

A third of the food we produce is wasted

2nd May, 2017



The British government has said that a third of the food the world produces is wasted. It said the high level of food waste in the UK is "unacceptable". Over 7 million tons of food is wasted in

the UK every year. A British politician, Neil Parish, said: "One-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally." The government said there were many solutions to the problem of food waste. First, schools could raise children's awareness of food waste from a young age. Secondly, supermarkets could sell vegetables that are thrown away because they are the "wrong" shape. Finally, "sell-by" dates, "use-by" dates and "best before" labels need to change. Perfectly good food is thrown away because of these labels.

Neil Parish said the fact that so much food is thrown away is both socially and environmentally unacceptable. He said: "Socially, it is a scandal that people are going hungry and using food banks when so much produce is being wasted." He added that: "Environmentally, it is a disaster, because energy and resources are wasted in production, only for the food to end up rotting in landfills where it produces methane - a potent climate-changing gas." He called on supermarkets to help by selling vegetables that have a funny shape. He said: "It's ridiculous that perfectly good vegetables are wasted simply because they're a funny shape." He said these vegetables, "don't cook or taste any different".

Sources: bbc.com / independent.co.uk / businessgreen.com

Writing

We should reduce the amount of food we eat by a third. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

a third / wasted / unacceptable / politician / globally / solutions / awareness / labels / socially / scandal / hungry / produce / disaster / climate change / vegetables / funny

True / False

- Britain's government made a statement on global food waste. T / F
- The U.K. wastes over 70 million tons of food a year. T / F
- A British politician outlined three solutions to the problem of food waste. T / F
- The politician said there was no need to change 'sell-by' dates on food. T / F
- The politician said it was environmentally friendly to throw food away. T / F
- The politician said people needed to go to banks to buy food. T / F
- Rotting food produces a gas called methane. T / F
- The politician said funny-shaped vegetables do not taste different. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. produces | a. understanding |
| 2. wasted | b. reality |
| 3. globally | c. just |
| 4. awareness | d. worldwide |
| 5. labels | e. terrible |
| 6. fact | f. makes |
| 7. unacceptable | g. laughable |
| 8. ends up | h. stickers |
| 9. ridiculous | i. thrown away |
| 10. simply | j. goes |

Discussion – Student A

- How often do you waste food?
- Why is it OK in some countries to leave food on your plate after eating?
- What do you think of food waste?
- How can we reduce food waste?
- Why do people waste so much food?
- Should schools teach children about food waste?
- What is wrong with vegetables that are the wrong shape?
- How would changing "eat-by" dates help to reduce food waste?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. the high level of food waste in the UK is | a. of food waste |
| 2. One-third of food produced for human | b. taste any different |
| 3. schools could raise children's awareness | c. good food |
| 4. "use-by" dates and | d. people are going hungry |
| 5. Perfectly | e. "unacceptable" |
| 6. the fact that so | f. consumption |
| 7. it is a scandal that | g. changing gas |
| 8. energy and | h. "best before" labels |
| 9. a potent climate- | i. resources are wasted |
| 10. these vegetables don't cook or | j. much food is thrown away |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why is throwing food away socially unacceptable?
- Why is throwing food away environmentally unacceptable?
- How can we give the food we waste to people who really need it?
- With eating, are our eyes bigger than our stomachs?
- What advice do you have for supermarkets?
- What will you do from now to reduce food waste?
- What questions would you like to ask the politician in the article?

Spelling

- a third of the food the world opcrsude
- food produced for amnhu consumption
- lost or wasted lloaygbl
- there were many oloisunts
- raise children's swenaarse
- tryflpeec good food
- so much food is wtnorh away
- it is a snlacda that people are going hungry
- it is a drasetsi
- energy and sreruseco are wasted
- It's curosdluui
- they're a funny easph

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. b	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Governments

You think governments are best at being able to reduce food waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are no good at reducing food waste. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at reducing food waste (and why): farmers, hotels or families.

Role B – Farmers

You think farmers are best at being able to reduce food waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are no good at reducing food waste. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at reducing food waste (and why): governments, hotels or families.

Role C – Hotels

You think hotels are best at being able to reduce food waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are no good at reducing food waste. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at reducing food waste (and why): farmers, governments or families.

Role D – Families

You think families are best at being able to reduce food waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are no good at reducing food waste. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at reducing food waste (and why): farmers, hotels or governments.

Speaking – Food Waste

Rank these with your partner. Put the people / things who can best cut down on food waste at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| • children | • food banks |
| • farmers | • fast-food restaurants |
| • hotels | • governments |
| • families | • supermarkets |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.