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Plastic bottled water



Let's Think

1. Do you bring along your own water bottle when you go out?
2. What do you think about plastic bottles?

You are Larry. You are reading a blog entry about plastic bottles written by a local citizen online.

Time to stop drinking bottled water



Protecting the environment has been a matter of serious concern all over the world in recent decades. It is not difficult to find posters and slogans which promote ways of protecting our environment, such as buying sustainable products and bringing along our own bags. Still, there's one thing which is always neglected—plastic bottles.

Each year, billions of plastic water bottles are used. This happens because people prefer buying plastic bottled water to carrying their own reusable bottles with them.

It is understandable since people can simply throw their empty water bottles in bins when they finish drinking from them. Although these single-use water bottles bring us convenience, they are in fact a massive burden to landfills around the world.

Most of these non-reusable plastic bottles would typically sit in landfills for centuries, as each of them would take at least 450 years to decompose. If these bottles are thrown into rivers or oceans, they can pose deadly threats to marine life. Every year, a great number of fish and seabirds die because of plastic waste, which they may sometimes mistake for food.

To help protect the environment and animals, remind yourself of an easy task before you go out: bring your own water bottle with you! Let's eliminate our reliance on plastic water bottles before they occupy our home one day.

Posted by Anna Wong at 10:48 pm

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(229 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the blog entry. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- The main idea of the first paragraph is that _____.
 A. posters and slogans about environmental protection are useless
 B. people often talk about environmental protection
 C. plastic bottles are a neglected threat to the environment
 D. no one pays attention to water bottles
- Which of the following is **TRUE**?
 A. It is not clear why many people like to buy bottled water.
 B. People in European countries use more plastic water bottles.
 C. The cheapness of bottled water is attractive to many.
 D. Landfills would be less burdened without empty plastic bottles.
- Look at the word 'sit' in line 13. Read the dictionary entry below and choose the definition that corresponds to the blog entry's context.

sit v.

- A. to lower your body into a sitting position
- B. to be or stay in a particular place
- C. to hold an official meeting
- D. to take an exam

- Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned in the blog entry?
 A. Empty plastic bottles can be found in the sea as well.
 B. Plastic bottles do not decompose in a short time.
 C. Marine plastic waste puts marine life in danger.
 D. Metal water bottles are much better than reusable plastic ones.
- Which of the following is the best alternative title for the blog entry?
 A. What are our responsibilities?
 B. Domestic waste
 C. A simple move for a great change
 D. Our dear Mother Nature

Grammar Corner

A **gerund** is formed from a verb by adding **'-ing'**. Note that a gerund is often used as a noun.

e.g. *This happens because people prefer buying plastic bottled water to carrying their own reusable bottles with them.*
(Lines 8-9)

Cross out the definitions that are irrelevant to the context in which the word is used in the blog entry.


Part B


Answer the following questions using the information from the blog entry. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. What does the pronoun 'they' in line 12 refer to?

2. Find an adjective that means 'large in size or degree'.

3. Why are plastic water bottles a massive burden to landfills around the world? Support your answer with the information provided in the blog entry.

 4. Some people say that plastic bottles are responsible for more than mere land pollution. Why do they say so? Explain your answer.

 5. Complete the following diary entry excerpt by filling in each blank with one word. Make sure your answers are grammatical.

Dear Diary,

Today, I read a blog entry about the effects that (a) _____ water bottles have on our (b) _____ (not only the land but also the sea). As a member of the school's Environmental Club, I know a lot of (c) _____ of (d) _____ our environment, like conserving water and supporting sustainable products. Yet, now I'm really ashamed of myself that I have not got rid of plastic water bottles altogether in my daily life. I have been too (e) _____ on them...

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some sources of different types of pollution. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

hair spray neon signs sewage incinerator deforestation
 exhaust fumes construction detergent pesticide



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. How can we reuse plastic water bottles?
2. Do you think that people in Hong Kong care about environmental protection?