

# Fight Amazon fires



**New Internationalist Easier English**

**Self-study: Upper Intermediate**

# Fight Amazon fires

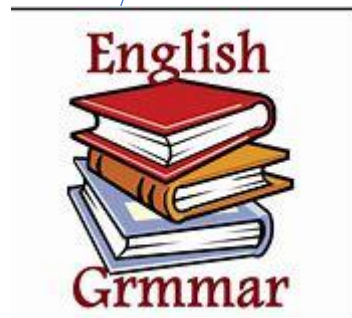
This lesson



Vocabulary



Reading



should



# Match:

- 1) denial
- 2) policy
- 3) encourage
- 4) agriculture
- 5) mining
- 6) dam
- 7) indigenous peoples
- 8) solidarity
- 9) deforestation
- 10) divestment



Check the answers  
next page.

a) farming



b) support an activity to make it more likely

c) ideas or a plan

d) saying something is not true

e)



f) support for a group

g) digging coal or metals from the ground



h) they are born in and come from a country

i) no longer investing money in a company

j) cutting down a lot of trees





# Match:

1) denial

2) policy

3) encourage

4) agriculture

5) mining

6) dam

7) indigenous peoples

8) solidarity

9) deforestation

10) divestment

a) farming



b) support an activity to make it more likely

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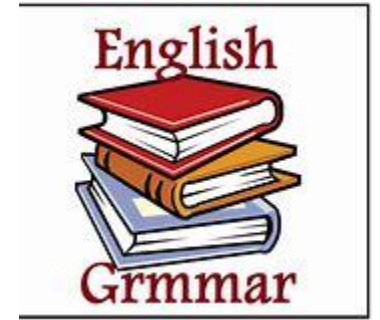
i) no longer investing money in a company

j) cutting down a lot of trees



What is the text about?

To find out, put the words in the correct order.

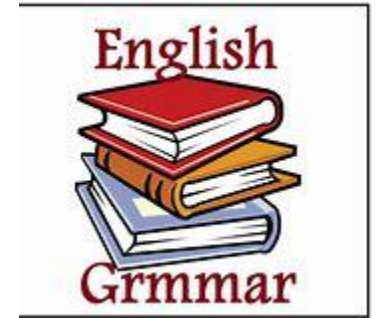


***the forest Danny Chivers outside how Latin  
America can people defend  
explains help***

Check the answer next page.



What is the text about?  
Check answer.



***Danny Chivers explains how  
people outside Latin America  
can help defend the forest.***

Read these questions and find the answers in the text on the next page.



- 1) There were about half a million fires in Brazil in 2019. True/false?
- 2)  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the fires were in the Amazon. True/false?
- 3) There were fewer fires in 2018. True/false?
- 4) There are four very important things that we are worried about. True/false?
- 5) More people are concerned about climate change. True/false?
- 6) People think President Bolsonaro is making the situation worse. True/false?
- 7) Eating less meat will help the situation. True/false?

The recent fires in Brazil have shocked the world. Already in 2019 there were 74,000 fires - 84 per cent more than the year before. About half of the fires are in the Amazon. So if this continues, they could destroy as much as the fires in the early 2000s.

They are not yet the worst fires in the Brazilian rainforest. Global Forest Watch says this will be the third-highest rate of Amazon forest burning since 2010.

Many people in the world are worried because:

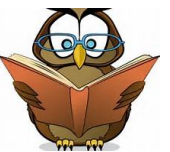
1 they understand the dangers of losing the Amazon because more people care about climate change.

2 they are worried that the policies of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro are encouraging the fires.

3 there are many media articles that say the fires are because people eat meat.

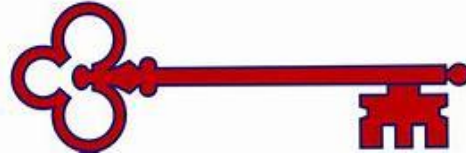
Vegans are trying to get people to change Western diets, so there is not so much demand for beef and so they won't clear so much land in the rainforest.

Check the answers next page.

