

# RECYCLE, REUSE, AND REDUCE



Teachers Document

Attachment: Flash Facts, Pictures, and Worksheets

Factual expertise:  
United States Environmental Protection Agency

## Teacher's Document

### 1 Recycling

Post relevant Flash Facts and pictures (at the bottom of these pages) before class arrives. Arrange recyclable items on a table. Arrange color-coded (small) boxes.

Explain why recycling is important and emphasize how recycling helps to conserve natural resources. Next 5 reasons will help you with this: Keep it easy and use the pictures in the attachments. EFL teachers can use their own language too but essential vocabulary should be learned in English.

#### What is recycling and why do we recycle materials

##### 1 Recycling saves energy

Recycling saves energy because the producer doesn't

produce something new from natural resources. By using recycled materials we save on energy consumption which keeps production costs low.



##### 2 Recycling reduces landfills

Recycling reduces landfills. Nobody wants to live next to a landfill.

Landfills also pollute the soil beneath them.



##### 3 Recycling preserves our resources and protects wildlife

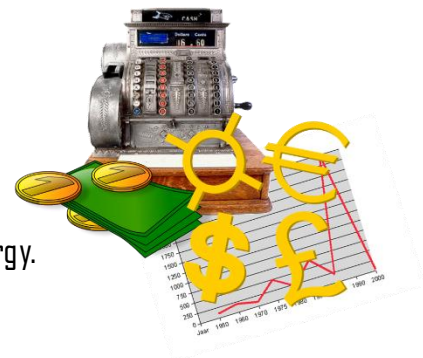
By recycling, we reduce the need to destroy areas where animals live.

Paper recycling alone saves millions of trees.



##### 4 Recycling is good for the economy

Recycling and buying recycled products creates a greater demand for more recycled goods. Goods made from recycled materials use less water, create less pollution, and use less energy.

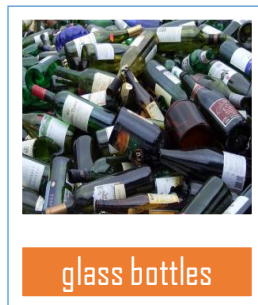
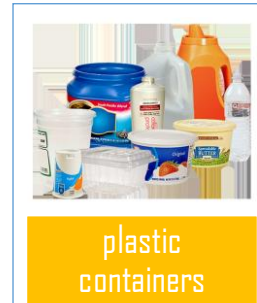
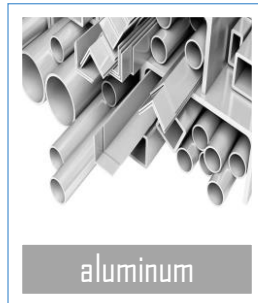


## 5 Recycling helps solve our climate problems

Recycling produces less carbon, which reduces the amount of unhealthy greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gases are unhealthy gasses from fossil fuel and waste.



### Recycling Vocabulary



Many communities and schools require residents to recycle and provide special color-coded containers for sorting and collecting the items to be recycled. Become familiar with your community's procedures for recycling.

Determine if there are any penalties for failing to recycle.

**Present simple tense: let the students speak aloud.**

I recycle glass.

You recycle aluminum cans.

He recycles newspapers.

She recycles mobile phones.

It recycles plastic containers.

We recycle glass bottles.

They recycle aluminum.



**Exercise with the students putting items in the boxes. They say:**

"I recycle glass bottles."

"I recycle aluminum cans." etc.

**Repeat this as a group and use other pronouns (he, she, we, they, etc.)**

**Let students try to tell what they've learned until now.**

**Provide students with worksheet #1 (at the bottom of this document)**

## **2. Reuse**

Teacher tell the students that there are many creative ways to reuse items which might normally find their way into the waste stream: old shoe boxes can be used for storage, plastic containers for planters, etc. Students can also donate or give away items rather than throwing these items in the waste stream. For a large number of unwanted items, students can hold a garage sale. They can also be encouraged to shop at garage sales before buying new.

**Some more tips to reuse materials**

**You can reuse glass bottles as:**

A flower vase

A chandelier

A candy bar

Painted decorations

**You can reuse plastic jugs as:**

A wall planter

A watering jug

A piggy bank

A lamp

**You can reuse egg cartons as:**

Starting seeds

A bird feeder

Packing material

Various handy craft

**You can reuse plastic bags for**

Collecting dog waste

Using them again when shopping

Putting in dirty clothes

Protecting paint brushes

**You can reuse boxes for:**

Storage

Gift boxes

Outdoor furniture

## Vocabulary Recycling



Teacher explain to the class that reuse of an item is a way to save our natural resources.

Pair students or create small groups of three to discuss how to reuse each of the items in the picture from the picture files below. Allow students three to five minutes per item to brainstorm.

ask the students, "How can you reuse a glass bottle?", "How can you reuse a plastic container?"

- a. "I can reuse a glass bottle to/for \_\_\_\_\_."
- b. "You, he, she, it, we, they can reuse plastic containers for/to \_\_\_\_\_."

List responses on the board. Review how reuse of items reduces the waste stream, contributes to source reduction, and conserves resources.

Have students complete worksheet #2

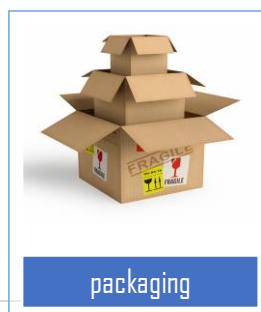
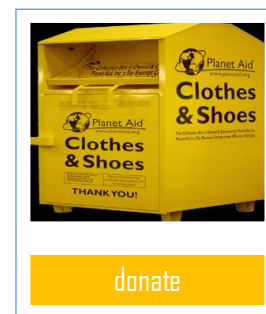
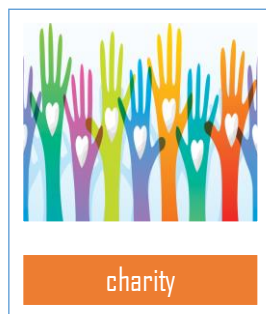
Let students tell what they've learned.

