

# Home Tutor Scheme

## Lesson Plan

### Topic: RECYCLING



everyone's family

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This lesson plan is primarily to provide students with a better understanding of the domestic waste management system used in Australia (information available on most local council websites), which might not be available in their home country. As a result, your student may be polluting the environment without knowing it simply through a lack of understanding. You can assist by teaching them this lesson on recycling and rubbish removal and expanding on any points that may be unclear for them. In preparation for this lesson plan it would be a good idea to get some information from their local council website about recycling and rubbish removal in their area, particularly if there is any information available in their own language.

#### **Vocabulary**

Garbage bin	Garbage truck	Rubbish removal	
Household waste	Recycling	Landfill	Contamination
Garden waste	Council	Methane	Compost

#### Containers:

Tin	can	box
jar	carton	packet

#### Verbs:

Reduce	reuse	destroy	dispose (of)	dump	avoid
protect	pollute	recycle	save	throw away	

#### Adjectives:

dangerous	harmful	hazardous
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### Discussion questions

1. How much garbage does your family produce each week?
2. What did you do with garbage in your home country? Is there any difference in garbage disposal between that in your home country and here?
3. Do you know what happens to garbage waste in Australia?
4. What colour lid bins do you have and do you know what goes in each?
5. Do you read the signs on containers to check whether they are recyclable?
6. What can be the consequences if the waste is not disposed of properly?
7. Do you know what day your council collects the garbage?
8. What do you do with bulk household items like small furniture and electrical devices that should not go in your bins?
9. Something that is garbage to you may not be garbage to somebody else, e.g. old clothes. Do you ever give old clothes to charity instead of throwing them away? Why/not?

Ask the student to list actions that can damage the environment. Then narrow the actions to garbage disposal.

### Grammar functions: can/can't, should/shouldn't, must/mustn't

You can use the modal verbs in different contexts representing different meanings.

#### 1. Can (negative form can't = cannot)

- 1) **Can I ...?** : To ask for permission, meaning "Is it Ok to do something?"

e.g. Can I put this box in the recycling bin?

---Yes, you can.

---No, you can't.

- 2) **Can you...?**: To ask people to do something.

e.g. Can you put the bottles in the right bin please?

In many informal contexts, this is not a real question actually. We do not really want to know if the person will do something, but want them to do it!

e.g. Can you turn the TV off please.

- 3) To talk about possibility

e.g. Glass jars and bottles which are green, brown or clear can be recycled, but drinking and wine glasses cannot.

In some cases, just a few contaminated bins can ruin an entire truckload of recyclables.

Just a few people doing the wrong thing can lead to a big waste!

**2. Should (negative form shouldn't = should not):** To talk about the right thing to do

e.g. Remember plastic bags cannot be placed in the recycling bin - they should be reused, returned to a supermarket with a special plastic bag recycling station, or disposed of in your garbage bin. Even better than that is to purchase reusable bags and take them shopping with you to avoid using plastic bags.



**I think...should.../Do you think I should.../I don't think...should...**

I think everybody should do something to save our environment.

Do you think I should call the Council to find out more information about recycling?

I don't think you should leave the lights on as it is a waste of electricity.

**3. Must:** To say that it is necessary for someone to do something. **Must is stronger than should.**

e.g. We must recycle in order to protect our children's future.

You must rinse milk and juice cartons before throwing them in the recycling bin.

**Mustn't = must not:** to say it is the wrong thing to do

e.g. You mustn't throw away plastic bags; it's bad for the environment.

**Exercises**

- 1) Ask the student to make 5 sentences to answer "What should we do to help protect our environment".
- 2) Ask the student to write down a sentence from each of the signs about what we must or must not do.



**II. Containers:** Match the containers in Column A to item in Column B (circle the correct answer)

A	B
bottle	biscuits, milk,
of	tuna, potatoes
bag	jam, tuna
tin	tissues, water
box	soft drink, honey
can	marmalade, milk
carton	honey, potatoes
jar	jam, biscuits
packet	

\* We usually use a tin for food (a tin of tomatoes) and a can for drink (a can of coke)

**III. Pronunciation:** Clap the Stress

x X	x X x	x X x x	X x
reuse	recycle	environment	toxic
reduce	pollution	aluminium	dirty
repeat	remember	ridiculous	litter
repair	November	hazardous	plastic
rework	December	community	bottles

## Reading comprehension

### Your waste impacts on Climate Change

Because landfills filled with our garbage produce a dangerous greenhouse gas called methane, recycling is a great way to start fighting global warming. Helping the environment begins in our own homes.

