergency supplies.
3. Some people refuse to camp, regardless of how comfortable it is. They don't like sleeping outdoors and they hate the smell of bug spray and skunks. These people may stay in hotels or _____, but they wouldn't be _____ at a campsite.
4. _____ campers still prefer roughing it. They love being outdoors in the wilderness. Water, a change of underwear, and instant noodles are _____ for those who want to be one with nature. These people wouldn't be caught dead checking their smart phones at camp!

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about the difference between “roughing it” and “living in the lap of luxury.” Is it really “camping” when you sleep in a motor home?

TAGS: discussion, camping, camp, roughing it, accommodations

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. i | 3. d | 5. g | 7. j | 9. b |
| 2. c | 4. h | 6. f | 8. e | 10. a |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

1. A motor home is a house on wheels.
2. Campers make sleeping more comfortable by bringing air mattresses or sleeping in campers and motor homes.
3. Campers transport extra stuff when they go camping by using SUVs or attaching overhead bins to their cars.
4. Some people hate camping because they don't like the smells and discomfort of being outdoors.
5. To be “one with nature” means to experience nature closely with minimum man-made supplies.

Vocabulary Review

A. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1. tarp | 3. air mattress | 5. SUV |
| 2. cottage | 4. brew | |

B. MARSHMALLOW MADNESS

If you know the game “Hot Seat,” you will notice that this vocabulary game is very similar. This game does get loud, so make sure to play it when other nearby classes are being noisy too. You'll need two chairs and a list of vocabulary words from the reading. (Or just use any words from the reading or from a unit on Camping.) Have fun! You could use real marshmallows (or mini marshmallows) if you prefer. Allow the student who guess correctly to have a marshmallow.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

1. roughing it, tarps
2. luxury, air mattresses, brewing
3. cottages, caught dead
4. serious, sufficient

Extra Activity

Setting up a tent can be a bit of a challenge. If you have a few tents, bring them to school and have your students set them up outside. After they set up the tents, they can sit inside them and write out the step-by-step instructions.

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Humor* and *Traveling*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Humour* and *Travelling*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.