

**New
Internationalist**



COP26

New Internationalist Easier English Ready Lesson: Intermediate –
reading / speaking / dictation

This lesson:

- Introduction to COP26
- Speaking: what can schools do?
- Creating headings
- Reading to match headings to paragraphs
- Discussion of reading
- Learn vocabulary from original text
- Group dictation
- Further research from websites



When, why and where is COP26?

Soon, we have more UN climate talks. During the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, UK (31 October to 12 November), there will be many opportunities to support the big cuts in emissions we need to stop total climate breakdown. Based on the discussions at COP26, here are five suggestions:

.... [What do you think the suggestions will be?](#)

What can students, teachers and schools do?



Rearrange these words to create 5 phrases – (the headings for the 5 suggestions in the text):

1 & 2:

Solutions

Climate

False

Justice

Challenge

Demand

3, 4 & 5:

Local

Shout

Internationalize

Make

The

Failure

Important

About



Here are the headings – match to the paragraphs:

1 CHALLENGE FALSE SOLUTIONS

2 DEMAND GLOBAL JUSTICE

3 MAKE THE LOCAL IMPORTANT

4 SHOUT ABOUT FAILURE

5 INTERNA- TIONALIZE

a) Politicians like to talk big at COPs. This is your chance to make the local important. There are many really bad projects that governments (that say they are ‘climate leaders’) are pushing: coal mines and oil fields in the UK to pipelines in the US and Canada. This is a chance to show and put a stop to these projects.

b) COP26 won’t be making many big, formal decisions; it will mainly be discussing the unfinished details of the 2015 Paris agreement. We need to watch the difficult topic of carbon trading closely. Polluting governments want carbon markets that have loose regulations and many loopholes: this will make it look like they will meet their targets but they won’t cut their emissions at all. We need to fight against these fake solutions – on social media, by talking to the people around us or by joining protests and campaigns that demand meaningful action at COP26 and after this.

c) One of the biggest criticisms of COP26 has been not bringing enough people from all over the world. The UK has not provided enough Covid-19 vaccinations, money for quarantine funding or visa exemptions, so many people will not be able to come, especially people from the Global South and indigenous communities. Everyone needs to listen to these people because they are at the frontline of the climate crisis and they have many real solutions to it. Climate activists in the Global North can link up online with people who can’t go to COP26, and keep those links afterwards. If we want to avoid the worst climate predictions, we need an international movement of global solidarity, with the power to create the change.

d) At COPs before, Northern governments promised to give money to the Global South, to help pay for the change to clean energy and protect communities from the effects of climate change now. This is fair, because the climate crisis is very much the fault of the industrialized nations and their businesses. Also, people say they should pay for the loss and damage that low-income countries have already suffered from climate disasters. However, not enough money has been promised so far, and the promised money has not all been delivered. Industrialized countries will try to push these issues into the background at COP26. It’s up to us – and our organizations – to keep the spotlight on global justice.

e) Many governments will be trying hard to say the COP is a success – and the media are not very good at challenging this. Look for updates to Nationally Determined Contributions – the amount of greenhouse gas that each country is promising to cut in the coming years. If these contributions don’t keep the earth below 1.5°C warming – or get enough help for Southern countries – then they’re not good enough. Many countries are trying to move attention away from agreements made in Paris, with promises to be ‘net-zero by 2050’. This target is easier because it’s a long way in the future and it can include impossible amounts of tree-planting and carbon capture technologies that have not been proven yet. Our job is to bring the conversation back to what governments are doing right now, and in the next few years, when it urgently matters.

Which suggestions are most important? Why?

Which will / could you do? How?

1 CHALLENGE FALSE SOLUTIONS COP26 won't be making many big, formal decisions; it will mainly be discussing the unfinished details of the 2015 Paris agreement. We need to watch the difficult topic of carbon trading closely. Polluting governments want carbon markets that have loose regulations and many loopholes: this will make it look like they will meet their targets but they won't cut their emissions at all. We need to fight against these fake solutions – on social media, by talking to the people around us or by joining protests and campaigns that demand meaningful action at COP26 and after this.

2 DEMAND GLOBAL JUSTICE At COPs before, Northern governments promised to give money to the Global South, to help pay for the change to clean energy and protect communities from the effects of climate change now. This is fair, because the climate crisis is very much the fault of the industrialized nations and their businesses. Also, people say they should pay for the loss and damage that low-income countries have already suffered from climate disasters. However, not enough money has been promised so far, and the promised money has not all been delivered. Industrialized countries will try to push these issues into the background at COP26. It's up to us – and our organizations – to keep the spotlight on global justice.

3 MAKE THE LOCAL IMPORTANT Politicians like to talk big at COPs. This is your chance to make the local important. There are many really bad projects that governments (that say they are 'climate leaders') are pushing: coal mines and oil fields in the UK to pipelines in the US and Canada. This is a chance to show and put a stop to these projects.

4 SHOUT ABOUT FAILURE Many governments will be trying hard to say the COP is a success – and the media are not very good at challenging this. Look for updates to Nationally Determined Contributions – the amount of greenhouse gas that each country is promising to cut in the coming years. If these contributions don't keep the earth below 1.5°C warming – or get enough help for Southern countries – then they're not good enough. Many countries are trying to move attention away from agreements made in Paris, with promises to be 'net-zero by 2050'. This target is easier because it's a long way in the future and it can include impossible amounts of tree-planting and carbon capture technologies that have not been proven yet. Our job is to bring the conversation back to what governments are doing right now, and in the next few years, when it urgently matters.

