Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

Dematerialisation

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Discussion about dematerialisation, reading and listening comprehension.
Learn about dependant prepositions and when to use the gerund (-ING) form.



Introduction – **Questions and Answers**

1. What do you do to try and reduce your impact on the environment?
2. Does your company try to reduce their impact on the environment? How?
3. Do you have paperless statements and bills ?
4. When do you think we will no longer receive physical mail, but only electronic?
5. How much printing do you do at work or at home ?
6. Do you think France uses and processes a lot of paperwork ?

Activity One – Dependent prepositions

In English some nouns, verbs and adjectives have dependent prepositions you must use after them

Try to see which ones you can match in the list below:

Information
Increase
Problems
Believe
Succeed
Stand
Aware
Investment

prepositions : IN / WITH / ON / FOR / OF / TO

DEPENDENT

What other dependent prepositions can you think of?

Here is a good list for you to have a look at
https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/intermediate-grammar/verbs-prepositions

Activity Two – Gap fill

Fill in the gaps with the correct dependent prepositions

- There is a major reduction in paperwork involved _____ transfer of securities, and reduction in transaction cost, etc.
- Holding investments _____ equity and debt instruments in a single account is possible.
- We should all abide _____ the rules of negotiation and business
- I wasn't aware _____ dematerialisation until I read this lesson
- We need to decide _____ the next step in reducing paperwork in the office
- Let's prepare _____ the next meeting
- I can't rely _____ Sam for anything
- What reasons can you think _____ for stopping the use of paperwork?

Activity Three – Match

Match the two halves of the sentences together (they are not in the correct order)

I need to warn you	to the news and you will hear all about the advantages of dematerialisation
If we are to succeed	with the effects of reducing the amount of paper we use
Listen	strike again
The team is on	about the harmful effect of excess waste on the environment
We are pleased	in this project, we need to work harder
He insisted	on going paperless for everything

Activity Four – Reading Comprehension

Dematerialisation literally means the use of less materials.

Dematerialisation is defined by UNEP as "the reduction of total material and energy throughput of any product and service, and thus the limitation of its environmental impact. This includes reduction of raw materials at the production stage, of energy and material inputs at the use stage, and of waste at the disposal stage."

James Baldwin, the industrial designer and protégé of Buckminster Fuller, has stated "The less material used per function, the closer the design is to pure principle". Baldwin worked with Fuller and others to perfect the Geodesic Dome which is an example of a building with maximum space and strength for minimum material use.

Dematerialisation is closely linked with improving products' efficiency and with saving, reusing or recycling materials and products. It entails actions at every stage of the production and consumption chain:



resource savings in material extraction,
improved eco-design of products
technological innovations in the production process
environmentally conscious consumption patterns
recycling of waste, etc.

Dematerialisation strategies include:

the design and manufacture of a smaller product e.g. smaller homes, miniturisation
the design and manufacture of lighter products e.g. using alternative construction
the replacement of material goods by non-material substitutes (for instance a letter on paper replaced by an email)
the reduction in the use of material systems or of systems requiring large infrastructures (for instance using telecommunications instead of using a car to go to work)

Comprehension questions:

1. What is dematerialisation?
2. What example do they give?
3. What is it linked to?
4. What does it entail?
5. How many stages are there?
6. What is the meaning of
7. What are your thoughts on dematerialisation?
8. What dependant prepositions can you see in the article?

Activity Five – Using the gerund form -ING
When do we use it after a dependent preposition?

Apologise for something
He apologised for **being** late to the meeting

Save from
He was saved from **falling**

Activity Six – Discussion
With your teacher or partner, take two different sides of the discussion
Here are some expressions to help you:

The way I see it / In my opinion / As far as I am concerned....
What are your thoughts on this? / Do you agree? / How do you feel about that?
I beg to differ / I totally disagree / That's not always true

What are the advantages and disadvantages of dematerialisation?

Activity Seven – Listening Comprehension
Listen to the video and answer the comprehension questions below (The first 7:00 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEQDLUdMb5M
"Dematerialization: Humanity's Biggest Surprise | Andrew McAfee | TEDxCambridge"



1. What are we doing to the planet?
2. What were they saying there was too much of?
3. What was growing quickly
4. What resources were we taking more of from the planet?
5. What did we design the economy to do?
6. What has continued to increase?
7. What have we continued to embrace?
8. What did we start taking less of?
9. What has not been this low for a century?
10, What have we finally figured out?
11, What is dematerialisation? And why does it happen?

Activity Eight– Role Plays
With your partner or teacher, act out the following role plays

1. There is a system malfunction and you have to call the help desk to ask for assistance

2. You are not able to access the SAP software and you need to access some data urgently. There is no one around who is able to help so you call the help desk to see if they can fix the problem remotely

3. The scanner is broken and you need to file some important paperwork. You have to call the help desk to see if they can fix it or offer an alternative solution

