

WATER WISE

Read the text and then answer the true or false questions.

Water is a precious and limited resource. When the weather is hot and dry the level of water in our lakes, rivers and reservoirs goes down, and the amount of water we use goes up. We think that there will always be enough water to meet all our needs at home, at work and for our leisure time, but we waste a lot of water every day. The problem gets worse during the summer. We use much more water in the garden. A garden hose can easily use up 20 litres of water every minute. That is the same as a bath full of water every five minutes!

TRUE OR FALSE?

There will always be plenty of water in our reservoirs.

TRUE/FALSE

We waste litres of water every day.

TRUE/FALSE

In the summer, water use goes up.

TRUE/FALSE

A garden hose uses a basinful of water every five minutes.

TRUE/FALSE



Talk with your tutor about the ways we use water, and make a list. Then list the ways we waste water and your ideas for saving water.

WE USE WATER FOR:

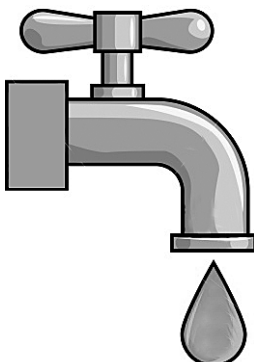
example:

We use water for washing

HOW WE WASTE WATER

example:

We waste water by leaving the taps running



HOW WE CAN SAVE WATER

example:

We can save water by fixing dripping taps



Water wasters

When a region is **in the grip** of a **drought**, local and regional councils often **impose** water **restrictions**. This usually means a ban on the use of **sprinklers** and irrigation systems in the garden, and only allowing the use of hoses at certain times of the day. Councils do this to make sure that we have a reasonable supply of water to drink and to keep ourselves healthy. You may be fined if you water your garden or wash your car outside the set times. There are lots of ways we can **conserve** water, both inside and outside the home.

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 Talk about these words with your tutor. Match the word to the meaning. The first one has been done for you.

in the grip of	to save
to impose	controls
to conserve	a period of very dry weather, with no rain
a sprinkler	when something is not allowed
restrictions	to introduce something without question
a drought	an automatic watering device
a ban	affected by



What do you and your tutor think?

Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?



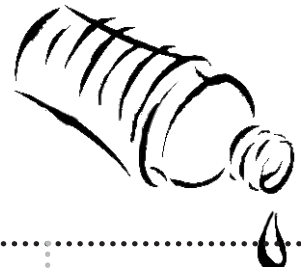
TRY

Do you think...?

What about...?

I think...

I disagree because...



..... ??????????????	Agree	Disagree
Our water should be metered! That way I can use as much water as I want.		
What I do won't make any difference.		
We should collect rainwater.		
It always seems to rain sooner or later.		
I like to keep my car clean - I need to wash it every weekend.		
I haven't got a garden, so it doesn't matter to me.		

Top tips for saving water

Tutor notes:

Photocopy a set of these tips. Cut the sentences into strips, then cut each sentence in two.

Ask your learner to read through each tip from the original list. Answer any questions s/he may have.

Cover the original list. Jumble up the strips.

Now ask your learner to match the two halves to make meaningful tips and read them aloud.

Check for sense against the original list. Think of more!

Use a hand-held hose and only water your garden in the evening.

Turn off the tap while you are cleaning your teeth or shaving.

Have a five minute shower instead of a bath.

Fix any leaking taps and make sure the basin plugs fit properly.

Wash your dishes in a washing up bowl and use the water on the garden afterwards.

Only switch on the dishwasher or washing machine when you have a full load.

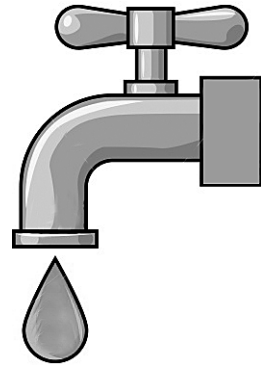
Wash your car or windows using a bucket of water not a hose.

Use the half flush instead of the full flush on your toilet.

After you have washed or drained vegetables use the water in the garden.

Put kitchen scraps on the compost heap instead of using your waste disposal unit.

Mulch around plants and reduce moisture loss in the garden by 70%.



Over the fence...

Jim and Al are new neighbours. Jim is watching Al watering his garden:

Jim: How's the garden doing Al? Umm ... haven't you heard that there's a water shortage?

Al: I know, but my veggies need watering. It's been so dry lately.

Jim: Well I know we haven't had any decent rain in a while, but you shouldn't be using that sprinkler. Most of it's going on the path!

Al: So what d'you suggest I do then, Jim, since you seem to know all about it? At this rate I'll have no veggies anyway.

Jim: Use a hose and water in the evening. That way the veggies will get all the water they need and it won't evaporate so quickly.

Al: Is there anything **else** I can do?

Jim: Yup. You could mulch round the plants.

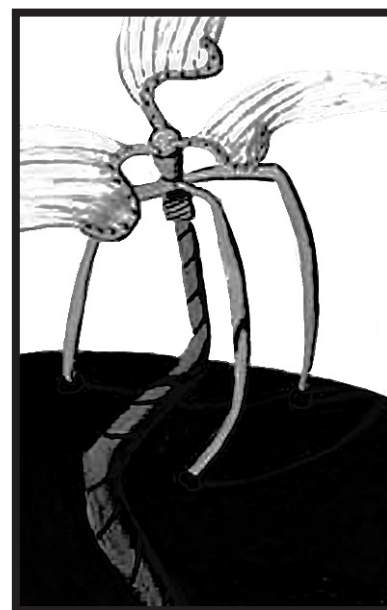
Al: Mulch? What's **that**?

Jim: Keeps the moisture in, and stops evaporation. Just use compost, bark chips or leaves, or even shredded newspaper. Come over and have a look at my patch.

Al: You really do know it all don't you Jim?

Jim: Well, I've been doing it this way for years. You can have a great garden without wasting water, y'know. You just have to think about it a little.

Al: OK then. I'm turning off the sprinkler and I'll water later today. Thanks for the advice. You can have some of my spare lettuces when they're ready!



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Now answer these questions: *What is Al doing?*

Why shouldn't he use a sprinkler?

When should he water the garden?

What does mulch do for the garden?

What kind of vegetable is Al growing?

.....
Tutor notes: Record the dialogue authentically if you can. If not, you and your learner can take a part each. Before listening, go through the questions with your learner. Ask your learner to listen/read through once, and talk about new words. Play the tape/read through again. Ask your learner to try to answer the questions.