**Conversational Topic**

**Global Environmental Problems of Our Day**

There are a lot of environmental problems today, and they are **affecting** our planet severely.

1. Pollution: Pollution of air, water and soil is a big problem of today. ***Heavy metals***, nitrates and plastic are toxins responsible for pollution. While water pollution is caused by ***oil spill***, ***acid rain***, ***urban runoff***; air pollution is caused by various gases and toxins released by industries and factories and ***combustion of fossil fuels***; soil pollution is mainly caused by ***industrial waste*** that ***deprives*** soil from essential ***nutrients***.

2. ***Global Warming***: ***Climate changes*** like global warming is the result of human practices like ***emission of greenhouse gases***. Global warming leads to rising temperatures of the oceans and the earth’ surface causing melting of ***polar ice caps***, rise in sea levels and also unnatural patterns of ***precipitation*** such as ***flash floods***, excessive snow or ***desertification***.

3. Overpopulation: ***Overpopulation*** is one of the crucial current environmental problems. Population explosion in less ***developed and developing countries*** is depleting ***scarce resources***. Intensive agriculture practiced to produce food damages the environment through using chemical ***fertilizers***, pesticides and insecticides.

4. Natural Resource Depletion: Natural resource ***depletion*** is another crucial current environmental problem. ***Fossil fuel consumption*** results in ***emission of greenhouse gases*** that are responsible for global warming and climate change. People are making efforts to shift to ***renewable sources*** of energy like solar, wind, biogas and geothermal energy.

5. ***Waste Disposal***: Developed countries are notorious for producing an excessive amount of waste or garbage and ***dumping*** their waste in the oceans and, less developed countries. ***Nuclear waste disposal*** has tremendous ***health hazards*** associated with it. Plastic, fast food, packaging and cheap electronic wastes threaten the ***wellbeing*** of humans.

6. ***Loss of Biodiversity***: Human activity is leading to the ***extinction*** of species and ***habitats*** and loss of bio-diversity. Ecosystems are in danger. For example coral reefs in various oceans are disappearing today.

7. Deforestation: ***Deforestation*** simply means clearing of ***green-cover*** for residential, industrial or commercial purposes. Our forests absorb ***carbon dioxide*** and produce fresh oxygen as well as help in regulating temperature and rainfall. At present forests cover 30% of the land but every year ***tree cover*** is lost.

8. Ozone Layer Depletion: ***Depletion of the ozone layer*** is caused by ***Chloro-floro carbons (CFC’s)***. Once these toxic gases reach the upper atmosphere, they cause a ***hole*** in the ozone layer, the biggest of which is above the Antarctic. The CFC’s ***are banned*** in many industries and consumer products. Ozone layer is valuable because it prevents ***harmful*** ***UV radiation*** from reaching the earth.

11. Acid Rain: ***Acid rain*** occurs due to the presence of certain ***pollutants*** in the atmosphere. Acid rain can be caused due to ***combustion of fossil fuels*** or erupting volcanoes or ***rotting vegetation*** which release ***sulfur dioxide*** and ***nitrogen oxides*** into the atmosphere. ***Acid rain*** can have serious effect on human health, ***wildlife*** and ***aquatic species***.

We must not ignore environmental problems and do our best to do everything possible to reduce if not stop it.

**Vocabulary (в порядке встречаемости в тексте)**

**heavy metals** тяжелые металлы

**oil spill** разливы нефти, утечка нефти

**acid rain** кислотный дождь

**urban runoff** сток с городских территорий

**combustion** горение

**fossil fuels** ископаемое топливо

**industrial** **waste** промышленные отходы

**deprive** лишать

**nutrients** питательные вещества

**global** **warming** глобальное потепление

**climate changes** климатические изменения

**emission** **of greenhouse** **gases** выбросы парниковых газов

**polar ice cap** шапка полярного льда

**precipitation** осадки (атмосферные)

**flash flood** ливневый поток, сильный паводок

**desertification** опустынивание

**overpopulation** перенаселение, перенаселенность

**developed and developing countries** развитые и развивающиеся страны

**scarce resources** ограниченные ресурсы

**fertilizers** удобрения

**depletion** истощение, уменьшение, сокращение

**fossil fuel** **consumption** потребление органического топлива

**renewable** **sources** возобновляемые ресурсы

**waste disposal** захоронение отходов

**dump** сваливать, сбрасывать

**nuclear** **waste disposal** захоронение ядерных отходов

**health** **hazard** вред здоровью, угроза здоровью

**threaten** угрожать

**wellbeing** благополучие

**extinction** вымирание

**habitat** биотоп

**loss of bio-diversity** утрата/потеря биоразнообразия

**green-cover** растительный покров

**carbon dioxide** углекислый газ

**tree cover** лесной покров

**depletion of the ozone layer** истощение озонового слоя

**chloro-floro carbons (CFC’s)** хлор-фтор-углероды

**hole** дыра

**are banned** запрещены

**harmful** вредный

**UV radiation** ультрафиолетовое излучение

**acid rain** кислотный дождь

**pollutants** загрязнители

**combustion of fossil fuels** сгорание ископаемого топлива

**rotting** разложение, гниение, разложение, порча

**vegetation** растительность

**sulfur dioxide** диоксид серы, сернистый газ

**nitrogen** **oxides** оксиды азота

**wildlife** живая природа, дикая природа, флора и фауна

**aquatic species** водный

**species** виды

**Exercises**

**Ex. 1 Make sure that you know the following words.**

Nutrients, urban runoff, oil spill, fossil fuels, combustion, emission of greenhouse gases, precipitation, flash flood, scarce resources, vegetation, combustion of fossil fuels, pollutants, are banned, depletion of the ozone layer, loss of bio-diversity, green-cover, nuclear waste disposal, health hazard, fossil fuel consumption, fertilizers, waste disposal.

**Ex. 2 Translate into English.**

Климатические изменения, тяжелые металлы, промышленные отходы, ископаемое топливо, питательные вещества, глобальное потепление, развитые и развивающиеся страны, перенаселение, опустынивание, осадки, возобновляемые ресурсы, ограниченные ресурсы, удобрения, захоронение отходов, вымирание, потеря биоразнообразия, углекислый газ, истощение озонового слоя, вредный, сернистый газ, растительность, дикая природа.

**Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false.**

1. Overpopulation is a problem of well-developed countries.

2. Intensive agriculture through using chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides helps our environment.

3. Greenhouse gases are responsible for global warming and climate change.

4. Renewable sources of energy include solar, wind, biogas and geothermal energy.

5. Depletion of the ozone layer is caused by fresh oxygen.

**Ex. 4 Finish the sentences.**

1. Water pollution is caused by …

2. Air pollution is caused by …

3. Soil pollution is caused by …

4. Global warming leads to …

5. Deforestation simply means clearing of green-cover for …

**Ex. 5 Answer the following questions.**

1. What environmental problems do we face today?

2. What is a loss of bio-diversity?

3. What percentage of the land is covered with forest?

4. Why is the ozone layer valuable?

5. What is acid rain?