### Mixed bottles and jars

#### What can I Recycle?

Yes: ✓

- Aluminium and steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic containers (labelled 1-7 and R)
- Cartons and tetra paks



#### What happens to it?

Mixed containers are separated and sorted at the materials recovery facility and then reprocessed at various locations. Plastics can come back to life as winter fleeces and aluminium cans are melted down and re-used.

#### Top tip

Rinse containers, remove lids and crush cans and plastic.

## Paper & Cardboard

### What can I Recycle?

Yes: ✓

- Papers, magazines and phone books
- Egg cartons and cardboard boxes

No: ✗

- Waxed or soiled cardboard and paper
- Disposable nappies
- Tissue paper



### What happens to it?

Paper is taken to a paper mill and recycled into new cardboard boxes.

### Top tip

There's no need to remove staples or plastic windows from envelopes.



Here are some tips to improve the way you recycle:

- When you put materials into your recycling bin, don't ever put them in a plastic bag.
- Don't put oven-proof glass, drinking glasses or ceramic mugs in your bin. Just 25g of oven-proof glass can contaminate one tonne of normal glass, making it useless for recycling.
- All types of printer cartridges are now recyclable all around Australia through the 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' program. To find your nearest drop off location look up the Planet Ark website.
- Drink cans are commonly recycled. However, many people forget about the cans they drink from away from home. Don't litter, put them in a recycling bin when you're finished and if you can't find a recycling bin take them home with you and recycle them with your other home recyclable items.
- Keep recycling newspapers and magazines! Last year, we recycled the equivalent of 1 billion newspapers into newsprint and other paper materials.
- Rinse out containers, jars and bottles before putting them in your recycling bin. They don't have to be spotless, just give them a quick clean.
- Remove the lids from bottles and jars before putting them into your recycling bin.
- Pizza boxes, paper bags or cardboard boxes containing food also need special treatment before putting them into your recycling bin. Take out all food items before recycling and remember if the cardboard/paper box or paper bag is too dirty or greasy it cannot be recycled.

- 47% of Australia's household waste is made up of organic waste like food scraps and garden cuttings. That's a huge amount of waste to add to landfill so if you have a bin for garden cuttings (green bin) or your council runs an organic waste collection service make sure you utilise it. Better still, invest in a compost bin or worm farm to make good use of your organic waste and keep it out of landfill.
- Organic matter is the main contributor to methane emissions from landfill. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide. You can do even more to reduce waste by using your food and garden waste for composting or worm farming.

Even though new landfills adhere to strict environmental standards, we still don't want to keep converting our precious bushland which is home to a variety of wildlife and eco-systems, into more and more landfills.

Recycling and waste minimisation is the answer!

### How long will it take to decompose?

How long, do you think, the rubbish below will take to decompose if thrown into landfill?

Aluminium cans 200 - 500 Years

Paper and cardboard 3 Weeks - 3 Months

Glass 1000 Years



Plastic

150 - 600+ Years



Steel cans

100 - 200 Years



Clothing

2 Years+

<http://www.cleanaway.com.au/scripts/runisa.dll?RECYCLE.1636303080:STANDARD:511578943:pc=DOWNCB>

## Exercises

1. Explain new words and expressions and discuss the ideas contained in the information above.
2. Ask your student their understanding of what they have read. Was there any new information they didn't know before? Will this change their recycling habits? How will they pass on this information to their family?
3. Do they have any other ideas for reducing waste and saving the environment.
4. Below is a diagram re-enforcing most of the information above but displayed in a new format. Go over the concepts again so your student is clear of the meanings. Ask if he/she know why it is represented in a triangle. If not, explain the hierarchy and that we need to do most of the top, to the least of the bottom.

