

New Internationalist

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



Cowspiracy

NEW INTERNATIONALIST EASIER ENGLISH
INTERMEDIATE READY LESSON

This lesson:

Vocabulary

Reading

Grammar



Match the words from the reading text to the

meanings:

1) **vegan**

2) **vegetarian**

3) **crowd-funding**

4) **documentary**

5) **dub**

6) **drought**

7) **animation**

a) finding money for a business idea from large numbers of people on an internet website

b) change the words spoken in a film into another language

c) film about real facts

d) someone who never eats meat

e) a long time with no rain

f) film using a cartoon like Mickey Mouse

g) someone who never drinks milk or eats meat or cheese or yoghurt



Discuss with a partner



1) What are the advantages of eating meat?

2) What are the disadvantages of eating meat?

The text is about a film called *Cowspiracy*.

Before you read, what do you think are the answers to these questions? Discuss with a partner.



- 1) Is the film a documentary?
- 2) Does the *Cowspiracy* Facebook have 67,000 likes, 670,000 likes, or 6,700 likes?
- 3) Are 6 million animals killed for food every week, every day or every hour?
- 4) Does it take 6 gallons (27 litres), 66 gallons (300 litres) or 660 gallons (3000 litres) of water to make one beef burger?
- 5) Is one acre (4046 square metres) of rain forest cut down every second, every minute, or every day?

Now read and check your answers:

Netflix has released *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*. It is a 90-minute documentary film. The money came from crowd-funding site Indiegogo. Hollywood star Leonardo di Caprio is the producer. It is the latest documentary film from Netflix.

The *Cowspiracy* Facebook page has 67,000 likes. Facebook and the video site Vimeo have comments from around the world. A large number say they became vegan immediately.

The film has many alarming facts: cows and their by-products account for 51% of all worldwide greenhouse gases; animal agriculture is responsible for around 90% of Amazon destruction; 70 billion farmed animals are reared annually worldwide and more than 6 million animals are killed for food every hour. And 1,100 activists have been killed in land disputes in Brazil during the past 20 years.

The facts and statistics are never boring as they use animation. One acre of rainforest cut down every second is shown as football fields replacing the trees. The 660 gallons of water it takes to produce one beef-burger pours from a man's garden hose.



Read the next two paragraphs quickly:

(a) Which paragraph gives details about the film - 1 or 2?

(b) Which paragraph talks about the effect of the film on young people - 1 or 2?

Since its internet release last August, the film has made important changes in behaviour in young adults. People often think they are not interested in politics or other issues. As friends and Facebook contacts recommend the film, young people watch it and after the film they decide to be vegans or vegetarians.

So what started the revolution? *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret* was produced and directed by Californians Kip Anderson and Keegan Kuhn. The pair could only get the money to make the film through crowd-funding. Their original financial backer changed his mind about giving the money. They needed \$54,000 but they received promises of 217% more. 1,449 people invested \$117,092 in only one month. With the extra money they dubbed it into Spanish and German and subtitled it into more than 10 other languages, including Chinese and Russian.

Read the two paragraphs again and find answers to these questions:

- 1) Can you see the film at a cinema?
- 2) Is the film from the USA?
- 3) Did the film cost \$117,092 to make?
- 4) Did the film makers get the money to make the film from Hollywood producers?
- 5) How many different language speakers can understand the film?



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Put the next five parts of the text (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) in the right order.

(a) It is responsible for global warming, deforestation, droughts, and the murders of land activists. It all comes back to cows.

(b) The film has many alarming facts.

(c) *Cowspiracy's* most important point is that agriculture is the most destructive industry in the world today.

(d) And 1,100 activists have been killed in land disputes in Brazil during the past 20 years.

(e) Cows and their by-products account for 51% of all worldwide greenhouse gases; animal agriculture is responsible for around 90% of Amazon destruction; 70 billion farmed animals are reared annually worldwide and more than 6 million animals are killed for food every hour.

Put the words into the right gaps:

meat *thousands* *cool* *eating* *fast* *diets* *vegan*

On the internet, there are stories of teenagers forcing their parents to watch the film, and whole families become (1) _____, or at least vegetarian, as a result. Serious (2) _____ eaters say they don't want to watch the film because it might stop them (3) _____ meat.

Anderson says: 'It's happening actually really, really (4) _____. I think it's just the fact that people didn't know how much their diet affects everything. And when you know it, you can never not know it. The film has been around for about a year, and it's unbelievable the (5) _____ of stories we've heard of people changing their (6) _____ after they know the truth.'

And Di Caprio's involvement in the Netflix film makes *Cowspiracy* very (7) '_____'.

Which sentences are in the past simple and which in the present perfect simple?

- (1) Since its internet release last August, the film has made important changes in behaviour in young adults.
- (2) On his first day in Denmark, Matt met three other vegans.
- (3) The film has been around for about a year.
- (4) 1,100 activists have been killed in land disputes in Brazil during the past 20 years.

Look at the sentences and answer the questions:

- (a) We use the past simple when we know the exact time something happened. True/false?
- (b) We use the present perfect simple when things happen in a period of time which is not finished. True/false?

Make true sentences about yourself. Use the past simple for what you did at a specific time and the present perfect for things you did in a period of time.

For example: *I/watch _____ hours of TV last night*
I watched 2 hours of TV last night.

(1) I/see/_____film(s) this year

(2) I/see/_____film(s) last year

(3) I/eat/ about _____ kilos of meat this year

(4) I/eat/ about _____ kilos of meat yesterday



Make a poster to advertise the film
Cowspiracy.

or

Make a poster to show why people
should be vegans or vegetarians.

Homework:



Read the original article:

<http://newint.org/blog/2015/09/24/cowspiracy-documentary-vegan/>

And more Easier English articles from the wiki:

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