

# International Year of Biodiversity

## Language

Environment, verb–noun word-building, sentence linkers

## Level

Intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2)

## Comment

This eLesson is about the International Year of Biodiversity, which has just finished. It gives students at this level skills and language work on a global scientific and political topic.

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Explain the term *biodiversity* and if possible show students pictures or share familiar examples of endangered or introduced species. Ask if there are more or fewer species in their country now than in the past. Discuss reasons for loss of biodiversity and what is being done to protect biodiversity.
- 2 Give out the worksheet. Students read the text to complete exercise 1. Encourage them to read quickly to improve their skimming skills. In feedback, consider asking students to answer the four questions in exercise 1 in their own words (by summarising the text).
- 3 Exercise 2 gives students detailed reading practice and also introduces the nouns which will be the basis of the language analysis in Exercise 3.
- 4 Before doing exercise 3, give (and ask students to add to) some examples of verbs that form nouns with *-ion* (eg *construct / construction; apply / application*). Explain that sometimes *-ion* is simply added to the end of the existing word, but in other cases there is a change. Do the first example together and point out that the nouns in the exercise are in the same order as the verbs in the text. Ask them to put the verbs in the infinitive form (ie *destroy*). In feedback, point out the common stress pattern in all of these nouns (the stress is just before the *-ion* syllable).
- 5 Before students do exercise 4, check students' understanding and pronunciation of the linking words and phrases in the exercise. Then do the first example together, pointing out that the linking words and phrases are in the same order as those in the text. In feedback, point out that *but, however, On the other hand* and *Conversely* are all contrast expressions.
- 7 Students do exercise 5 in pairs or small groups. Point out that there is no 'right answer' – they should think of an interesting idea of their own. As a follow-up, students could write more sentences about the environment using the different linking words and phrases from exercise 4.
- 8 Students discuss the questions in exercise 6 in small groups. As a homework project, students could choose one of these topics to produce a wall chart on an area of biodiversity, an introduced species or a project that is helping to protect biodiversity. The websites below may be useful in researching these projects.

## Reading eLesson

### Answer key

1

- 1 para 3
- 2 para 1
- 3 para 4
- 4 para 2

2

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 Population   | 5 Governments        |
| 2 Damage       | 6 We                 |
| 3 Biodiversity | 7 The United Nations |
| 4 Human        | 8 Projects           |

3

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1 destroy    | 5 educate |
| 2 introduce  | 6 decide  |
| 3 contribute | 7 collect |
| 4 protect    | 8 solve   |

4

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 For instance | 5 Conversely     |
| 2 Moreover     | 6 In other words |
| 3 Therefore    | 7 Meanwhile      |
| 4 However      | 8 Although       |

### 5 Possible answers

- 1 ... it contributes hugely to our quality of life.
- 2 ... they can avoid using materials from endangered species.
- 3 ... there is still much more that can be done.
- 4 ... Governments need to work together on international solutions.
- 6 Students' own answers.

### Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

<http://www.cbd.int/2010/biodiversity>

<http://www.cbd.int/2010/celebrations> (UN International Year of Biodiversity – success stories)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8615398.stm> (Cost of Invasive Species)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMfv05Oo8XQ> (Short film about biodiversity)

<http://tinyurl.com/Unesco-biodiversity> (Details of issues and projects from around the world)