

The right thing?

- 1 Work in pairs. What do you think is most important for the future of the world? Rank these ideas. Add ideas of your own if you want to. (1 = most important)

protecting the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	helping poor countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	educating young people	<input type="checkbox"/>
developing drugs to treat illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	developing new technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	making goods cheaper for everyone	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2 Read the article and answer these questions.

- 1 What does the charity want to do?
- 2 Why isn't the computer company helping?
- 3 Who do you think is right?

- 3 Work in pairs and discuss these issues.

- 1 Do children in the developing world need laptop computers? Why? / Why not?
- 2 If worldwide software prices fall, what will happen to ...
a the company?
b the development of new software?
- 3 Could the government pay for the software?

- 4 Work in pairs and discuss possible solutions to the problem. Use the phrases in the box to help you.

We often hear that developing countries need food, clean water and medicine, but we don't often think about technology. One international charity is hoping to change this. It wants to provide enough laptop computers for every child in the developing world. These special computers are cheap to make and they are clockwork so they don't need electricity.

The charity asked to buy cheap software from a large computer company. However, the company is worried. It says that it wants to help, but selling software cheaply in one area of the world reduces prices worldwide. At the moment, the company is refusing to provide the cheap software.

Useful language

The main problem is that ...

The most important thing is ...

The charity / company / government should ...

One solution is to ...

I agree / don't agree with you ...

That's a good / bad / terrible idea.

Without computers, people can't ...

- 5 Work in pairs. Roleplay this situation. At the end of your conversation, agree on a solution.

Student A

You are the manager of the computer company. Explain why you are worried about providing cheap software.

Student B

You work for the charity. Explain why you need to have cheap software.

Lead-in

Ask students to identify some of the problems in the world today. Ask: What can we do about these problems?

Procedure

- 1 Students work in pairs and rank the ideas in order of importance and add their own ideas. Ask different students to share their opinions with the class.
- 2 Students read the text and then discuss the answers in pairs.
- 3 Go through the answers as a class.
- 4 Students work in pairs and discuss the issues and possible solutions to the problem, using the words in the Useful language box for help.
- 5 Students swap pairs and roleplay a conversation between the charity representative and the company manager. In the end, they agree on the solution they reached in Ex 4.
- 6 Some of the pairs act out their roleplays for the class.

Answers

- 1 The charity wants to provide enough laptop computers for every child in the third world.
- 2 They say that producing software cheaply in one area of the world reduces prices worldwide.

Vocabulary

environment, aid, technology, clockwork, software, to refuse, solution, to develop, to provide.