‘Let There Be Light’

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn how to present an overview in English. Comprehension activities. Practice using linking words. Learn some idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs. Learn some language history.



Activity One: Ask and answer.

- ☑ Have you ever wondered where the electricity in your home and office comes from?
- ☑ Do you have any solar powered objects or machines in your house?
- ☑ Would you like the idea of being autonomous and ‘off the grid’?
- ☑ Would you like to see more sustainably sourced electricity in your town?

Activity Two: French Power. Source www.oilprice.com

Read the article and fill the gaps with the correct conjugation of the phrasal verbs below:

Shut down Cut down Step down Get back Carry on Phase out Go back on

For a long time, it seemed that France, Europe’s leading nuclear power producer, would seek to decrease the share of nuclear in its energy matrix. The 2015 Energy Transition for Green Growth law stipulated that by 2025 the share of nuclear would have to drop from the current 75 percent (the highest rate in Europe) to 50 percent, whilst capping maximum production capacity at 63.2 GW, i.e. roughly the level where it stands currently. However, coping with the challenges of energy supply proved to be too complex to …… on France’s traditional buttress, nuclear power – in fact, during Francois Hollande’s tenure not a single nuclear reactor what …… Renaming the Energy Ministry into the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition did not help – with Nicolas Hulot …….., nuclear seems to have ……. onto France’s energy policy agenda.

France’s nuclear romance started out as a post-1973 crisis realization of the nation’s scarce indigenous resources – it was never really powerful in terms of oil and gas production.Nuclear seemed like a perfect match – it was low-cost, carbon-free and France could make use of its Francophone ties with countries filled with uranium, such as Niger. Up until the late 2000s, despite falling reactor construction rates France boasted of the energy independence it reached thanks to developing nuclear as well as its relatively low electricity prices (lower than all of its neighboring countries).

The 2011 Fukushima catastrophe, however powerful argument for those who opposed nuclear. Francois Hollande managed to **set** the nuclear-to-renewables transition **in stone**, or so it seemed until quite recently. Hollande’s successor, Emmanuel Macron, reiterated his aspiration to ……. with the gradual nuclear ……. However the Ecological Ministry backtracked on nuclear. A confidential report recommended …… France’s nuclear phaseout and building five new EPR (European Pressurized Reactor, a 3rd generation pressurized water reactor) reactors in 2025 (instead of decommissioning 15-20 reactors).

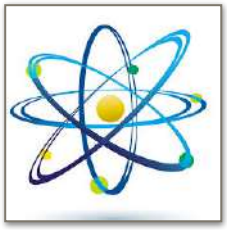
Activity Three: Giving an Overview.

Be concise: Shorter sentences are easier to understand. They also make it easier for you to **stick to a point** and not lose your **meaning**. A series of short sentences have more impact than one long **rambling** sentence.

Link up your ideas: In order to make your discourse easier to follow, explain ideas in a structured way, with linking words to link the ideas together. *(For example: Here’s an overview of the situation on three main points. First of all, secondly, finally. In conclusion. Or: There are two main issues **at stake** here: On the one hand…, on the other hand… All in all we it seems clear that….)*

Keep It Simple: Avoid formal words, use simple vocabulary.

Loop back around: Make a statement. Explain your argument. Go back to your initial statement. *(For example: Radioactive waste always leaks into the environment. It's clear that nuclear energy is bad for the environment. It may create less carbon emissions than coal powered energy. However radioactive pollution never goes away. It's impossible to destroy nuclear waste. Therefore it will always leak into what we eat.)*



Activity Four: Show me the picture.

Follow the advice from above to give an overview of the following;

1. The clean energy options available to French people.
2. The clean energy options available to the French government.
3. Energy policy in France compared to other countries (to your knowledge).

Activity Five: **A bright spark.**. **Where our idiomatic expressions come from…**

Did you know that Shakespeare actually invented at least 2000 words of the English language? In fact many idiomatic expressions originate in literature. Even in biblical literature. Sometimes they are what we call 'inkhorn' words; words which are adapted from Latin or French in an attempt to make a text sound more 'noble', more 'learned'. Many common expressions entered into our language thanks to the publication of the King James Bible. This was an important time in the history of the English language because people read it again and again. It was the most widely printed book in history. It therefore had a big influence on the language. People go as far as to say that modern English has been shaped by the King James Bible.