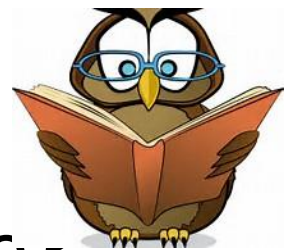




# Check the answers.



- 1) There were about half a million fires in Brazil in 2019. True/false?
- 2)  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the fires were in the Amazon. True/false?
- 3) There were fewer fires in 2018. True/false?
- 4) There are four very important things that we are worried about. True/false?
- 5) More people are concerned about climate change. True/false?
- 6) People think President Bolsonaro is making the situation worse. True/false?
- 7) Eating less meat will help the situation. True/false:





# What words do you think go in the gaps?

Big companies have made a lot of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ from the destruction of the rainforest for a long (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

There are (3) \_\_\_\_\_ other Latin American countries where this is happening.

We should (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ peoples in the Amazon.

Bolsonaro has plans to build (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to make life difficult for these peoples.

Most Brazilians do not (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the president.

We should protest against companies which are making (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from the destruction of the Amazon.

## Now read the next page and check your answers.

**Learn more about what's happening, and why.** These fires are not just because of one far-right government, but because of big business: agriculture, mining, oil, and finance areas have been making a lot of money from destroying the rainforest for decades. This is not only in Brazil, but across all the Amazon basin (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Suriname and Guyana).

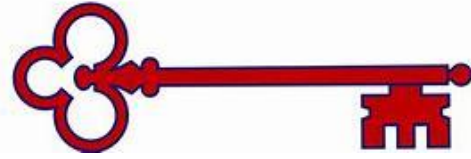
**Support resistance in the Amazon.** Bolsonaro's government is planning big road and dam projects in the Amazon. This is not only to make money. It's also to try to stop the indigenous forest peoples getting organised, because they have often fought against destructive governments in Latin America. There is a lot of resistance now and a big urban protest movement against Bolsonaro's economic policies. More than half of Brazilians do not support the president. We can help by looking for and sharing these stories of resistance, sending messages of support, and joining solidarity protests.

**Challenge companies that cause the destruction.** Look at reports to see the international businesses and finance companies that are making money from the burning of the Amazon. If some are near you, think about pressure you can put on them through protests, boycotts, public shaming, or divestment campaigns.

Check the answers next page.



# Check your answers.



Big companies have made a lot of (1) money from the destruction of the rainforest for a long (2) time.

There are (3) seven other Latin American countries where this is happening.

We should (4) support the (5) indigenous peoples in the Amazon.

Bolsonaro has plans to build (6) roads and (7) dams to make life difficult for these peoples.

Most Brazilians do not (8) support the president.

We should protest against companies which are making (9) money from the destruction of the Amazon.

# Match the headlines to the paragraphs.



**(1) Give money to organizations that support the fight of indigenous peoples**

**(2) Support local products**

**(3) Organize against far-right politics.**

**(4) Stop your own government from making the crisis worse.**

**(a)** The EU is about to agree a Free Trade Agreement with Latin American countries, including Brazil. This could mean more deforestation if we don't protect it. Governments around the world could – and should – raise standards of products they import, to stop companies buying products from land linked to rainforest destruction. We need to put pressure on our governments to take these issues seriously – or choose new governments that will.

**(b)** eg. the Indigenous Environment Network, Amazon Watch, or the Rainforest Action Network.

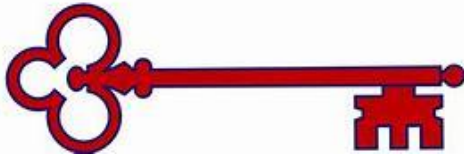
**(c)** We can reduce or stop eating beef. We can make sure the soya products we buy are not from rainforest land. We can look for – and help to build – sustainable food and agriculture projects near us so we import less.

**(d)** There are more far-right politicians like Bolsonaro now. Their supporters are internationally connected and working to build a global movement based on racism, division and hate, anti-environmental policies, and climate science denial. We need to be just as well-organized, and challenge these ideas!

**Check answers next page.**



# Check answers.



## **(4) Stop your own government from making the crisis worse.**

The EU is about to agree a Free Trade Agreement with Latin American countries, including Brazil. This could mean more deforestation if we don't protect it. Governments around the world could – and should – raise standards of products they import, to stop companies buying products from land linked to rainforest destruction. We need to put pressure on our governments to take these issues seriously – or choose new governments that will.