5 INTERNATIONALIZE One of the biggest criticisms of COP26 has been not bringing enough people from all over the world. The UK has not provided enough Covid-19 vaccinations, money for quarantine funding or visa exemptions, so many people will not be able to come, especially people from the Global South and indigenous communities. Everyone needs to listen to these people because they are at the frontline of the climate crisis and they have many real solutions to it. Climate activists in the Global North can link up online with people who can't go to COP26, and keep those links afterwards. If we want to avoid the worst climate predictions, we need an international movement of global solidarity, with the power to create the change.

Look at the original (more difficult) version and work out the meaning of the red words / phrases (then look back at the Easier English text to check):

2 DEMAND GLOBAL JUSTICE

At **previous** COPs, Northern governments **pledged to provide** money to the Global South, to help **fund the transition** to clean energy and protect communities from **ongoing climate impacts**. This is only fair, as the climate crisis is **overwhelmingly** the fault of the industrialized nations and their corporations. **There are also calls to cover** the loss and damage low-income countries have already suffered from climate disasters. However, the **amounts pledged to date are insufficient** and have not even yet been delivered in full. Industrialized nations will try to **sideline these issues** at COP26. It's up to us – and the organizations we are part of – to keep global justice in the spotlight.

Now do the same with the other paragraphs: work out the meaning of any more difficult phrases, then check with the Easier English text:

1 CHALLENGE FALSE SOLUTIONS Despite the hype, COP26 won't be making many big, formal decisions; it will mainly be thrashing out the unfinished details of the 2015 Paris deal. The thorny issue of carbon trading will be one to watch closely. Polluting governments are pushing for carbon markets that are loosely regulated, packed with loopholes and tricky double-counting that will help them appear to meet their reduction targets without actually reducing their emissions. We need to rebut these fake solutions – on social media, by talking to the people around us or by joining protests and campaigns that push for meaningful action at COP26 and beyond.

3 SECURE LOCAL WINS Politicians like to talk a big climate game when a COP rolls around. This is your chance to put local representatives on the spot. From coal mines and oil fields in the UK to pipelines in the US and Canada, there are multiple disastrous projects being pushed by governments claiming to be 'climate leaders'. This is a chance to shine a light on domestic climate failings and put a stop to these projects.

4 CALL OUT FAILURE Many governments will be scrambling to claim the COP as a success – and the media don't have a great track record of challenging this. Keep an eye out for updates to Nationally Determined Contributions – the amount of greenhouse gas that each state is pledging to cut in the coming years. Unless these keep the earth below 1.5°C warming – and come with sufficient help for Southern countries – then they're not good enough. Many countries are diverting attention from Paris commitments with pledges to go 'net-zero by 2050' – a much more convenient target as it's far into the future and can include unfeasible amounts of tree-planting and unproven carbon capture technologies. Our job is to bring the conversation back to what governments are doing right now, and in the next few years, when it urgently matters.

5 INTERNATIONALIZE A major criticism of COP26 has been the lack of access for global civil society – the UK's failure to provide sufficient Covid-19 vaccinations, quarantine funding or visa exemptions is likely to shut large numbers of people out of the talks, especially those representing the Global South and indigenous communities. These voices need to be heard, as they are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and hold many of the real solutions to it. Climate activists in the Global North can play a useful role providing platforms for those shut out of COP26 – and maintaining those links. To avoid the worst climate scenarios, we need an international movement based on global solidarity, with the power to create the change.

Group dictation:



Get in groups of 5 students.

Take it in turns to each dictate one of the suggestions to the other 4.

When you've finished, check with the original.

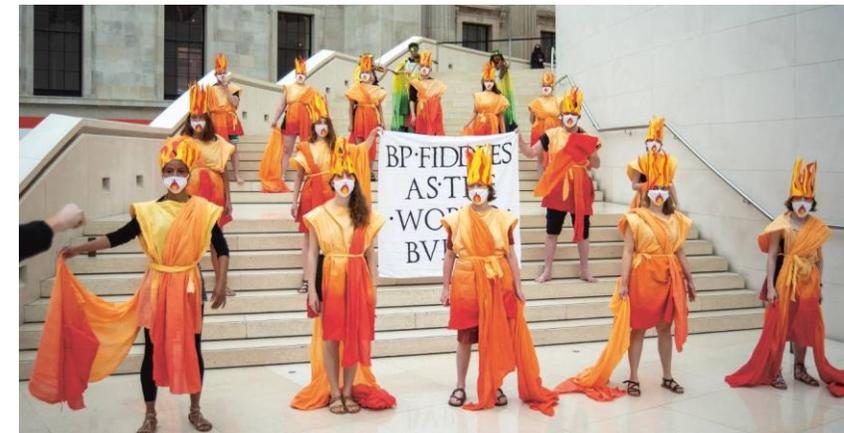
challenge: dictate the original text instead of the Easier English text?

Look at these 3 websites – make notes and compare facts and ideas:

- www.cop26coalition.org

- www.carbonbrief.org

- www.desmog.com



Follow-up:

Many more lessons, texts, quizzes etc about the Climate Emergency here:

[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=SPECIAL FOCUS: CLIMATE EMERGENCY](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=SPECIAL_FOCUS:_CLIMATE_EMERGENCY)

