

# 4A Eco-guilt



## 1 READING & SPEAKING

- a Look at the title of the lesson. What do you think it means?
- b Read the introduction to the article and check. Then take the questionnaire and add up your score.
- c Now compare your answers with a partner. Explain why you do or don't do these things. See what your score means. Do you agree with it?

# How ECO-GUILTY are you?

I committed a crime last Tuesday, which just happened to be Earth Day\*, a day that invites people to think about their eco-sins. I turned on the shower, intending to get in right away even though the water takes a while to warm up. But then I decided to brush my teeth, and suddenly the water had been running for over two minutes. By the time I got in, I was drowning in eco-guilt! I had wasted water...

### Should you feel eco-guilty, too? Take the test.

#### SHOPPING BAGS

- I have a reusable shopping bag made of recyclable materials that I always use when I'm shopping. ♻️♻️♻️♻️ (+4 eco-points)
- I own several reusable shopping bags, but I often forget to bring them with me. ♻️♻️♻️ (-3 eco-points)
- I always ask for plastic bags because they're convenient. They can be recycled, can't they? ♻️♻️♻️ (-4)

#### WASHING TOWELS

- I wash my towels immediately after I use them. ♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️ (-5)
- I use a towel for several days before I put it in the washing machine. ♻️ (+1)
- That reminds me, I need to wash my towels! ♻️♻️♻️ (+3)

#### RUNNING WATER

- I never leave the water running when I brush my teeth, nor before getting into the shower. ♻️♻️ (+2)
- I'm allergic to cold water, so I have to let the shower run for a while before I get in. ♻️♻️ (-2)
- I hate showers. I need a hot bath every day to relax. ♻️♻️♻️ (-3)

#### BUYING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- I never buy fruit and vegetables at supermarkets. I buy organic fruit and vegetables in markets or at farm stands. ♻️♻️♻️ (+3)
- I buy some fruit and vegetables in a market, but the supermarket is more convenient. ♻️♻️ (-2)
- I shop at the cheapest places – who cares about eco-guilt, I feel guiltier if I spend too much money on food! ♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️ (-5)

\***Earth Day** an annual day (April 22) on which events are held worldwide to increase awareness and appreciation of the environment

#### RECYCLING

- I throw everything in the same can. ♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️ (-6)
- I sometimes recycle glass bottles, especially after a party! But that's probably all. ♻️♻️♻️♻️ (-4)
- I recycle all my newspapers, bottles, and plastic containers. ♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️ (+5)

#### GETTING AROUND

- I walk, use public transportation, or ride a bike because cars pollute the planet. ♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️ (+5)
- I walk, use public transportation, or ride a bike because I can't afford to buy a car. ♻️ (-1)
- Vroom vroom here I come! ♻️♻️♻️♻️♻️ (-5)

### So how guilty should you feel?

Below 0: You should feel very guilty.

0–12 points: You should feel a little guilty.

Above 10: You are too good to be true!

## 2 GRAMMAR future perfect and future continuous

- a Read some predictions that have been made about the next 20 years. Which ones do you think...?
- 1 are already happening
  - 2 are likely to happen
  - 3 probably won't happen

### How we will be living in 20 years... (or will we?)

#### At home

Most people **will have installed** solar panels or wind turbines on their houses or apartment buildings to generate their electricity. People **will be recycling** almost 100% of their waste (and those who don't will have to pay a fine).

#### Transportation

Cars that use a lot of gas (e.g., SUVs) **will have been banned** and many people **will be driving** electric cars. Low-cost airlines **will have disappeared** and flights will be much more expensive.

#### The environment

Paper books will no longer be produced to save trees from being cut down, and all books will be electronic. Fresh water **will be running out** in many parts of the world and we **will be getting** much of our water from the ocean (through desalination plants).

#### The weather

Temperatures worldwide **will have risen** even further. Many ski resorts **will have closed** because of a lack of winter snow and some beaches and vacation resorts **will have disappeared** completely. We **will be having** even more extreme weather, and heat waves, hurricanes, floods, etc., will be frequent occurrences.

- b Read the predictions again. Which two would you most and least like to come true?

- c Look at the **highlighted** verbs in the predictions. Which ones refer to...?
- a an action or situation that will be finished in the future
  - b an action or situation that will be in progress in the future
- d ➤ **p.138 Grammar Bank 4A**. Learn more about the future perfect and the continuous, and practice them.
- e Talk to a partner and say if you think the following predictions will happen. Explain why (not).

#### IN TWENTY YEARS...

- Most people in office jobs will be working from home.
- All private swimming pools and golf courses will have been banned.
- Most people will be using public transportation or bikes to get to work.
- People will be taking more vacations in their own country and fewer abroad.
- People will be retiring at 70 or even later.
- The teaching of handwriting will have disappeared from the school curriculum because students will only be writing on tablets or laptops.

**definitely, probably, and likely / unlikely**  
 We often use *definitely, probably, and likely / unlikely* when talking about the future, especially when we are making predictions.  
*I think* it'll **definitely** happen / it **definitely** won't happen.  
 it'll **probably** happen / it **probably** won't happen.  
 it's **(very) likely** (to happen) / it's **(very) unlikely** (to happen).