## 4. Reduce

There are many other ways in which we can avoid adding to the waste stream. Some manufacturers package their products with oversized polystyrene foam. Students should be made aware of excessive packaging and how to minimize it, if possible. One way to minimize packaging is to buy in bulk. Other ways to reduce waste include donating unwanted items to charities, holding a class swap meet to exchange unwanted items, and buying at garage sales.

1. Review how reducing waste helps to reduce the waste stream. Have the students repeat, "We buy in bulk.", "We donate old clothes." "We swap items we don't need for items we do need."
2. Have the students to pair off and allow them to speak in their native language. Assign students to think of other ways to reduce the waste stream. Ask, "How can we reduce the waste stream?"
3. Bring the class back together and have the pairs report their ideas.
4. List their ideas on the board.
5. Emphasize the value of donating unwanted items to church, mosque, temple or charities.
6. Ask students if anyone ever gave a friend or family member something they no longer used. Share the idea of a swap meet where students bring in items they no longer want, and in turn, swap or give the item to fellow class mates. Emphasize how reducing the waste stream conserves natural resources.

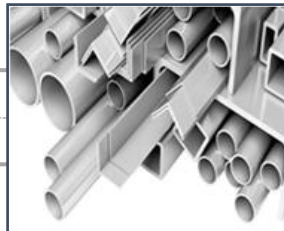
### Vocabulary Reduce



Write each word 1 time

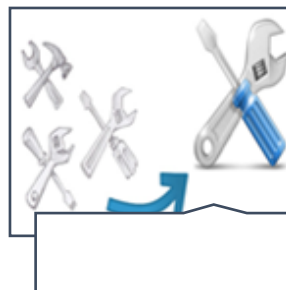
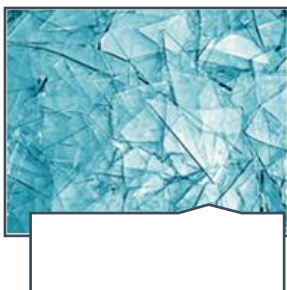
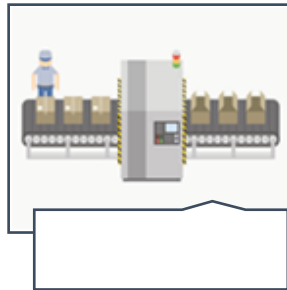
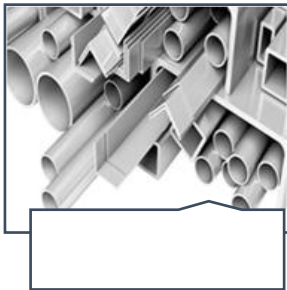


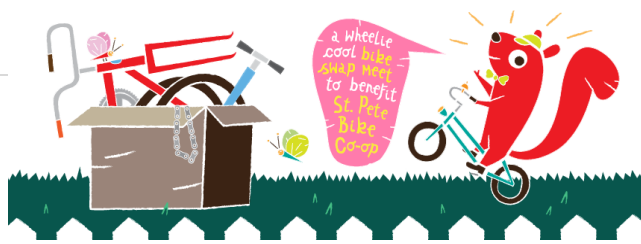
aluminum   color coded containers   waste   plastic containers   newspapers   natural resources   recycling  
glass bottles   donate   aluminum cans





## Exercise Vocabulary Recycling, Reusing, and Reducing





## Holding a Swap Meet

- Choose a location: school, community center, religious center. Make sure it's accessible by public transportation and/or has parking.
- Determine a date for your Swap Meet. Make sure the day and time don't conflict with other planned events.
- Make signs announcing the sale and post them around the school.
- Ask students to collect items they no longer need or use. Make sure the items are clean and in working condition.
- Set up collection box and bring in extra boxes for the items.
- Price the items reasonably. Be willing to negotiate the day of the sale.
- Have students gather and bring in extra grocery and shopping bags to (re)use at the event.
- Assign at least two people to be in charge of the money.
- Prepare enough change money.
- After the sale, donate unsold items to a local charity or use the for class activities.



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Worldwide we produce about  
3 pounds of garbage per  
person per day.

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Recycling works when we buy recycled products.

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Recycled glass can be used  
again and again.





Recycling 1 ton of paper saves  
17 mature trees.





Look for products that use less packaging. This reduces waste.





Bring a reusable bag when shopping.







Donate old clothes and old items to charities.



### Worksheet #1

Fill in the missing letters.

1. I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ newspapers.
2. I recycle aluminum \_ \_ \_ \_ .
3. I recycle \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
4. I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ g \_ \_ \_ \_ .
5. \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ newspapers.
6. W \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ aluminum \_ \_ \_ \_ .
7. \_ r \_ \_ y \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .
8. We \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ .
9. We \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s s.
10. \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .



## Worksheet #2

Reuse:

Answer the questions

1. How can you reuse a bottle?

I can reuse it for a \_\_\_\_\_.



2. How can we reuse a plastic jug?

We can \_\_\_\_\_ it for \_\_\_\_\_.



3. How can they reuse the egg carton?

They can reuse the \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.



4. How can we reuse the plastic bags?

We can reuse them for \_\_\_\_\_.



5. How can we reuse the box?

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.





# Aluminum cans

# Glass bottles



# plastic containers





# Color-coded containers

# Aluminum





glass



newspapers

