


## B2.6 The Environment and Animal Rights

### You can learn:

- How to discuss 'green' issues and the environment.
- How to have a debate with your partner.

**1**  **Discuss the questions in the box, which are all related to environmental issues, with your partner.**

- Do you worry about the future of the planet?
- Do you recycle your waste to try to protect the environment? Do you do it happily, or resent it?
- Is there air/noise pollution in your country?
- Is global warming/the greenhouse effect the most serious threat that humanity faces today?
- In your country, are fossil fuels the only source of energy, or do people try to use alternative sources of energy: wind, solar, hydro-electric etc.?
- Are you for or against nuclear power? Why?
- Are lakes, rivers and the sea clean to swim in in your country? Should more be done to clean them?
- Are there too many cars? Should their numbers be restricted in city centres? Is it easy to bicycle?
- Would you ever vote for a Green Party candidate?

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2



**Read these people's views on environmental issues and then say whether you agree or disagree with each one. Give reasons why you agree or disagree.**



Jane

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*In my opinion, there should be more cycle paths and areas where cars can't go to help reduce pollution. Motorists should be taxed more heavily as well: put tolls on busy roads. Pedestrianise city centres too!*

2



Alex

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*The way I see it is, plants and animals have always died out. It's natural - we can't stop it and shouldn't try! The earth's resources exist for we (us humans) to exploit.*



Amy

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*To be honest, I hate recycling. All that rubbish in the kitchen and having to put it all into different kinds of containers: for plastic, cardboard etc. I drive as well, and I think motorists have a really tough time these days. I do care about the environment, but there is a limit. Reduce petrol tax!*

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3



**Discuss the questions in the box, which are all related to animal rights, with your partner.**

- What rights do you think animals should have?
- Should rats have the same rights as dogs?
- What do you think of bull-fighting? Fox-hunting? Horse-racing? Dog shows? Dog fights?
- Should monkeys have more rights than other animals because they are closer genetically to humans? Why/why not?
- What do you think of vegetarianism on moral grounds? Are you/could you become a vegetarian?
- What do you think of animals in circuses?
- Would you ever wear real fur? Or crocodile skin?
- What is your favourite animal and why?
- Do you have, or would you like a pet?
- Can you name any endangered species?
- What do you think about experimenting on animals? For medical purposes? For other reasons?
- Have you ever been hunting or fishing?
- What makes humans 'special' animals?

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4



**Have a debate with your partner. One of you is 'A', you are in favour of zoos. The other is 'B', you are opposed to zoos. Use the points below and have a discussion.**

A

Do we need zoos?

"YES"

- zoos educate children about animals and they also educate people about conservation issues;
- they also run conservation projects;
- animals are well looked after in zoos because of advances in nutritional science and veterinary care;
- zoos help to preserve endangered species;
- if zoo animals were released into the wild, they might be killed by predators or, die of starvation;
- people obtain a great deal of pleasure from visiting zoos.

4

B

Do we need zoos?

"NO"

- there is no evidence zoos maintain biodiversity (so, they do not help with conservation)
- keeping animals in zoos does not educate people properly about conservation issues, or animal behaviour
- zoos choose the most exciting species to attract visitors rather than endangered species
- the internet and T.V. educate the public better about endangered ecosystems and species
- zoos keep animals for so long in cages and confined areas that they cannot be released into the wild
- zoos are expensive: it is cheaper to conserve them in their natural habitats
- only a very small number of zoos raise funds for conservation
- zoos are old-fashioned and outdated in today's world

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**Now write what you *really* think about zoos.**

