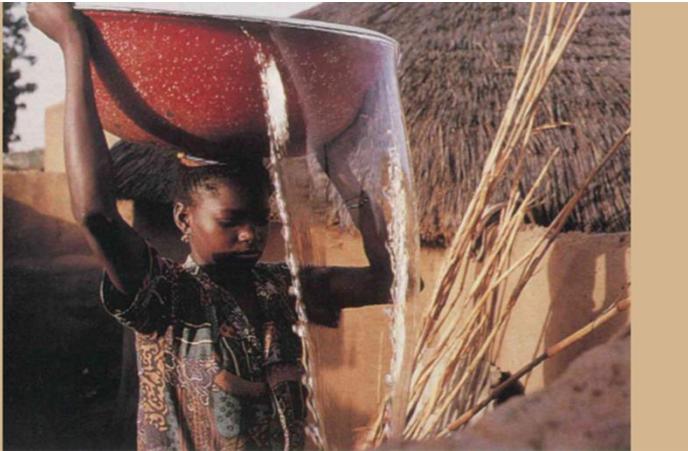


# New Internationalist

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



# Water

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Pre-Intermediate Lesson

# **This lesson:**

**Speaking – how we use water**

**Vocabulary – words about how to water**

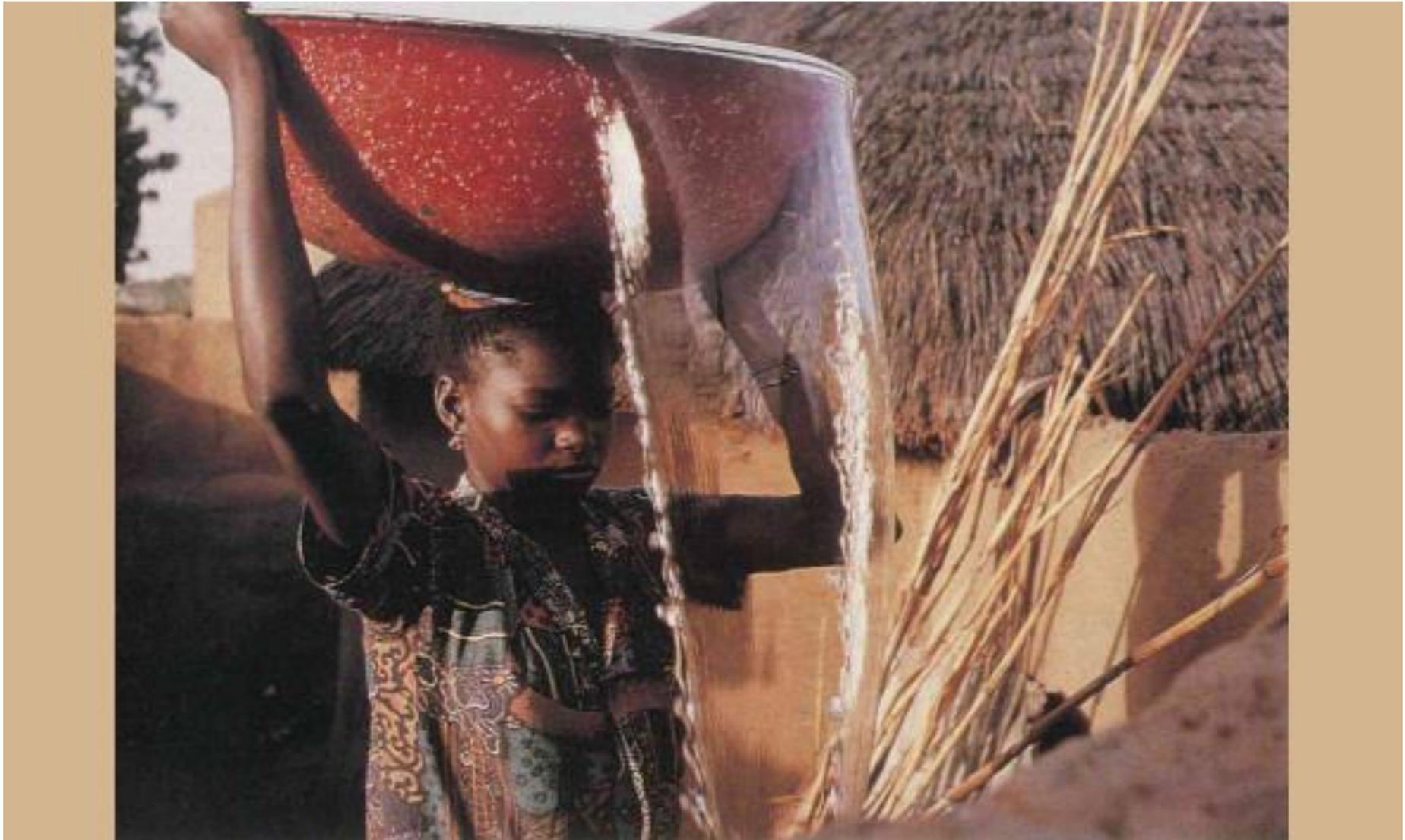
**Reading – find out about Burkina Faso**

