

# Earth Hour 2010 - What will you be doing?

## Teacher's Notes

**Subject:** Environment

**Topic:** Earth Hour, an annual international event created by the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund), held on the last Saturday of March, that asks households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights and electrical appliances for one hour to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change.

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Time:** anything from 45 minutes to a few lesson hours depending on which parts you decide to use

**Language focus:** multi-word verbs and binomials

### Exercises 1 and 2:

- Watching the video requires equipment and computer skills. If you do not feel you are up to it just watch the film yourself and tell the students about it.
- For the video follow this link:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=US&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.earthhour.org%2Fabout%2F&v=1CRs-7IRIPo>
- You can download it using Real Player or Keep Vid. Alternatively, just tell the class about Earth Hour (a good opportunity for 'live listening'). You may use the following text:

Earth Hour is an annual international event created by the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund), held on the last Saturday of March, that asks households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights and electrical appliances for one hour to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change. It was pioneered by WWF Australia and the Sydney Morning Herald in 2007 and achieved worldwide participation in 2008. Earth Hour will next take place on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm, local time.(© Wikipedia)

- Tell the students that they are going to read a text about Earth Hour. Ask them to do the matching exercise first. They may work in pairs. Check with the whole class.
- The text is gapped in order to avoid comprehension questions. If students can fill the gaps that means they have understood the text so get feedback on the gaps!

### Exercise 3:

This is the language focus of this lesson. You may want to extend it using any material from your standard course book or a resource pack to extend this stage and give students more practice.

### Exercise 4:

If you are running out of time you may wind up the lesson after this exercise. This exercise aims to provide freer speaking practice and its duration may vary depending on your class.

### Exercise 5:

- The text is a lead-in to the other language focus of the lesson: binomials. Make it as brief as possible. You will have more time for the next one which will take up quite some time if students are to discover the meanings and usage of the new binomials.
- After matching the binomials, students may test each other by saying the first part of each binomial for the other students to guess. You could also play dumb charades here (students try to draw or show the binomial).
- Another way is to design short dialogues with one binomial and act them out before the class. The dialogues could be built around example sentences from a good dictionary that students have used to look up the meaning of the phrases.

### Exercise 6:

- Before students try to match the binomials, elicit some typical binomials by asking students to finish them for you (eg, Ladies and ....., rock and ....., black and .....
- Ask them if they think you can reverse the order (e.g. ~~roll and rock~~). Ask students to read the sentence and the information below and then do the exercises. Get feedback before they attempt the gap fill.
- Make it clear that just like with multi-word verbs, binomials are also context dependent! For instance, *high and dry* may have different meanings depending on the context. You may want to illustrate this with appropriate examples.

### Project work:

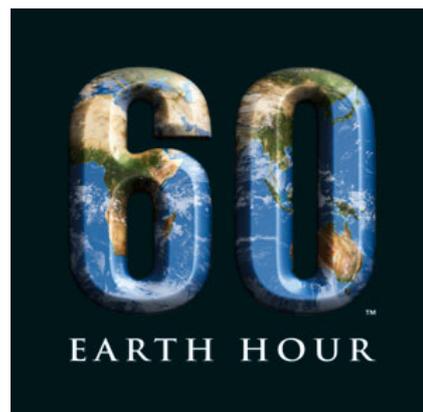
- Students complete the tips. Show them the poster/leaflet samples below for inspiration (either print them out or use a computer screen or an OHP).
- You can ask them to *cast their votes* for the best poster out of the lot. You may want to show them posters from the official website ([www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)) instead.
- Students then design their posters in pairs or small groups. Help if necessary by providing vocabulary or anything they might need. This exercise works best if students have access to a computer lab. See below for some example posters, created by my students.

# Switch off the lights and join us at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)!

If you care for the environment – be with us on 28 March. At 8.30pm we will switch off the lights to show that we are ready to tackle climate changing.

## Do you know what Earth Hour is?

EH is an annual international event created by environmental activities from WWF, held on the last Saturday of March, that encourages everybody to turn off non-essential lights and electrical appliances for one hour. It was kicked off by Australian WWF in Sydney in 2007.



## Earth Hour in Warsaw

For Warsaw it will be the second time when we show our concern for climate changes and have fun. Last year the most well-known buildings like Palace of Culture and Science, Royal Castle and bridges went dark. This year we are going further. We need every citizen involved in action. Be a part of it!



Do you think there is nothing you can do? You are wrong! Turning off the light in a deliberate way can make a huge difference. See how much can be done in such a simple way.

When was the last time when you saw how dark the sky is and how bright the stars are in the middle of the city? Let it happen on 28 March at 8.30pm.

