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## **World prepares to save energy for an hour**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0903/090326-earth\\_hour.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0903/090326-earth_hour.html)

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## THE ARTICLE

Millions of buildings around the globe will be dark for an hour on Saturday, March 28 as the third Earth Hour takes place. The event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 as a way of drawing attention to the dangers of climate change. The Earth Hour website says: "For the first time in history, people of all ages, nationalities, race and background have the opportunity to use their light switch as their vote – Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming." Organizers hope their message will reach a billion people. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour promises to be "the largest demonstration of public concern about climate change ever attempted".

Not everyone agrees that Earth Hour will help. Many see it as being too little, too late and that not much will change when the lights are switched back on. Climate campaigner Clive Hamilton says: "We are well past the time for feel-good exercises aimed at raising awareness... It's like the band playing on as the Titanic sinks." He says the event is risky because the next morning people will think the climate has recovered a little. "Symbolism is powerful if it leads to action, but dangerous if it substitutes for it," he says. Environmentalist Mark Alexander-Warne agrees. He stresses the need to reduce our daily energy consumption, rather than simply "sitting around in the dark" for an hour.

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE EARTH:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about the Earth. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*buildings / the dark / climate change / people's backgrounds / switching off lights / agreement / feel-good exercises / Titanic / raising awareness / energy consumption*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. WHAT DO YOU DO?:** What do you do to save energy? Complete the table. Talk about what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you found out.

Action	Do you do this?	Why (not)?	Will you change?
Turn off lights			
Use stairs, not lifts			
Walk, don't drive			
Energy-saving light bulbs			
Use heater / AC less			
Tell others to save energy			

**4. THE END:** Students A **strongly** believe we have run out of time to save the Earth; Students B **strongly** believe the Earth will survive. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. SAVE:** Which of these things do we need to save most? Rank them in order of most important. Change partners and talk about your ranking.

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| _____ frogs          | _____ the Amazon  |
| _____ energy         | _____ electricity |
| _____ money          | _____ our rivers  |
| _____ polar ice caps | _____ lives       |

**6. ENERGY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'energy'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Many buildings will be in darkness for an hour on March 28. T / F
- b. Earth Hour is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. T / F
- c. People can vote for who they want to save the Earth. T / F
- d. Maybe one billion people will hear about Earth Hour. T / F
- e. There are quite a few people who think Earth Hour will change little. T / F
- f. A climate campaigner said the Titanic sank because of climate change. T / F
- g. Earth Hour means the Earth will make a recovery by the next morning. T / F
- h. An environmentalist said sitting in the dark is the best thing we can do. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. globe                | a. focusing on |
| 2. takes place          | b. instead of  |
| 3. drawing attention to | c. just        |
| 4. opportunity          | d. turned      |
| 5. reach                | e. results in  |
| 6. switched             | f. happens     |
| 7. raising              | g. get to      |
| 8. leads to             | h. world       |
| 9. rather than          | i. increasing  |
| 10. simply              | j. chance      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. buildings around the globe will be          | a. too late               |
| 2. a way of drawing attention to the dangers   | b. has recovered a little |
| 3. people of all ages, nationalities,          | c. about climate change   |
| 4. Organizers hope their message will reach    | d. good exercises         |
| 5. the largest demonstration of public concern | e. dark for an hour       |
| 6. Many see it as a being too little,          | f. in the dark            |
| 7. We are well past the time for feel-         | g. a billion people       |
| 8. people will think the climate               | h. of climate change      |
| 9. the need to reduce our daily                | i. race and background    |
| 10. sitting around                             | j. energy consumption     |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Millions of buildings around the \_\_\_\_\_ will be dark for an hour on Saturday, March 28 as the third Earth Hour \_\_\_\_\_ place. The event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 as a way of drawing attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of climate change. The Earth Hour website says: "For the first time in history, people of all ages, nationalities, \_\_\_\_\_ and background have the opportunity to use their light switch as their \_\_\_\_\_ - Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming." Organizers \_\_\_\_\_ their message will reach a billion people. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour \_\_\_\_\_ to be "the largest demonstration of public concern about climate change \_\_\_\_\_ attempted".

