

## The Rudiments of Wisdom

### **Recycling: Reclaiming Materials for Further Use**

Match each paragraph below with the best heading from the attached list. The first one is done for you as an example.

**A.** Everything in nature is recycled. Animal and vegetable remains feed the soil, which nourishes new life. The concept of rubbish is a very recent idea peculiar to modern man.

*Natural Recycling*

**B.** 20 million tonnes of rubbish from houses, shops and offices is buried in Britain every year. This includes 6,000 million bottles and 9,000 million cans.

**C.** Burning rubbish can be better than burying it. Ground up and mixed with oil, rubbish will burn, cutting fuel costs at some power stations by 20%.

**D.** Each tonne of paper pulp uses up 170 trees. At the moment, the world's forests are getting smaller by the size of a football pitch every second.

**E.** Rubbish, with hard bits removed, can also be ground up, mixed with sewage and sold as compost.

**F.** Britain uses about 7.5 million tonnes of paper and cardboard a year. 20% is recycled but it is theoretically possible to increase this to 60%.

**G.** Unfortunately, the demand for waste paper fluctuates wildly. It has recently been low because of the recession. This means less demand for paper, and the strong pound makes imported paper cheaper. The discovery that no one wants their waste paper has discouraged many councils from using it.

**H.** There are so many types of plastic they are almost impossible to separate for recycling. However, assorted plastic waste can be compressed to make building boards (like plywood), shoe heels, and even fence posts (using a new Belgian machine).

**I.** Oregon introduced a law in 1971 demanding that a deposit be placed on all drink containers, reusable or not. Drinks in reusable containers thus became cheaper, and over 95% of cans and bottles are now returned. Friends of the Earth have introduced a similar bill for Britain, which is now going through the House of Lords.

**J.** Unlike glass, aluminium can be recycled much more cheaply than it can be made from ores. Alcoa is paying 1p for each returned all-aluminium can. Write to Alcoa Cash-a-Can Centre. They will send you the address of your nearest collection centre and a free magnet to test if cans are all-aluminium.

**K.** The glass industry has placed bottle banks (skips for old bottles) in many shopping centres. Unfortunately, grinding up old bottles and remelting them uses nearly as much energy as making new glass from fresh sand.

**L.** Most branches of Friends of the Earth will tell where you can take waste paper/plastics/metals/ foreign coins/ old clothes/ stamps/ spectacles, etc. To find your local branch, look in the phone book or phone: Central Office, Friends of the Earth: 01-434 1684

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### ***Recycling: Reclaiming Materials for Further Use***

*Write the headings below on line under the matching paragraphs. The first one is done for you.*

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Bottle banks                  | 7. Recycled paper         |
| 2. Fresh pulp                    | 8. Recycled plastics      |
| 3. How to recycle                | 9. Recycling and deposits |
| 4. How to recycle aluminium cans | 10. Recycling as compost  |
| 5. Masses to recycle             | 11. Recycling as fuel     |
| 6. <del>Natural recycling</del>  | 12. Unwanted paper        |

Adapted from: O'Connell, Sue. 1996. "The Rudiments of Wisdom." Focus on First Certificate. Harlow, England: Pearson Education. 78.

*566 words Flesch Reading Ease 57.7 Flesch-Kincaid grade level 8.9*