Here's a list of some common ones. Do you know what they mean? Can you use some of them in a sentence about energy? These expressions are used very very commonly in English. It will help your comprehension if you understand and recognize them easily. It will help you to connect with people and make a point, if you can use them.

A law unto themselves
A man after his own heart
A stumbling block
A thief in the night
All things to all men
At their wit's end
Born again
Bottomless pit
Den of thieves
Eat, drink and be merry
Eye for an eye
Fallen from grace
From strength to strength
Give up the ghost
Holier than thou
How are the mighty fallen
In the twinkling of an eye
Let there be light
Money is the root of all evil
Out of the mouths of babes
Scapegoat
Seek and ye shall find
Set thine house in order
Sheep's clothing
The powers that be
The signs of the times
Two-edged sword

Another very idiomatic form in the English language is the **phrasal verb**.

- The phrasal verb is a verb plus a preposition.
- The meaning of the verb plus preposition is different from the meaning of the verb alone.
- Phrasal verbs started to replace prefixes, as a typical English form around the 11th century as a post-verbal particle carried more stress and therefore had more strength than a prefix.
- However during the middle English period the influence of French slowed down the addition of new phrasal verbs.
- In early modern English it was popular to replace the more formal French and Latin words with more direct and simple forms. From the 15th to 17th centuries hundreds of new phrasal verbs were introduced into the language. Shakespeare himself used them nearly 6000 times in his work. Phrasal verbs are therefore very characteristically English. They are also a great way to expand your vocabulary and make you sound more precise.

*(Here are some examples: I **read through** the article quickly. I soon **figured out** that nuclear energy was dangerous. I **looked into** the subject and **found out** more. If you **look** it **up** on google you will be shocked.)*

Activity Six: Get over it - Read the article and fill the gaps with the verbs below:

Lobby for drive down get across focuses on phase out advised against adds up

Due to growing world population and increasing wealth, demand for energy – specifically electricity – is rising, especially for the 1.3 billion people who don't have access. We are all _____ using unsustainable energy.When looking at sustainable electricity resources, we commonly identify four: solar, wind, hydro and biomass. Each of them is renewable, but that doesn't necessarily make them sustainable. Sustainability is determined by three different parameters: environmental sustainability, social sustainability and economic sustainability. Companies try to _____ the message _____ to people of the benefits of these sustainable resources

Environmental sustainability means that it doesn't do harm to the environment. That means that we need a positive energy balance to start with. If producing a renewable energy device costs more energy than it produces during its lifetime, it's not sustainable because we're a net consumer of energy. But there's a material side to it as well. Mining coal is bad for the environment, but mining neodymium and other rare earth metals for wind turbines_____ the same amount of pollution. Let's not close our eyes for what's happening: anything that's mined destroys complete ecosystems. And we can only guess if submerging complete ecosystems by building hydropower dams is less destructive. People _____ the environment and try to find the least harmful solution.

Social sustainability is enormously diverse and complex. It also _____ healthy circumstances for workers and decent wages. But an aspect like local welfare increase (as opposed to multinationals exploiting local communities) should definitely be included as well. There's one overarching aspect on social sustainability – we have one globe where we can provide enough food and energy for everyone. Using the planet's effectively and efficiently is therefore crucial. It would then be possible to_____ the use of fossil fuels.

Sustainability is a very complex word and entails many aspects of which we've only scratched a few to illustrate its diversity. The question is: how do we deal with all these aspects? Can we balance all the pros and cons? And how do we do that? How can we_____ costs?

Activity Seven: Do you comprehend?

Watch the video and answer the comprehension questions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEYbgyL5n1g (3 raisons pour lesquelles l'énergie nucléaire est néfaste !) Youtube.

1. Give an overview of why this video says that nuclear energy is terrible.
2. How many countries have developed their own weapons because they started just building energy plants?
3. How long does it take for the toxic chemicals to leave the nuclear waste?
4. Where are we putting nuclear waste?
5. How many reactors are there in the world?

How much energy in the world is supplied by nuclear?



Activity Eight: Let's pretend!

1. You are purchasing energy for a large multi-national company. Your cheapest option is to buy nuclear energy from EDF. You try to persuade your boss of this, by giving an overview of the options available.
2. You want to go off the grid and produce all your own electricity at home because you want to aim for a zero carbon footprint. You explain to your wife/husband what this will mean for them. You give them an overview of the changes you need to make in your home and the investment needed.