# **EARTH HOUR**

## **CHOOSE YOUR PLANET JOIN US 28th March**

### ***What is the Earth Hour?***

The Earth Hour is an international event, which takes place all over the world, mostly in big cities. It's about turning off unnecessary lights and other electrical devices for one hour. In this way anyone can decrease the carbon dioxide emission.

### ***When will it be?***

It starts at 8:30 p.m. on the 28th of March 2009. We invite you to take part in this event. You can help to save the energy; you can help to save the world. The next day you can check in the media how much you helped our planet.

### ***What's the history of the Earth Hour?***

It was invented by World Wild Fund. The first Earth Hour was organized in Sydney, Australia in March 2007 when 2.2 million private homes and businesses switched off their lights for 1 hour including the Australian landmarks like Sydney Opera House. Next year the Golden Gate Bridge and Rome's Coliseum followed this idea. This year more than 400 cities are supporting the action.

### ***Who can participate?***

Everyone is invited! Everyone can take part in this magical event.  
Become a Citizen of the World! Take part in saving our planet!

# THE EARTH HOUR 2009



1 city  
1 country  
2007



370 cities  
35 countries  
2008



931 cities  
80 countries  
2009

- What is the aim of this action?
- Turning the lights out for one hour would have the same effect as taking 48,000 cars off the road for a year. But this event is about more than one night. It's about the small changes in our everyday life.

**On March 28, 2009 8:30 – 9:30 pm**

Make a positive impact on climate change.

1 flick of the switch can make this action visible.

We all have a vote.

Take control of the future.

# Earth Hour 2010 - What will you be doing?

## Worksheet Answer Key

### Exercise 2:

to cuddle up with somebody
a treasure hunt
corners
appliances
to cast your vote for something
carbon emissions
businesses
a household

to sit or lie very close to somebody
a game in which players try to find a hidden prize by answering a series of questions that have been left in different places
a region or an area of a place (sometimes used for one that is far away or difficult to reach)
machines that are designed to do a particular thing in the home, such as preparing food, heating or cleaning
to vote for something
pollution caused by CO2 (carbon dioxide)
companies
all the people living together in a house

In the proper order:

Cuddling up with | treasure | hunt | corners | cast their vote | carbon emissions | businesses | households | switching | appliances

### Exercise 3:

The words are written backwards with false spacing (read them from right to left)

set up                      organise  
 cut down on      reduce  
 take part              participate

### Exercise 5

- a) No (line )
- b) No. They can turn the lights off earlier than 8.30. (line 3)
- c) You can keep the lights off for as long as you want. (lines 4-5)

### Exercise 6

<i>alive and</i>
<i>by and</i>
<i>fingers and</i>
<i>here and</i>
<i>high and</i>
<i>nuts and</i>
<i>to and</i>
<i>up and</i>

<i>kicking</i>
<i>large</i>
<i>thumbs</i>
<i>there</i>
<i>dry</i>
<i>bolts</i>
<i>fro</i>
<i>down</i>

In the proper order:

alive and kicking | up and down | by and large | nuts and bolts | fingers and thumbs  
high and dry | here and there |

**Project work**

In the proper order:

layout | bullet points | complex | blocks of prose | standout | Sentences | general

# Earth Hour 2010 - What will you be doing? Worksheet

## Exercise 1

## Speaking

Discuss in pairs or groups.

Do you know what Earth Hour is?  
How does it work?  
How did it start?  
What is its purpose?

Watch the video or listen to your teacher talking about it.

## Exercise 2

## Reading

Before you read. Match the phrases/words to their definitions.

to cuddle up with somebody

to vote for something

a treasure hunt

all the people living together in a house

corners

pollution caused by CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide)

appliances

a game in which players try to find a hidden prize by answering a series of questions that have been left in different places

to cast your vote for something

to sit or lie very close to somebody

carbon emissions

a region or an area of a place (sometimes used for one that is far away or difficult to reach)

businesses

companies

a household

machines that are designed to do a particular thing in the home, such as preparing food, heating or cleaning

Read the text explaining the idea of Earth Hour and fill the gaps with the phrases/words below.

carbon emissions | hunt | corners | treasure | appliances | cuddling up with | businesses  
cast their vote | households | switching

\_\_\_\_\_ your loved ones and admiring the stars in the night sky or organising a  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the dark? At 8:30pm on Saturday 28 March, people from all  
four \_\_\_\_\_ of the world will switch off their lights for one hour - Earth Hour -  
and \_\_\_\_\_ for action on climate change. Anybody can participate and  
join together with millions of people across the globe celebrating Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is about taking simple steps everyday that collectively reduce  
\_\_\_\_\_ – from \_\_\_\_\_ turning off their lights when their offices are  
empty to \_\_\_\_\_ off \_\_\_\_\_ rather than leaving them on standby.

