



In this lesson you will hear part of a radio broadcast about the role of water and the problem of droughts. Listen carefully, but first listen to the words and phrases that appear in this recording:

crops - *zbiory, plony*

parallel - *równoległy*

to diminish - *zmniejszać*

to pollute - *zanieczyszczać*

drought - *susza*

hosepipe - *wąż do polewania*

soil - *gleba*

to deteriorate - *pogarszać*

to spread - *rozprzestrzenić się, rozpowszechnić*

flow - *przepływ*



And now listen to the recording:

- Why is water so important?

- Human beings have a basic need for water. That much is obvious. Without water to drink we would die very quickly, without water, our crops will not grow.

- Why do we hear more and more about water problems?

- As the global population grows there is a parallel growth in the amount of water needed to fulfil the basic needs just mentioned. We can also add to this the growing need for water, generated by the developments in our societies. Beyond the basics, we have many other uses for water, although it is a good question as to exactly how necessary such uses are. Consider for example how essential water is for washing machines, flushing toilets, the production of computers, the production of paper, and for washing cars.

- Is the amount of available water in the world diminishing?

- Sometimes it seems so, but the answer to this is no. In reality there are two major problems. The first one is the location of the water, and problems with distribution. If it doesn't already exist in an area and it cannot be transported there, then we cannot use it. The second problem is that of water being unfit for use. If we pollute water then we cannot use it for certain things, such as drinking.

- Where are such issues a problem?

- In short, almost everywhere. Although the scale and nature of the problem varies from place to place. In eastern Africa, for example, we read each year of major droughts whose effects kill hundreds of thousands of people. In Britain we read of problems with water supplies when we have a dry summer - we're unable to use our hoses in the garden, for example, and in extreme cases we're urged to take a shower rather than a bath.

- What's the problem with drought?

- Drought means that people don't have water to drink. What it also means is that farmers don't have crops in their fields. As a result the soil deteriorates and, in certain parts of the world, deserts spread and the quality of soil can never be recovered. Drought can also be used as an economic weapon or a tool by governments. For example a country with a river that flows into another country may regulate the flow of the river with serious consequences for its neighbours. Drought may also mean that countries are given money to help their populations survive - such money may then be used for other, harmful, purposes...



After listening to the recording, answer the following questions. Choose the most appropriate answer according to what you've heard.

- Complete the sentence, "The water which we use..."
 - ...is sometimes wasted
 - ...is always essential for development
- The sum total of water in the world is
 - Decreasing
 - Stable
 - Increasing
- The problem of water pollution is a relatively minor one. True or false
- Water supply is primarily a problem in hot countries. True or false
- "The problem with drought is simple: it means we cannot grow food." Is this accurate? Yes or No