



BritMates © 2025. 브릿메이츠. All rights reserved.

Think & Talk

시사토론

08 Environment & Sustainability

ISSUES NOW IN THE NEWS

Reading, Discussion and Critical Thinking

Contents

1. Climate Change

- Are we doing enough to slow it down?

2. Plastic Pollution

- Can we live without single-use plastic?

3. Green Energy

- Will solar and wind replace fossil fuels?

4. Fast Fashion & Waste

- Is cheap clothing costing us the planet?

5. Eco-Travel

- Can we explore the world without harming it?

6. Sustainable Cities

- Can we design greener places to live?

7. Water Scarcity

- Will we run out of clean water someday?

8. Food & Sustainability

- Should we all eat less meat?

9. Youth Climate Activism

- Can young people lead the change?

10. Corporate Responsibility

- Should big companies do more for the environment?



1. Climate Change

Are we doing enough to slow it down?

◆ Topic Overview

Climate change is one of the most urgent issues facing the world today. Global temperatures are rising, ice caps are melting, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent.

This affects everything from food production to human health and even global security.

Scientists warn that without significant action, the damage may become irreversible.

Governments, corporations, and individuals all play a role—but progress feels slow.

Are we truly committed to change, or are we still choosing convenience over responsibility?

◆ Key Vocabulary

Greenhouse gases

Definition: Gases like carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere.

Example Sentence: "Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change."

Carbon footprint

Definition: The total amount of carbon dioxide produced by one's activities.

Example Sentence: "Taking public transport can help reduce your carbon footprint."



Think & Talk

◆ Discussion Questions

- ① What climate-related changes have you noticed in your local environment?
- ② Who should take the most responsibility for climate action—governments, businesses, or individuals?
- ③ What are the biggest obstacles to reducing carbon emissions?
- ④ Can economic growth and climate protection go together?

◆ Idioms & Phrases

✓ **“a ticking time bomb”** – A situation or person that may cause serious problems in the future, even if things seem okay now.

Example: “The lack of clean water in the area is **a ticking time bomb** for public health.”
(그 지역의 깨끗한 물 부족 문제는 공중보건에 있어 언제 터질지 모르는 시한폭탄이다.)

✓ **“turn a blind eye”** – To ignore something wrong or bad on purpose; to pretend not to see a problem.

Example: “The teacher **turned a blind eye** to the students using their phones in class.”
(선생님은 수업 중 휴대폰을 사용하는 학생들을 모른 척 하셨습니다.)

◆ Mini Debate

Statement: Climate change should be treated as the top global priority.

Do you agree or disagree? Prepare arguments and counterpoints.