

EDITION 60 October 2019

Climate Change

Thousands of secondary school children across Ireland recently took to the streets as part of International Action Day. They joined millions of students and protesters all over the world to demand that the leaders of our countries take action on the effects of climate change and global warming on the planet.

The “School Climate Strike Movement” which was set up by the 16 year old climate activist from Sweden, Greta Thunberg, has highlighted to young people that they will be the generation that will be most affected by the effects of climate change.

Global warming happens when high amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other gases trap the heat from the sun and store it in the earth’s surface. This is known as the greenhouse effect. As we now have higher amounts of these gases being produced than ever before, more heat is being trapped causing our temperatures to rise. In fact the last 5 years have been the hottest on record. Heat waves are now very common, in fact many European countries saw temperatures this year as high as 45 degrees, the highest on record. Ice is melting in the Arctic regions at a fast rate causing rising sea levels and flooding. Changes in the earth’s climate in the last few years, means we now have more storms and flooding in the winter as well as seriously high temperatures, droughts and water shortages in summer.

What has caused the increase in carbon and other gases? Carbon is produced from the burning of fuels such as coal, turf, timber and oil. Emissions from diesel powered vehicles such as cars, lorries, trains and more especially airplanes are all responsible for carbon. In the last 20 years air travel has become hugely popular and cheaper and car ownership has soared.

Our use of plastic in all areas is also a major cause of carbon emissions. Large amounts of oil and gas are used in the making of plastic and as customers we dump 90% of our plastic waste that takes many, many years to breakdown.

Green leaves in trees need carbon dioxide to grow so trees take carbon dioxide out of the air which is good for the environment. In fact, a fully grown oak tree will take in the same amount of carbon dioxide given off by a

family car in one year. However recently in South America thousands of acres of forests are being burned down to make way for development. The loss of the trees is bad enough but the huge levels of carbon dioxide given off from the fires is extremely dangerous.

All of this will have serious effects on our health. Very high temperatures can allow infections and diseases to spread, water droughts and flooding at other times makes it almost impossible to grow food and feed animals. The air we breathe and the water we drink are all in danger of being affected. The World Health Organisation has said it believes that between the years 2030 and 2050, 250,000 people will die directly from the effects of global warming.

We all need to take responsibility in reducing carbon emissions. Many countries are bringing in a ban on the use of diesel cars in cities over the next 10 years. Here, plastic drinking straws and plastic knives and forks are being banned. The ESB will have to phase out the burning of coal and peat to generate electricity.

Each one of us can make a few changes in our own lives. Walk, cycle or take public transport where possible. Conserve the water we use. Cut down on our use of plastic by opting for reusable items instead of single use plastics and buy goods with less packaging. Consider buying LED light bulbs. We can bring our own coffee mugs to be filled instead of using take away cups which end up as waste in landfill. Food waste which makes up a lot of the waste in most households can be reduced by only cooking the amount we need or finding recipes that will use up leftovers or by composting the leftovers.

Reuse, reduce and recycle

RETHINK THE FUTURE



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE



When to use Capital letters

1. At the **beginning of every sentence**. Example: The sun was shining.
2. **When using I** Example: John and I went to school together.
3. For **days of week, months and public holidays**. Examples: Monday, September, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day.
4. **At the start of names and surnames**. Examples: Mary Black, Sam O'Brien.
5. **For names of places, towns, street names, countries, rivers, mountains and buildings**. Examples: Parnell Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow, River Shannon, Croke Park, The Grand Hotel.
6. For **letters used in abbreviations** or shortened words. Examples: RTE, NALA, PRSI.
7. For the **title of a person**. Examples: Mr. Mrs. Dr.
8. For **titles of books, films and newspapers**. Examples: "Harry Potter", "Star Wars", "The Star".
9. For **brand names**. Examples: Barry's Tea, Tayto, Kit Kat, Jacobs Fig Rolls.
10. For names of businesses, shops. Examples: Penney's, Aldi, World of Wonder.

Rewrite this passage putting in capital letters where needed.

My friend paul and i share an apartment in parnell street in dublin. paul is from limerick and works in bank of ireland. i work in aib. We both moved up here in june. The apartment is lovely. our neighbours, mr and mrs smith are very nice and i bring their dog, rover, out for a walk on tuesdays and fridays. paul and i take turns cooking the evening meal. there is a spar shop around the corner so we buy most things there. i will eat anything but paul is fussy. he will only eat galtee rashers, brennans bread and avonmore milk, so sometimes we have to go to tesco to buy these brands. we go to the savoy cinema every saturday. last week we went to see a film called the snowman.

Maths

Amy earns €10 per hour. On Saturdays she gets time and a half and on Sundays she gets double time. She works 6 hours a day Monday to Friday, 4 hours on Saturday and 3 hours on Sunday.

1. How many hours a week does Amy work?
2. What is her hourly rate of pay on a Saturday?
3. What is her hourly rate on a Sunday?
4. What is her total pay every week?
5. If she saves 1/10 of her wages how much does she save each week?
6. How much will she have saved in a year?
7. If she is given a pay increase of 20% what will her new rates of pay per hour be?

Answers

Q1. 42 hours, Q2. €15 Q3. €20,
Q4. €420, Q5. €42 Q6. €2,184,
Q7. €12 €18 €24

If you would like help with reading, writing, numbers or digital skills contact NALA Freephone 1800 202065 or text the word Learn to 50050