**Grammar – match ‘so’ half sentences**

**Speaking –  
role-play interview**



**What do you use water for? – make a list**



# Vocabulary - match:

1/ to value something

2/ a bowl

3/ a miracle

4/ a container

5/ a donkey cart

6/ a bucket

7/ a pump

a)



b)



c) something wonderful that we cannot explain with science

d) to know how important something is

e)



f)



g) something eg. a bowl or a bucket you can hold or carry liquids or solids in

# Reading: **The miracle of water**'.

*It's about an English writer who goes to Burkina Faso every 10 years.*

- Before you read, discuss:

**a) Where is Burkina Faso?**

**b) How did people get water 30 years ago in Burkina Faso? And 10 years ago? And now?**

**c) How do they use bowls, buckets, containers, pumps, donkey carts?**

- Now read to check (next slide)

One of the most important things I have learned from being in the village Sabtenga is to value water. It is the greatest gift. We cannot simply expect it to always be there like we usually do at home.

I stayed here first in 1985. The rains were very late and the ground was very dry. The local girls and women had carried every drop of water I used, for drinking or for washing, for more than a mile from the well in big metal bowls on their heads. The metal bowls were so heavy that it was difficult for me to lift one up to my head. Once I tried to walk with a bowl on my head and the girls laughed at me.

When I returned to England that first year I thought I would always remember what a miracle it is that we can turn on a tap and get as much water as we want. But it's difficult to remember when it is so easy to get such good, clean water. After weeks and months, you start to simply expect the water to always be there. We should remember how lucky we are to be born in a place where water – now at least – is not one of life's problems.

Things have changed and are now better. In 2005 there were new water pumps nearer the *concessions* (the French name for the walled areas around the houses of one family) and the children collected water in plastic containers. They often carried it on a donkey cart, not on their heads. But now, 11 years later, the water table is much lower in the dry season. So they had to dig new, much deeper pumps so they can get water all year. These pumps are much more expensive and there are only a few so far.

It is easier for me to get water this time. In 2005 I was living in the town of Garango and I got water in a bucket from a pipe in the street with other residents. Now, in Garango again, but staying with the NGO Association Dakupa, I can walk out of my bedroom and fill a bucket from a pipe less than ten metres away. But I feel that water is valuable because I have to get it in a bucket, not from a tap. I know that I will forget this again when I go home and have tap water to drink and shower. But these weeks in Burkina Faso make me think about how lucky we are in the Global North – and how difficult it is to get water for people in other parts of the world.

# Grammar: **so** Match the sentence halves

1/ Water is **so** important, ...

2/ The water bowls are **so** heavy, ...

3/ The water is now **so** deep, ...

4/ It's **so** easy to get water in countries like the UK, ...

a) ..they are difficult to carry.

b) ..we don't even think about it.

c) ..we mustn't forget to value it.

d) ..they have to dig deeper for the wells.

To MALINGA  
NAGSORE 10km

FAO's Folly is the causeway built across the river in 1987 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization so that trucks coming from the Garango-Tenkodogo road could more easily reach grain stores in Sabtenga. Before that trucks managed to ford the river in the dry season on stones laid by the villagers. But the causeway collapsed soon after it was built and it has been impossible for trucks to cross even by the old method.

The dam was built in 1980 with foreign-aid money. The lake softens the whole feel of the landscape and irrigates the fields of those lucky enough to be just below it. But it is used by most villagers only to water cattle.

The clinic covers a much wider region than this – as far as Malinga Nagsoré in the north and the Peulh village two kilometres further along the road to Tenkodogo, a catchment area containing 10,000 people.

Crocodiles come out of their holes in the marigaux (a French African word for rivers that only flow in the rainy season) at night and during the rains. Hyenas roamed wild in and around the village only 25 years ago and lions were seen regularly 50 years ago. Local legend has it that an old lion still hangs out on top of the rocky hills overlooking Sabtenga.

# What were some of the problems with water in 1995 in Burkina Faso?



# Speaking: role-play

**A - Interviewer (who wrote the text you read) from the UK – ask B about how they got water in the past and how they get water now**

**B - You have lived in Burkina Faso for more than 40 years – answer the questions about water in your village**



# Homework:

Read the original:

<https://newint.org/blog/2016/08/01/the-miracle-of-water/>

Read more Easier English articles about water:

<https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Category:Water>

