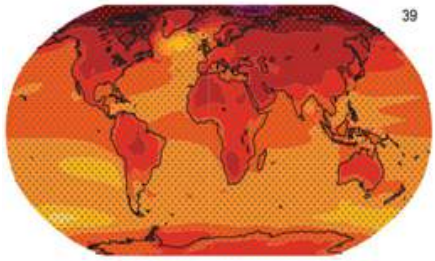
THREE DEGREES

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn new vocabulary and idiomatic expressions and practice using them. Familiarise yourself with the vocabulary of climate change in English. Review and practice the future tenses. Learn new linking words and expressions for explaining your point of view.

"Climate change does not respect border; it does not respect who you are - rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity." **Ban Ki Moon**



Activity One - Ask and answer with your partner.

1. Would you like to be able to predict the future?
2. Have you ever been to a fortune teller?
3. Do you have concerns about the future of our planet?
4. How do you think the climate will evolve in the next 20 years?
5. What do you think the government should do now to prevent climate change?

Activity Two - Review the words expressions with their definitions in the vocabulary section and then read the text and answer the question below.

Vocabulary: (Please review this list at home **before the lesson** and use the dictionary if you need to.)

For old time's sake - as a way of remembering something pleasant from the past
A**t the centre of our concerns** - the most important preoccupation
Indeed - certainly - actually - in fact
Thanks to - because of
To an extent - partially true
Certainly - surely
As far as… is concerned - from the point of view of…
The tipping point - the point at which something becomes a crisis.
All in all - everything being taken into account
Widely considered - thought by a lot of people to
Beyond - past
Life as we know it - Life as it is familiar to us now - idiomatic expression
Currently - now
To set an agenda - make a plan
Therefore - as a result
However - but
Simultaneously - at the same time
To campaign for - to organise a course of action with a specific aim in mind
A**t stake** - at risk
Threshold - the point at which something begins to produce an effect
Fossil fuels - hydro carbon based fuels (energy sources)
Renewable energy - a natural inexhaustible energy source
Despite - in spite of
Irrevocable - can never be changed
Damage - harm or destruction





SYMBOLIC NUMBERS FOR OUR FUTURE.

The three degrees is the name of a famous group of female soul singers but that's not what we will be discussing in this lesson. Let's have a quick look at them though, for old time's sake!
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O7jeSycGLQ (The Three degrees - when will I see you again.)

The question at the centre of their concerns in this famous song, is, what the future will be made of. Indeed, we would all like to be able to predict the future sometimes. Thanks to scientific research this is possible to an extent. Certainly as far as the climate is concerned. Climate change is a major concern for all governments and scientists have tried to predict how the changes in our climate will affect the environment.

The number three is a symbolic number in general. As far as climate change goes it is also an important number. Do you know why? Well in fact many religions contain triple deities or concepts of trinity. In Christianity the holy trinity, in the hindu religion the 'trimurti' buddhism the three Jewels etc.. The number three is also used in many traditional stories, fairy tales, folk tales etc; (three wishes, three guesses, three little pigs, three bears, three billy goats gruff). In the Christian bible the number three represents completeness and is one of three spiritually perfect numbers. Plato saw three as representing the triangle, the simplest spatial number. So all in all, the number three is an easy number to remember!

Now it will be even easier to remember because three degrees is widely considered to be the tipping point as far as global warming is concerned. Beyond this point life as we know it on planet earth would be over. (Widespread desertification, droughts and mega fires, catastrophic climate change, huge storms, hurricanes etc, critically endangered world food supplies, billions of lives at stake.) The global community is currently setting an agenda designed to reduce carbon emissions and therefore limit global warming to two degrees.

Two degrees above pre-industrial temperature has been agreed by countries a the threshold beyond which climate change risks become unacceptably high. However economists are simultaneously campaigning for three degrees to be the limit because the actions required for the 2 degree limit are too expensive. (It would cost 100 trillion dollars to meet the two degree target because fossil fuels would need quickly to be replaced by more expensive renewable energy.)

Economists have calculated that it would cost 100 times more to meet the two degree target than to repair the damage caused by three degree global warming. Using this economic justification they argue, despite the certainly of irrevocable damage to the planet, that we should allow global warming to reach 3 degrees before we take decisive action. This sounds wrong to me. What do you think?

Answer this question with your partner using as many words from the vocabulary list on page one as possible. This is a competition. Let's see who can use the most words in their argument!

Should economic calculations be a factor in decisions we make about global warming?

Here are some **other words** to help you to give your **OPINIONS**:

Obviously	***Ultimately***	***It seems to me that***
Clearly	***It has been proved that***	***We know that***
Basically	***It is clear that***	***In my opinion***
Essentially	***It seems to me that***	***The way I see it***



Activity Three - Predicting the Future in English.

