

13

Greener meat options

Level: 

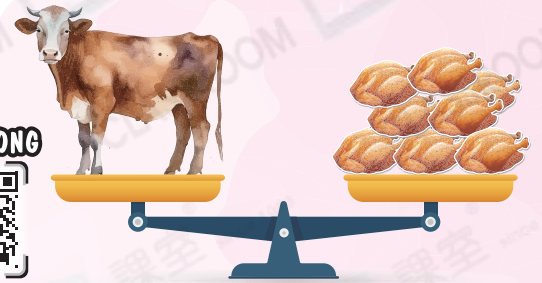
Let's think!

1. When it comes to meat, do you prefer chicken or beef?
2. Would you give up eating meat for the environment? Why?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



Which is more **eco-friendly**: chicken or beef?

Host: Welcome to *Battle of Ideas*. More and more people in the United States have replaced beef with poultry on their dinner plates, as beef production has been considered a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. By the beginning of the 21st century, the amount of chicken people consumed overtook that of beef. As a result, some experts claim that chicken has become the new beef. 5

Tonight, our two guests, Pam Taylor and Carl Lee, will debate this motion: switching from eating beef to eating chicken has made the environment worse. Pam will now argue in favour of the motion and explain why the swap is a bad idea. 10

Pam: The shift from eating beef to chicken has not reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It has actually increased them and has created other environmental problems. Let me highlight two of these problems. 15

First, a big downside to consuming chicken is widespread deforestation. Farmers have been chopping down thousands of trees so that they can use the land to grow soya beans for chicken feed. Since those trees once absorbed a huge quantity of carbon dioxide, which makes up the majority of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, this has accelerated climate change. Many endangered species that had lived in these forests also lost their habitats. 20



Moreover, chicken droppings from farms pollute our water. It was found that over 170 million tons of chicken waste, which contains toxic chemicals and bacteria, are produced each year in US farms alone. This waste contaminates our rivers and ground water as well as killing any animal that lives in or drinks the water. 25



Chicken

For these two reasons, I strongly believe that switching from eating beef to chicken has made our environment worse.

Host: Thank you, Pam. Now, Carl will argue against the motion.



Carl: Pam argued that consuming chicken rather than beef had created serious environmental problems. However, it'd have been worse if we hadn't switched. According to a leading newspaper, producing 1 kg of chicken requires only 2 kg of feed, while it takes 7 kg to produce 1 kg of beef. This lower food requirement means less water and land are used to grow the grain to make feed.

What's more, based on research data, a chicken farm generates just 5.8 kg of carbon emissions for every kilogram of meat it produces, while a cattle ranch generates 35.4 kg for the same amount of beef. Also, a study has found that people who eat poultry instead of beef contribute 36% less greenhouse gas emissions.

My opponent told you that poultry farming had produced millions of tons of waste and therefore caused water pollution. What she didn't tell you is that 95% of waste from poultry farms is recycled into fertilisers for crops.

Clearly, when compared to consuming beef, eating chicken is a much more eco-friendly choice. The rise in carbon emissions is due to people having a much more meat-heavy diet than before. To remedy this, people need to consume less polluting meat such as chicken and eat a more vegetable-based diet.

Host: Thank you, Carl. Now, it's Pam's turn to make her rebuttal.

~510 words

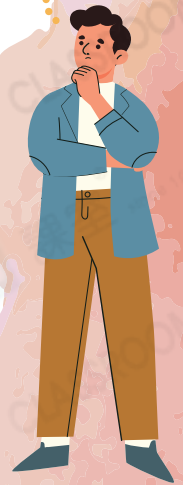
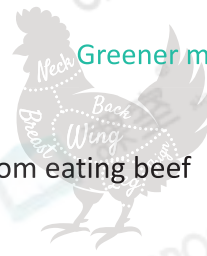
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Looking into Grammar

We use **reported speech** to report what other people have said.

Direct speech

present perfect tense

*Pam: Consuming chicken rather than beef **has created** serious environmental problems.*

Reported speech

✓ Pam argued that consuming chicken rather than beef **had created** serious environmental problems.

past perfect tense

? In lines 38–45, underline a sentence that uses reported speech.

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (32 marks)

- In lines 2–7, find a word that means ‘the meat of chickens’. _____
- What does the phrase ‘chicken has become the new beef’ (lines 6–7) imply?
 - Chicken has been made to taste like beef.
 - People have been eating more chicken than beef.
 - Experts like eating chicken more than beef.
 - Beef production has become more environmentally friendly.

A B C D
- Why have people been eating chicken instead of beef?