### Exercise 3

### Multi-word verbs

*Cuddle up with/to somebody* and *switch off something* are multi-word verbs (verbs + 1 or 2 words = new or changed meaning).

They are very common in English, especially in spoken and informal English.

Their meaning often depends on the context so it is important to learn them with the words that follow/precede them.

Can you think of multi-word verbs that could be used instead of the one-word verbs in these phrases from the text:

**organise** a treasure hunt  
anybody can **participate**  
**reduce** carbon emissions

You will find three possible multi-word verbs in this box (ask your teacher for some hints):

T r a p e k a t n o n w o d t u c p u t e s

## Exercise 4

## Reading, speaking

Here are 10 different ways to spend Earth Hour and reduce your carbon footprint. Discuss them in pairs/groups.

- Which ones do you like and why?
  - Which ones don't you like and why?
  - Can you think of any other ways?
1. Attend a local Earth Hour event or organise your own by throwing an Earth Hour street party with your neighbours.
  2. Gather family & friends for a night picnic in your local park and look at the stars.
  3. Enjoy a family dinner by candlelight.
  4. Organise a treasure hunt in the dark.
  5. Take the dog for a night walk.
  6. Have a candle-lit bath.
  7. Sit in the dark and share stories.
  8. Organise a family night playing board games.
  9. Share a romantic night in with your loved one.
  10. Upload your 'on the night' photos and videos to flickr and YouTube respectively, and then add them to the Earth Hour flickr group and the global YouTube Group.

## Exercise 5

## Reading, speaking

Earth Hour Executive Director, Andy Ridley, is encouraging people to participate in whatever way they choose and to think beyond the hour.

Read the text and answer the questions.

“There are no hard and fast rules about participation in Earth Hour. We only ask that you flick that switch and have fun doing whatever you choose to do during that time. Make Earth Hour work for you. Families with young children should feel free to turn their lights off earlier than 8:30pm and for those having too much fun in the dark during the hour, don’t feel you have to limit yourself to one hour and switch back on at 9:30pm.”

a) Are there any strict rules about taking part in Earth Hour?

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b) Do families with children have to turn off the lights at 8:30?

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c) What could you do if you find that you are having a really good time?

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## Exercise 6

## Reading, writing

There are no **hard and fast** rules about participation in Earth Hour.

The words in bold are an example of binomials (also known as Siamese twins), which are very common in English. Their order cannot be changed (~~fast and hard~~). They can have an idiomatic meaning just like multi-word verbs.

Can you match (try guessing first) the following binomials. Use a good dictionary to check and find their meaning and use.

<i>alive and</i>	<i>down</i>
<i>by and</i>	<i>there</i>
<i>fingers and</i>	<i>large</i>
<i>here and</i>	<i>kicking</i>
<i>high and</i>	<i>dry</i>
<i>nuts and</i>	<i>bolts</i>
<i>to and</i>	<i>thumbs</i>
<i>up and</i>	<i>fro</i>

Fill the gaps with the binomials from the box.

here and there | nuts and bolts | fingers and thumbs | up and down | by and large |  
alive and kicking | high and dry

- 1 Jane: How is Bill since his illness last month? Mary: Oh, he's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 My relationship with him was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The ferry sailed to and fro across the river.  
\_\_\_\_\_, I enjoyed my time at school. (Generally but not completely.)
- 4 She's got a lot of good, general ideas, but when it comes to the \_\_\_\_\_ of getting something done, she's no good.
- 5 John is all \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to DIY. He can't even hammer a nail into a wall.
- 6 All the children ran away and left Billy \_\_\_\_\_ to take the blame for the broken window.
- 7 She didn't search systematically. She just looked \_\_\_\_\_.

To find out more about Earth Hour, visit the official website [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org), sign up and join millions of people in more than 1,400 cities and towns in 80 countries throughout the world by switching off your lights for one hour at 8:30pm on Saturday 28 March.

## Project work

Task: design a leaflet/poster for Earth Hour.

1 Complete this advice for writing leaflets/posters using the words and phrases below.

general | blocks of prose | standout | bullet points |  
complex | layout | sentences

The \_\_\_\_\_ should be visually attractive.

It is a good idea to use \_\_\_\_\_, illustrations, colours, etc.

The language should not be too \_\_\_\_\_.

Long \_\_\_\_\_ should be avoided.

Headings should \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ should be quite short.

The information given should move from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the specific.

2 Can you think of any other tips?

Your teacher will show you some posters designed by students like you. Evaluate them using the tips above. Then design your own leaflet.