



b)  Answer the grammar questions.

Which of the sentences from the text are pure Conditionals (Conditional II and Conditional III)? Which of them are mixed Conditionals? Translate the sentences into your language. What is the difference in the grammar between the original and the translation?

5. a)   Listen to the programme again. Take notes on how a circular system can help to save the planet.



b) Compare your notes with your partner. Share with the whole class.

6. Work in groups. How can we make people change their consumption habits? Think of some ways to make people more educated in the way they buy, consume and throw away things.

LESSON 5. Problems and solutions

Communicative area: discussing environmental issues in different countries of the world and possibilities of solving the problems

1. a) Have you been to any of the following countries? Guess what these countries have in common.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Denmark | France | Sweden |
| Luxembourg | Austria | Norway |
| Switzerland | Finland | Germany |
| the United Kingdom | | |

They are the world's ten most green, clean air, climate-conscious countries according to the 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) developed by Yale University (Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy) and Columbia University (Center for International Earth Science Information

Network) in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. The index grades each country: 180 in all from Albania to Zimbabwe, on 32 key sustainability indicators.

b) What countries do you think are the dirtiest in the world? Why?

Liberia, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Madagascar, Chad, the Solomon Islands, Burundi, Haiti.

2. a) Work in groups of three. Read the articles (Student A reads text about the USA; Student B – Australia; Student C – Belarus). Each student prepares to answer three questions.

1. What are the crucial environmental issues the country is facing?
2. How do they affect the biodiversity of the country?
3. What actions does the government take to change the situation for the better?

Student A

The USA, Rank 24. In the last years, the USA has been facing record-breaking temperatures leading to the biggest threats to some endangered species. One of these is the vaquita porpoise (*калифорнийская морская свинья*) with a population of a dozen individuals remaining. The government failed to protect them from poachers and illegal fishing, putting the vaquitas at risk of becoming extinct in the near future.



Despite the rising awareness of the problem and a great number of climate activists, there is little chance for climate change to slow down as the amount of greenhouse gas emissions reached a record high. Apart from that, toxic chemicals PFAS, which are linked to numerous diseases, have been found in soil, food and water. Millions of Americans are believed to be drinking water contaminated with PFAS.

On the other side, a lot of action has been taken to reduce plastic pollution. The California Circular Economy and Plastic

Pollution Reduction Act aims to make the manufacturers and sellers responsible for reducing the amount of waste and making the rest biodegradable or recyclable. If the plan succeeded, plastic waste could be reduced by 75 per cent by 2030.

Student B

Australia, Rank 13. Global warming, deforestation, agriculture clearing and overgrazing (*чрезмерный выпас скота*) are threatening to the biodiversity of Australia.



Record heat and drought across Australia caused widespread bushfires that destroyed natural habitats of many species, adding 40 of them to the list of endangered species. Extreme temperatures led to river draining and mass fish deaths in the Murray-Darling Basin in the south-east of Australia.

Clearing activities for agricultural land and deforestation led to land degradation. It may result in famine, forced migration and even war. Intensive agriculture is affecting Australia's coastline as each year almost 19,000 tonnes of phosphorus and 141,000 tonnes of nitrogen are released into rivers flowing to the coast.

Although Australia's economy and population are growing faster than in most other developed countries, the country plans to reduce emissions, increase energy productivity and improve the health of soils and the environment by 2030 through Direct Action policies. The \$2.55 billion fund is going to invest in low emission technologies development and other action taken by businesses and the community.

Student C

Belarus, Rank 49. According to the rating, Belarus does really well in protecting ecosystems and endangered species. Specially protected natural areas play a crucial role in protecting the biodiversity of the country. About 9 per



cent of the country's area is natural reserves, parks and wildlife sanctuaries, and the areas continue to grow.

Unfortunately, the ecological situation leaves much to be desired as Belarus is one of the countries which suffered from the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. About a million people still live in the areas affected by the radioactive contamination and nearly 10 per cent of Belarusian territory is polluted by caesium-137. The environment of the country will continue to be negatively influenced in the future.

Belarus lags behind other European countries in managing waste disposal. About 1500 types of waste are produced in Belarus and most of it is sent to landfills. However, the government has taken some steps in improving the situation. Private businesses are now involved in creating a new cycle of waste management. Containers for collecting paper and plastics were placed in the streets and advertising campaigns were run to promote reusing and recycling materials. All of these contributed to doubling of the recycling rate which is now around 23 per cent.

b) Work in groups. Use the questions in ex. 2a to share your information to speak about the environmental issues in the USA, Australia and Belarus.

c) Discuss which of the issues are the most serious for the countries. Do you think that the actions taken by the government were effective? If yes, explain why. If no, say what you think should have been done.

3. Role-play a meeting of the Environment Protection Committee. Environmental activists present their ideas on how to improve the ecological situation in the country. The members of the committee have a limited budget and they need to choose which environmental projects to invest in this year. Follow the steps below.


Step 1. Assign roles. Three students are the members of the committee, the others are environmental activists.

Step 2. Prepare. The activists should choose one environmental issue which they think is the most crucial in their countries. They need to think of a way to solve it and then try to persuade the committee to finance their project. The committee members must decide which criteria they are going to use to make their final decision and what questions they may ask to make sure they have all the necessary information.

Step 3. Act out. Activists present their projects. The committee members listen, make notes and ask the activists to clarify any details. Then the committee must make their choice explaining why they think it should win.

Step 4. Give feedback. Comment on what ideas you support and which of them you disagree with. Say if you agree or disagree with the decision of the committee members and motivate your answer.



4.  Find information about successful strategies to improve the ecological situation. Write a paragraph about the ones you think are suitable for your country.

LESSON 6. Make a difference

Communicative area: speaking about the importance of protecting the environment

Receptive grammar: Conditional III and wishes and regrets

1. Read about Greta Thunberg. How did she become famous all over the world?

Greta Thunberg (born 3 January, 2003) is a Swedish environmental activist who is well known for promoting the international movement to fight climate change. She attended the key climate conferences including the UN climate conference in 2019 where she addressed the adults in authority: “How dare you?



I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean, yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you?”. She was on the cover of Time Magazine as the Person of the Year.