*vote*  
*dangers*  
*ever*  
*globe*  
*promises*  
*race*  
*takes*  
*hope*

Not everyone \_\_\_\_\_ that Earth Hour will help. Many see it as being too little, too \_\_\_\_\_ and that not much will change when the lights are switched back on. Climate campaigner Clive Hamilton says: "We are well past the time for \_\_\_\_\_ -good exercises aimed at raising awareness... It's like the band playing on as the Titanic \_\_\_\_\_." He says the event is \_\_\_\_\_ because the next morning people will think the climate has recovered a little. "Symbolism is powerful if it \_\_\_\_\_ to action, but dangerous if it substitutes for it," he says. Environmentalist Mark Alexander-Warne agrees. He \_\_\_\_\_ the need to reduce our daily energy consumption, rather than \_\_\_\_\_ "sitting around in the dark" for an hour.

*leads*  
*sinks*  
*late*  
*simply*  
*agrees*  
*feel*  
*stresses*  
*risky*

## **LISTENING:** Listen and fill in the spaces.

Millions of buildings around the globe \_\_\_\_\_ hour on Saturday, March 28 as the third Earth Hour takes place. The event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 \_\_\_\_\_ attention to the dangers of climate change. The Earth Hour website says: "For \_\_\_\_\_ history, people of all ages, nationalities, race and background have the opportunity \_\_\_\_\_ switch as their vote – Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming." Organizers hope their message \_\_\_\_\_ people. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour promises to be "the largest demonstration \_\_\_\_\_ about climate change ever attempted".

Not everyone agrees that Earth Hour will help. Many \_\_\_\_\_ too little, too late and \_\_\_\_\_ change when the lights are switched back on. Climate campaigner Clive Hamilton says: "We are well \_\_\_\_\_ feel-good exercises aimed at raising awareness... It's like the band playing on as the Titanic sinks." He says \_\_\_\_\_ because the next morning people will think the climate has recovered a little. "Symbolism is powerful \_\_\_\_\_, but dangerous if it substitutes for it," he says. Environmentalist Mark Alexander-Warne agrees. He stresses \_\_\_\_\_ our daily energy consumption, rather than simply "sitting around in the dark" for an hour.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'earth' and 'hour'.

<b>earth</b>	<b>hour</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dark</li><li>• event</li><li>• dangers</li><li>• race</li><li>• vote</li><li>• promises</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• help</li><li>• change</li><li>• raising</li><li>• risky</li><li>• action</li><li>• stresses</li></ul>
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# STUDENT ENERGY SAVING SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about saving energy in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the phrase 'climate change'?
- c) Do you think Earth Hour is a good idea?
- d) Will / Did you turn off the lights for Earth Hour?
- e) What are the dangers of climate change?
- f) What do you think of the idea of turning off your lights for an hour being a vote for Earth?
- g) Have you taken part in any other climate change events?
- h) Do you think the even should be Earth 12 Hours and people should turn off their lights for a lot longer?
- i) Do you think people around the world are actually concerned about climate change?
- j) What do you do every day to help save energy or save the planet?

*World prepares to save energy for an hour – 26th March, 2009*  
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# CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What difference do you think Earth Hour will make to the world?
- c) Do you agree that Earth Hour is "too little, too late"?
- d) Is Earth Hour more than a "feel-good exercise"?
- e) What did Clive Hamilton mean when he mentioned the Titanic?
- f) How long do you think it will take people to forget about Earth Hour?
- g) Do you think it's possible for everyone to reduce their daily energy consumption?
- h) Has your life been affected by climate change?
- i) What have you done today that has added to climate change?
- j) What questions would you ask campaigner Clive Hamilton?

