



New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Why cycle across Africa?

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Pre-Intermediate Lesson

Today's lesson:

Speaking

Reading

Grammar

Vocabulary

Making protest banners



**This group are cycling across Africa? –
why?**



**Yeb Saño used to be the Philippine
Climate Change Commissioner.
He is leading a 1,500 km walk from Rome
to Paris, taking 60 days. Why?**



**Read the next page to decide
which is true: a, b or c**



Yeb Sano is walking from Rome to Paris

- a) to get to the Paris climate talks to talk to big oil companies.
- b) to make a fair agreement about climate change with many governments.
- c) to make many people around the world think about climate change and the climate talks.

Yeb Saño used to be the Philippine Climate Change Commissioner. He is leading this 1,500 kilometre walk. It will take 60 days to walk from Rome to Paris. He is doing it to make people think about climate change before the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris from 30 November to 11 December.

Now (October) they are in Bologna, Italy, on the 14th day of the journey. Saño went to Rome in September to start his walk. Many church groups and groups of environmentalists eg. Greenpeace, around the world support him. He wants big companies and world governments going to the Paris UN climate talks to do something to help countries like the Philippines.

Before the climate talks, big businesses are making suggestions to stop climate change. But their ideas really only help the businesses. For example, liquefied natural gas and clean oil. Big oil companies like Royal Dutch Shell are saying we need more natural gas, as an alternative to coal. But there is not enough natural gas to stop us using coal. The real alternative is renewable energy. And this is good for the environment.

Also, big energy companies are saying we need 'clean coal', but this does not exist. Saño said that getting power from coal is the main reason for human-caused climate change. He said that technology has helped cut the pollution from the coal industry. But this is very expensive. So businesses only invest money in this technology in countries where they legally have to control the air quality.

Saño hopes for a miracle in Paris so that countries make a fair agreement at the climate talks.

'Climate change is not just about very bad weather eg. typhoons. It's also about people's development. If people have to live in unfair global economic systems, they will suffer, and climate change will make all this worse' he said.

**Read the next page to
decide if these are true:**



The group are cycling across Africa

- a) to get people to sign a petition about climate change.
- b) to get more people to cycle.
- c) to make people all around the world think about climate change and the Paris climate talks.

Africa does not have much responsibility for causing climate change but it suffers from the effects. The UN climate talks are soon, so a group of Africans have decided to cycle 6,500 kilometres across Africa to make people think about what's happening there and about the Paris talks.

They started in Mozambique and will cycle through 9 countries before they get to Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 November. 10 people are cycling the whole way. And many other people will join them in different places, eg. Victor Coutries, who is 74. He is from Soweto, South Africa, and he says cycling is like praying about the changing climate. He said: 'When I was young, summer was summer; winter was winter. But now summer is like winter and winter is like summer. Now, when it rains, there are often many problems. When we cycle, people ask, "What is going on?" Then you can tell them about climate change. Cycling for me is like a prayer. I show I am committed by taking action.'

He hopes this will make other people want to cycle. 'I cycle everywhere. I don't like to use a car – I'm happier when I'm cycling. This is another important message – we must rely on ourselves, not use the car all the time.'

They hope their physical effort will also make people around the world sign their Act Now For Climate Justice petition: <http://actclimate.org/> This will go to world leaders before the UN climate talks at the end of November.

Allen Namukamba, 35, is the lead cyclist in Zambia. His climate activism began when he stopped producing and selling charcoal – this fossil fuel makes a lot of pollution - and became an environmental campaigner.

'Government officials came from the forestry department and made us think,' he remembers. 'So I stopped. Now I speak to my community about the dangers. We almost have no rain now and Lake Kariba is drying out. Many people are suffering and it is important to show people the connection between climate change and the economy, health and education. Everyone needs to care about the environment.'

Match :

1/ climate change

2/
environmentalist

3/ fossil fuels

4/ renewable
energy

5/ committed

6/ forestry

7/ activism

8/ campaigner

a) coal, oil and gas

b) someone who does a lot of work
for an important cause

c) the industry of cutting trees for
wood

d) doing something to try to make a
change in society

e) solar power, wind power, hydro-
electric power etc

f) someone who wants to improve
and protect the natural world

g) the climate getting hotter or
colder around the world because
of CO₂ from fossil fuels

h) very serious about something

Fill the gaps with these words:

- a) 'I show I am by taking action'.
- b) His climate began when he stopped producing and selling charcoal – this makes a lot of pollution - and became an environmental
- c) 'Government officials came from the department and made us think.'
- d) He is doing the walk to make people think about
- e) Many church groups and groups of eg. Greenpeace, around the world support him.
- f) The real alternative is

- 1/ climate change
- 2/ environmentalists
- 3/ fossil fuel
- 4/ renewable energy
- 5/ committed
- 6/ forestry
- 7/ activism
- 8/ campaigner

Order this sentence:

- people
- and
- to
- about
- They're
- to
- change.



- walking
- climate
- Paris
- make
- cycling
- think



Look at this grammar:

- Yeb is walking from Rome to Paris
- They're cycling across Africa

a) **to make** many people around the world think about climate change and the climate talks.

b) **to get** people to sign a petition about climate change.

c) **to get** more people to cycle.

d) **to make** people all around the world think about climate change and the Paris climate talks.



Which question is this part answering?:

WHAT? WHY? WHO? Or WHERE?



Now practise:

WHY?

1/ I came in this room

to

2/ I'm learning English

to

3/ People protest

to

4/ Activists will be at the Paris climate talks ...

to....

5/ People sign petitions ...

to ...

6/ World governments are going to the Paris climate talks in December

to ...

Think about the activists at the Paris climate talks:

What do they think is important?

What will they shout?

What banners will they have?



Make some protest banners, then practise shouting and protesting



Homework:

Read more about climate change
and watch the 4-minute video:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/New_short_videos_to_explain_climate_change