## **(1) Give money to organizations that support the fight of indigenous peoples**

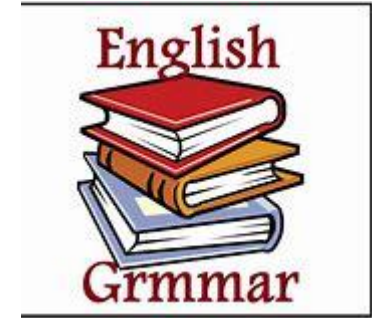
eg. the Indigenous Environment Network, Amazon Watch, or the Rainforest Action Network.

## **(2) Support local products**

We can reduce or stop eating beef. We can make sure the soya products we buy are not from rainforest land. We can look for – and help to build – sustainable food and agriculture projects near us so we import less.

## **(3) Organize against far-right politics**

There are more far-right politicians like Bolsonaro now. Their supporters are internationally connected and working to build a global movement based on racism, division and hate, anti-environmental policies, and climate science denial. We need to be just as well-organized, and challenge these ideas!



# Grammar: answer the questions.

*“We should support resistance in the Amazon.”*

## Meaning

- (1) Does this mean in the past or in the future?
- (2) Is it advice?

## Form

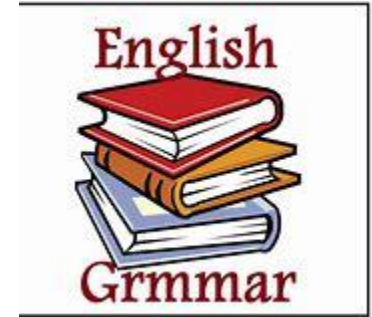
Are these sentences correct?

- (3) We should to help the indigenous peoples. *Correct/incorrect?*
- (4) We should helping the indigenous peoples. *Correct/incorrect?*
- (5) We should support the indigenous peoples. *Correct/incorrect?*

Check the answers next page.



# Grammar: *should* Check the answers.



*"We should support resistance in the Amazon."*

## Meaning

(1) Does this mean in the past or in the future? **Future**

(2) Is it advice? **Yes**

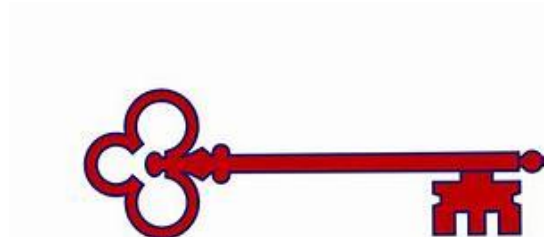
## Form

Are these sentences correct?

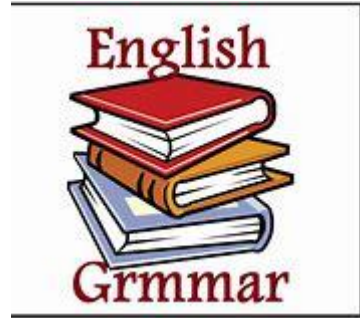
(3) We should to help the indigenous peoples. **Correct/incorrect?**

(4) We should helping the indigenous peoples. **Correct/incorrect?**

(5) We should support the indigenous peoples. **Correct/incorrect?**







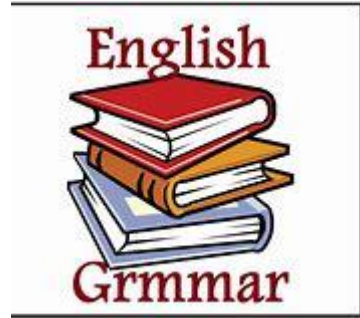
# Grammar: *should*

Make 3 sentences with the words in the box.

eat                      put                      on  
We                      should                      solidarity  
less                      join                      We  
We                      protests                      governments  
beef                      pressure

Check the answers next page.





Grammar: *should* Check answers.

Make 3 sentences with the words in the box.

We should eat less beef.

We should join solidarity protests.

We should put pressure on  
governments.



Read the LONGER article. How much can you understand?

[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=Seven ways to fight fires in the Amazon](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=Seven_ways_to_fight_fires_in_the_Amazon)

