

Recitation C

Pollution

We live in a world of convenience. When it's hot, we can turn on an air conditioner. When it's dark, we can turn on a light. Fresh water and electricity make our houses miracles of convenience. Would you like a coconut from the Philippines or a dress from Paris? Every day, ships and trucks carry food and goods into Japan from each corner of the world.

It's truly marvelous, but there is a price to pay. Many of our conveniences also cause serious pollution. Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that cause adverse change. A lot of oil gets burned up to power ships and trucks as they transport strawberries from Californian farms to Japanese supermarkets. This puts pollutants into the air and water.

There are many types of pollution, but air and water pollution are two of the most serious. The primary causes of air pollution are emissions from cars and factories. Many chemicals are put into the air that effect people, animals, plants and the environment in general. Air pollution is responsible for the deaths of more than 600,000 people in China each year.

Water pollution is also a serious worldwide problem. Because of water polluted by factories and poor sanitation, more than 14,000 people a day die. In the spring of 2010 there was a huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. An oil well burst and more than two million liters of oil spilled into the ocean every day for weeks. Water pollution like that has serious effects on fish and birds.

Pollution is an unwanted byproduct of our luxurious societies. How we deal with this is up to each of us. We enjoy the benefits of living in a modern world. Let's reduce the terrible price that the world has to pay.

(302 words)