- What is the topic of the debate? 4 The host of a debate usually announces the topic before it begins.

- ‘The swap’ (line 11) refers to the change in _____.
 - people’s belief
 - people’s diet
 - the amount of greenhouse gas emissions
 - meat production methods

A B C D
- Based on the information in lines 15–22, complete the table by writing NO MORE THAN TWO words to fill in each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Downside of raising chickens for meat: (i) _____	
Reason	Trees are being (ii) _____ to free up land for farming crops to produce (iii) _____.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no more trees to (iv) _____ carbon dioxide, so global temperatures have risen (v) _____. • (vi) _____ animals do not have a place to (vii) _____.

7. Based on the information in lines 23–28, determine whether each of the following statements is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
(i) Each year in the US, farms produce over 10 million tons of chicken waste.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Farmers should be held responsible for animals dying from polluted water.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. How does chicken waste from farms affect the environment?

- (i) _____
 (ii) _____

9. What TWO harmful things can be found in chicken waste?

10. Who or what does 'My opponent' (line 43) refer to? _____

11. Complete the table based on the information in lines 32–45.

For each kilogram of meat produced ...	Chicken	Beef
the feed required is:	(i) _____	(ii) _____
carbon emissions are:	(iii) _____	(iv) _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proven that there is a (v) _____ decrease in emissions for those who replaced beef with chicken in their diet. Farmers are able to turn (vi) _____ of chicken waste into crop fertilisers. 		

12. Find a word in lines 43–51 that means 'to correct or improve something'.

13. Complete the following sentences using the information in lines 46–51.

Carl believes that when people (i) _____,
 more greenhouse gases are released. He thinks the solution is for people to
 (ii) _____ and to have
 (iii) _____.



14. Based on the information in lines 31–51, determine whether each of the following statements is a fact or an opinion.

14 Does Carl have any evidence to back up each of these statements?

	Fact	Opinion
(i) Pam purposely did not mention that 95% of chicken waste is recycled.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) It requires less water and land to raise chickens.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Cattle ranches are more polluting than chicken farms.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Asking people to eat chicken instead of beef is good for the environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the article below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Adjective: endangered widespread

Noun: emission fertiliser habitat poultry

Verb: accelerate contaminate overtake remedy

Making better choices when shopping for chicken

While chickens are not a / an (1) _____ species that requires our efforts to save them, there are nevertheless concerns about how chickens are treated in order to meet our high demand for (2) _____. In response, some companies have added the organic and free-range labels to their products to show consumers that their chickens are not treated cruelly. We should understand what these labels mean in order to choose the right chicken products.



By putting the organic label on its products, a company promises that it does not treat its chickens cruelly, such as feeding them food and medicine made from toxic chemicals, as well as keeping them in tiny cages. These practices have become (3) _____ among chicken farmers because they can (4) _____ their chickens' growth, meaning that they may be killed earlier for sale. On the other hand, the free-range label only means that the chickens are allowed to roam outdoors. It does not mean that they are raised in their natural (5) _____. Free-range chickens may still be fed food and medicine made from chemicals.

Besides the treatment of chickens, we should also consider the environmental effects of chicken farming. For example, does a chicken farm turn its waste into (6) _____ for crops? If yes, it means fewer chemicals that (7) _____ the soil are sprayed onto fields. It also means that the waste is not released into the environment, preventing an increase in greenhouse gas (8) _____.

There is evidence that consumers are increasingly aware that their choices can (9) _____ all the damage that chicken farming has caused. In some markets, sales of organic chicken already (10) _____ those of non-organic chicken. More promotion is needed to keep up this trend.



B. Write the pros and cons list below with the given phrases.

Pros and cons of an environmentally-friendly diet



dine out

greenhouse gas emissions

healthier

limited choice

organic farms

personal tastes

preserve the habitats

sustainably

Pros



When you eat more vegetables and less meat, your body takes in more fibre and vitamins, making you (1) _____.



Buying fruits and vegetables that are farmed (2) _____ means that you produce less pollution.



Not eating meats such as beef and pork can lead to lower (3) _____ and help to (4) _____ of wild animals.

Cons



Fruits and vegetables grown in (5) _____ tend to cost more.



It can be difficult to find environmentally-friendly food in supermarkets, i.e. there is only a / an (6) _____ available to shoppers.



It may be challenging to find eco-friendly dishes when you (7) _____.
Not all restaurants have them in their menus.



It takes time to get used to a green diet, because it may not suit your (8) _____.



Writing

Making wise dietary choices

Write an article of 180 words to discuss how making wise dietary choices can shape a sustainable environment and reduce carbon footprints.