A/ MODAL VERBS (WILL/MIGHT/MAY)

We can show how sure we are about something in the future by using **modal verbs** and other phrases.
We can combine **modal** verbs with **adverbs** to show a greater or lesser degree of certainty.

- *The weather will definitely change in the future.*
- *People definitely won't won't be able to continue to use fossil fuels forever..*

Both of these sentences show that the speaker is **sure**.

- *We'll probably see a rise in the temperature in the next five years.*
- *You probably won't be able to buy Diesel cars any more within a few years..*

The speaker is thinks (s)he's right but **isn't 100% sure.**

- *The UN might /may change the limit for global warming. We don't know yet.*

The speaker **isn't sure at all**. You could also use could or may instead of might.



B/ OTHER EXPRESSIONS

1 **BOUND TO** - *when you are sure of something.*

- The UN is bound to change the two degree limit.
- *The UN is certain to change the limit.*

2 **LIKELY /MAY WELL / GOOD CHANCE** - *when it is probable but not certain.*

- *The UN is likely to revise the limits set on global warming in view of new research.*
- *The UN may well revise the limits.*
- *There's a good chance that the UN will revise the limits.*

3 **UNLIKELY/ NOT MUCH CHANCE/ DOUBT** - *If you don't think that something will happen but there is still a change.*

- *The UN is unlikely to change the 2 degree limit because the scientific evidence available proves that beyond this limit the results would be catastrophic.*
- *There's not much chance the UN will change the limit despite pressure from economists and certain governments.*
- *I doubt if the UN will revise the limits.*

4 **NO WAY/ NO CHANCE** - *if you feel sure that something is not going to happen.*

- There's no chance/ no way the UN will change the 2 degree limit to 3 degrees.

Activity Four - With your partner - Write a sentences to predict the degree of certainty of the following situations using the expressions and modal verbs from activity three.

1. Miami submerged.
2. Extreme deadly heat-waves all over the world within five years.
3. Extreme storms in Europe.
4. Extreme drought in Africa.
5. Extreme drought in Europe.
6. Fog and smog all over France
7. Food and water instability leads to wars in Europe within the next ten years.
8. The extinction of a million species.
9. Britain becomes a popular summer holiday destination before 2000.
10. Carnon and Palavas disappear soon.
11. Zombie attacks begin.
12. Insects become France's most popular food.

Activity Five - Role Plays

A. You are visiting a fortune teller. She/ he predicts some surprising things about your future!

B. You are talking to your teenage child about why it's important to respect the environment and he/she does not agree that bad things could happen in the future if we are not careful. You try to stay calm but explain how the future could look if people don't change their ways.

C. You work for the British tourist board in 2030. You are selling holidays in Scotland to a French travel company.

D. You are having a romantic dinner in 2045 with your girlfriend/boyfriend. You talk about all the lovely insects you are eating and other futuristic foods and drinks.

Activity Six - **Listen** to the song and follow the lyrics. REM - **It's the end of the World.**

That's great, it starts with an earthquake
Birds and snakes, an aeroplane, Lenny Bruce is not afraid
Eye of a hurricane, listen to yourself churn
World serves its own needs, don't misserve your own needs

Feed it up a knock, speed, grunt, no, strength, no
Ladder, structure clatter with fear of height, down height
Wire in a fire, represent the seven games
In a government for hire and a combat site

Left her, wasn't coming in a hurry with the furies
Breathing down your neck
Team by team, reporters baffled, trump, tethered crop
Look at that low plane, fine then

Uh oh, overflow, population, common group
But it'll do, save yourself, serve yourself
World serves its own needs, listen to your heart bleed
Tell me with the rapture and the reverent in the right, right
You vitriolic, patriotic, slam, fight, bright light
Feeling pretty psyched

It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
And I feel fine

Six o'clock, TV hour, don't get caught in foreign tower
Slash and burn, return, listen to yourself churn

Lock him in uniform and book burning, blood letting
Every motive escalate, automotive incinerate

Light a candle, light a motive, step down, step down
Watch a heel crush, crush, uh oh, this means no fear
Cavalier, renegade and steer clear
A tournament, a tournament, a tournament of lies
Offer me solutions, offer me alternatives and I decline



It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
And I feel fine, I feel fine

It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
And I feel fine

The other night I tripped a nice continental drift divide
Mount St. Edelite, Leonard Bernstein
Leonid Breshnev, Lenny Bruce and Lester Bangs
Birthday party, cheesecake, jelly bean, boom
You symbiotic, patriotic, slam but neck, right? Right

It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
And I feel fine

Activity Seven - Predictions - With your partner write a list of predictions about the future based on the lyrics of the song. Try and write as many as possible and use different model verbs and expressions from activity Three. This is a timed activity. When the teacher sounds the buzzer we will see which couple made the most predictions

Activity Eight - **Taboo**. - You will talk about a consequence of global warming without using the exact term or words linked to that term. The other people in the group have to guess what you are thinking of.

