



Live Lesson Notes

Pollution

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1. Useful Links

My **GOLD online course** for **IELTS Speaking**

<https://courses.keithspeakingacademy.com/p/ielts-speaking-get-band-7-gold>

My **FREE online course** for **Crack IELTS Speaking Part 1**

courses.keithspeakingacademy.com/p/crack-ielts-speaking-part-1

Live Lesson on The **Environment**

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-environment-lesson-vocabulary/>

Facts about the different **types of pollution** here

<https://www.livescience.com/22728-pollution-facts.html>

The **causes of pollution** on a **WHO podcast**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/science-in-5/episode-66---air-pollution-a-public-health-emergency>

Statistics on **Pollution differences** today and in the past

<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-05-2016-air-pollution-levels-rising-in-many-of-the-world-s-poorest-cities>

<https://www.foxweather.com/learn/6-reasons-the-air-youre-breathing-today-is-much-cleaner-than-it-was-50-years-ago>

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IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Pollution

Fill in the gap with one word

1. Pollution is where we make the environment _____ and _____ to use.
2. Plastic and chemicals are two of the worst _____

Answers at bottom of PDF

Pollution (n.) Uncountable

1. Damage caused to the **environment** (water, air or soil) by harmful substances

Air pollution dropped to an all time low during the pandemic

- Environmental pollution
- Air pollution
- Water pollution (lakes, sea, rivers)
- Land pollution (soil)

OR

2. The harmful **substances** that cause the damage (plastics, smoke, radiation)

Plastic pollution is killing our seas and rivers.

- Noise pollution
- Light pollution
- Radioactive pollution
- Plastic pollution

Read the facts about the different types of pollution here
<https://www.livescience.com/22728-pollution-facts.html>

Pollutant (n.) Countable

The substance that pollutes

Can you name the following pollutants?

1



2



3



4



Answers at bottom of PDF

Other pollutants

Sewage (n.) uncountable
= human waste and waste water

Chemicals

- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Mercury
- Lead

Pollute (v.)

To make something harmful, usually by adding chemicals.

To contaminate

Plastics are polluting the water supply

Plastics are contaminating the water supply

Different ways of saying '**Rubbish**' or '**Waste material**'

litter

waste

rubbish (UK)

garbage (US)

junk (US)

refuse

debris

leftovers (just for waste food)

rubble (only from a destroyed building; cement, stones, bricks)

Household rubbish

Industrial waste

A dump / a landfill (these are only places)

Waste from the body we can call; excrement, poo, faeces, (solids) pee, wee, urine, (liquids)

Consequences of Pollution

It can **lead to** _____ (noun)

It can **provoke** _____ (noun)

It can **cause** _____ (noun)

It can **trigger** _____ (noun)

To trigger = to make something happen

Air pollution **can lead to** _____

Respiratory (=breathing) problems
Lung cancer
Death

Water pollution **can provoke** _____

Contamination of the food chain
Infant mortality

Soil pollution **can cause** _____

The land to become unsuitable for farming
Chronic health problems

Listening Bingo

1) Listen to this person talking about the causes of pollution. What does he say are the 2 main causes of pollution ?

<https://on.soundcloud.com/fKV7S>

Answers at bottom of PDF

2) Listen again and mark a box when you hear the exact words in it.

If you mark 3 in a row, that's BINGO!

Noise pollution	Greenhouse effect	Crystal clear
Guilty party	Air quality	Great success
Long run	Largely exacerbated	Rapid uptake

Answers at bottom of PDF

3) Now watch and note any useful collocations!



I know some cities have introduced measures to curb inner city traffic,

Full script on next page

Listening Bingo - Full Script

When it comes to **air pollution**, **to my mind**, (= in my opinion) airplanes must be the biggest polluters.

Let's face it (=let's be honest), they are causing **huge damage**,

churning out (=produce something bad) **greenhouse gases**, like CO2 into the air, contributing to **global warming**.

This became **crystal clear** (=very clear) during the pandemic when there was no air travel and we saw **air quality** around the world **shoot up** (=to go up a lot)

The other **guilty party**, **as far as I can make out** (to make out = to see or understand), is traffic, especially cars.

I know some cities have introduced measures to curb (=to reduce) **inner city traffic**, but **by all accounts** (=from all the evidence) they have had **limited success**.

I reckon this problem is **hugely exacerbated** (=is made much worse) my more and more families aspiring to own two cars which is clearly **not helping matters**.

I suppose the **gradual uptake** (the uptake = the act of taking or accepting something) of **electric cars** will mitigate (=to reduce) this **in the long run** (=the long term), but yeah, those are the 2 big ones for me.

Listen to more about the **causes of pollution** on this **WHO podcast** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/science-in-5/episode-66---air-pollution-a-public-health-emergency>

IELTS Speaking Idioms to talk about Pollution

To turn a blind eye

= To ignore a problem or something that is wrong

*We know flying causes huge air pollution but we all seem **to turn a blind eye to it.***

Something is a **drop in the ocean**

= too little, not enough

*The action taken by our government to reach net zero carbon emissions is **a drop in the ocean.***

The **tip of the iceberg**

= A small part of the problem

*The increase in sicknesses we are seeing due to air pollution is just **the tip of the iceberg.***

Interesting Quotes

'The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.'

Robert Swan

'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.'

Native American Proverb

IELTS Speaking Question Part 3: Model Answer

1. Watch the answer to the following question and note any **interesting collocations**.

Is there more air pollution now than in the past?



Full script on next page

IELTS Speaking Question: Useful Phrases

Is there more pollution now than in the past?

I guess it depends on the kind of pollution, the country and whether we are talking about **urban areas** (=city areas) or **rural areas** (=countryside area)

Statistically speaking (=according to the data), certainly in the USA and most of Europe, then **air pollution** has **certainly gone down**.

I think In the last thirty years or so, the air quality in those countries has increased.

The problem is, in many **developing countries** it is **far worse than before** (=much worse than before).

Levels of pollution are rising, especially air pollution, as societies are becoming more **prosperous** (=rich, wealthy), and **the demand for** cars and maybe international travel **goes up**, and so does air pollution.

So I guess **on a global scale**, we still **have a long way to go** (=we still need to do a lot more).

Statistics on **Pollution differences** today and in the past

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<https://www.foxweather.com/learn/6-reasons-the-air-youre-breathing-today-is-much-cleaner-than-it-was-50-years-ago>

ANSWERS

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Pollution

Fill in the gap with one word

1. Pollution is where we make the environment **dirty, filthy, bad,** and **unsafe, unhealthy** to use.
2. Plastic and chemicals are two of the worst **pollutants, sources, factors**

Can you name the following pollutants?

1. Plastic
2. Smoke / Fumes / chemicals/waste gas
Carbon monoxide (CO)
Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
3. Pesticides, chemicals
4. Exhaust fumes (vehicles), fuel/gas/petrol emissions, CO₂

Listening Bingo

What are the 2 main causes of pollution?

1. Aeroplanes / airplanes
2. Traffic, especially cars

Collocations from the listening are marked in **bold**.

Noise pollution	Greenhouse effect	Crystal clear
Guilty party	Air quality	Great success
Long run	Largely exacerbated	Rapid uptake

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