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# LANGUAGE

Millions of buildings around the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ will be dark for an hour on Saturday, March 28 as the third Earth Hour takes place. The event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 as a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of drawing attention to the dangers of climate change. The Earth Hour website says: "For the first time in (3) \_\_\_\_\_, people of all ages, nationalities, race and background have the opportunity to use their light switch (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their vote – Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming." Organizers hope their message will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a billion people. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour promises to be "the largest demonstration of public concern about climate change ever (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Not everyone agrees that Earth Hour will help. Many see it as being too little, too (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and that not much will change when the lights are switched back on. Climate campaigner Clive Hamilton says: "We are (8) \_\_\_\_\_ past the time for feel-good exercises aimed at raising awareness... It's like the band playing on as the Titanic sinks." He says the event is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ because the next morning people will think the climate has recovered a (10) \_\_\_\_\_. "Symbolism is powerful if it (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to action, but dangerous if it substitutes for it," he says. Environmentalist Mark Alexander-Warne agrees. He stresses the need to reduce our daily energy consumption, rather than (12) \_\_\_\_\_ "sitting around in the dark" for an hour.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |              |                   |               |                |
|-----|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) globally | (b) globalization | (c) globe     | (d) global     |
| 2.  | (a) away     | (b) way           | (c) way out   | (d) ways       |
| 3.  | (a) history  | (b) historical    | (c) historian | (d) histories  |
| 4.  | (a) at       | (b) of            | (c) to        | (d) as         |
| 5.  | (a) reached  | (b) reaching      | (c) reach     | (d) reaches    |
| 6.  | (a) attempt  | (b) attempts      | (c) attempted | (d) attempting |
| 7.  | (a) much     | (b) late          | (c) early     | (d) hot        |
| 8.  | (a) well     | (b) every         | (c) good      | (d) real       |
| 9.  | (a) risks    | (b) risky         | (c) risked    | (d) risk       |
| 10. | (a) little   | (b) small         | (c) tiny      | (d) mini       |
| 11. | (a) leading  | (b) leader        | (c) leaded    | (d) leads      |
| 12. | (a) simple   | (b) simpleton     | (c) simplify  | (d) simply     |



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Earth Hour and what happened in different countries around the world. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SAVE:** Make a poster about how we can save energy every day. Include a survey of whether people do these things and what they think of them. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE:** Write a magazine article about climate change and the future of the Earth. Include imaginary interviews with someone who thinks it's too late to save the Earth and someone who thinks we have plenty of time.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to someone you know. Ask him/her three questions about what they do to save energy. Give him/her three ideas on what (s)he should do to save energy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. T      c. F      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. globe                | a. world       |
| 2. takes place          | b. happens     |
| 3. drawing attention to | c. focusing on |
| 4. opportunity          | d. chance      |
| 5. reach                | e. get to      |
| 6. switched             | f. turned      |
| 7. raising              | g. increasing  |
| 8. leads to             | h. results in  |
| 9. rather than          | i. instead of  |
| 10. simply              | j. just        |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. buildings around the globe will be          | a. dark for an hour       |
| 2. a way of drawing attention to the dangers   | b. of climate change      |
| 3. people of all ages, nationalities,          | c. race and background    |
| 4. Organizers hope their message will reach    | d. a billion people       |
| 5. the largest demonstration of public concern | e. about climate change   |
| 6. Many see it as a being too little,          | f. too late               |
| 7. We are well past the time for feel-         | g. good exercises         |
| 8. people will think the climate               | h. has recovered a little |
| 9. the need to reduce our daily                | i. energy consumption     |
| 10. sitting around                             | j. in the dark            |

## GAP FILL:

### World prepares to save energy for an hour

Millions of buildings around the **globe** will be dark for an hour on Saturday, March 28 as the third Earth Hour **takes** place. The event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 as a way of drawing attention to the **dangers** of climate change. The Earth Hour website says: "For the first time in history, people of all ages, nationalities, **race** and background have the opportunity to use their light switch as their **vote** - Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming." Organizers **hope** their message will reach a billion people. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour **promises** to be "the largest demonstration of public concern about climate change **ever** attempted".

Not everyone **agrees** that Earth Hour will help. Many see it as being too little, too **late** and that not much will change when the lights are switched back on. Climate campaigner Clive Hamilton says: "We are well past the time for **feel**-good exercises aimed at raising awareness... It's like the band playing on as the Titanic **sinks**." He says the event is **risky** because the next morning people will think the climate has recovered a little. "Symbolism is powerful if it **leads** to action, but dangerous if it substitutes for it," he says. Environmentalist Mark Alexander-Warne agrees. He **stresses** the need to reduce our daily energy consumption, rather than **simply** "sitting around in the dark" for an hour.

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - c    2 - b    3 - a    4 - d    5 - c    6 - c    7 - b    8 - a    9 - b    10 - a    11 - d    12 - d