

Business and climate change

A Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Be prepared to justify your opinion.

1 Business should be about making money, nothing else.

3 People should try to buy goods and services from companies that are socially responsible.

2 Companies have an obligation to behave in a way that is socially responsible.

4 If people knowingly purchase goods and services from companies that are not socially responsible, they are damaging themselves.

B Listen to three short talks on climate change, business and social responsibility. Match each talk to its main idea.

Speaker 1

Speaker 2

Speaker 3

- a Businesses can profit in a socially responsible way from climate change.
- b Climate change will affect business negatively.
- c Climate change presents companies with opportunities to show social responsibility

C Listen again. Note the number of the speaker who talks about each point. (Sometimes more than one speaker mentions the same point.) The first one has been done for you.

Statement	Speaker	Notes
a Problems caused by climate change that affect business	1	
b An invention that could help to slow down climate change		
c Different effects of climate change		
d How companies can benefit from socially responsible responses to climate change		
e How companies can help communities deal with climate change		
f How companies can demonstrate social responsibility		
g An invention that could help communities to cope with climate change		

D Listen again and write the details in note form.

Statement	Speaker	Notes
a Problems caused by climate change that affect business.	1	<i>collapse of ecosystems and agriculture, destruction of infrastructure</i>

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E The three speeches in the recording discuss the following question:

Can business respond to climate change in a way that is both profitable and socially responsible?

Read the speeches aloud. Then evaluate them by putting a tick ✓ or a cross ✗ against points a–f. Decide what mark out of ten you would give each speech.

Speaker	1	2	3	Partner 1	Partner 2
a Is there a clear thesis statement?					
b Does the thesis statement cover all elements of the question?					
c Are the main points clearly organised?					
d Are the main points introduced with transitions (e.g. <i>first, also</i>)?					
e Are the main points supported by examples?					
f Is there a concluding statement?					
Mark					

F Using the points on the evaluation form in Exercise E, work with your group to write down the steps you should take when planning a presentation.

- 1 *Read the question carefully and create a clear thesis statement.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

G You are going to give a one-minute speech on the same topic as the speeches in Exercise E. You can use information from the speeches. Think about what the speakers did well and what needed improvement. You have two minutes to think and plan, and one minute to speak. You should have time for two properly supported main points.

As you are speaking, the other members in the group will evaluate you using the evaluation sheet in Exercise E.

Strategies

Native speakers of English usually use between 120 and 150 words per minute. Do not try to say too much!

	Thesis:
	First main point:
	Second main point:
	Conclusion: