

Recitation D

Drowning in Plastic

Plastic is a necessity that supports our lives. A typical city infrastructure supplies electricity, gas, and water. However, the wires that bring us electricity are coated in plastic, and the tubes that bring us gas and water are made of plastic. Our clothes are made of synthetic fibers that include plastic. We use shopping bags, plastic bottles, and all kinds of plastic daily necessities. When you get old, you may use a disposable diaper, but it could also be called a plastic diaper. In such ways, we are all living in, on and around plastic.

We often hear about the marine plastic waste problem. Have you ever seen pictures of plastic garbage packed in the stomach of whales? One study estimates that by 2050, the mass of plastic in the ocean will be larger than all the fish living there.

What is alarming is that plastic produced, consumed and discarded on land is flowing into the ocean, and polluting the marine environment. In particular, micro-plastics, that have been broken into small pieces of plastic waste, are seriously damaging marine ecosystems. It has been said that these can enter our bodies through the food chain and cause health problems.

Recently, biomass plastics made from renewable organic resources have been developed. These are useful because microorganisms in soil can degrade them. In the future, it will be necessary to build a smart recycling system that considers the flow of various materials, including different kinds of plastics.

Living without plastic is hardly possible right now, when we think about economic development and modern life. However, we can all do something for the future, such as not littering, carrying an eco bag, and picking up garbage from the shore.

Native Americans say that they live by borrowing the earth from their offspring. We should all aim to return the borrowed land in a clean condition without polluting our seas.

(315 words)