England to plant half a million trees

LEVEL A2/B1



I. WARM-UP

1. What green places do you like in your town? Why?
2. How does hot weather affect your daily life?
3. Where would you like to plant a tree near you?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

pledge
to make a serious promise to do something

funding
money given for a special purpose

restore
to make something natural or good again

drought
a long time with little or no rain

flood
a lot of water that covers land after heavy rain

shade
a cool, darker area away from direct sun

habitat
the natural home of a plant or an animal

charity
an organisation that helps people, animals or nature

III. READING

Half a million trees will be planted in England in the next three years. Angela Eagle, the environment secretary, will pledge this plan at the Labour party conference in Liverpool. The £79m package includes £53m for tree-planting and £26m for local nature recovery strategies.

Funding will go to mayors, local authorities and charities to restore wetlands, river edges and meadows. Trees help in extreme weather. In cities they give shade and can lower air temperatures by 4C.

One mature tree can intercept 15,000 litres of water a year, which can reduce flood risks during storms and after drought. Trees also cut noise, absorb air pollution and create habitats for wildlife. England has lost more than 90% of its wetlands over the last century. Two charity leaders said the plan is encouraging and makes economic and ecological sense.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Half a million trees to be planted in...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many trees are planned, and over how long?
2. Where will Angela Eagle make the pledge?
3. How much money goes to tree-planting and to nature strategies?
4. Who will receive funding to restore local nature?
5. Name two benefits trees can bring in cities.

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you like more trees on your street? Why or why not?
2. Which needs restoring first near you: a river edge or a meadow? Why?
3. What simple actions could your town take to stay cooler in summer?
4. How can charities and councils work well together on nature projects?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Would like vs like

Use like for general habits and preferences. Use would like to express a wish now or for a specific time. Forms: like + noun/verb-ing; would like + noun or to + verb.

*"Many people **would like** more trees in their streets."*
*"City residents **like** green parks and shady paths."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with like or would like.

1. On hot days, people usually (like) ___ resting under trees. _____
2. Next spring, I (like) ___ to grow a small apple tree. _____
3. My children always (like) ___ climbing trees in the park. _____
4. This week councillors (like) ___ to join a planting day. _____
5. Every summer, families (like) ___ picnics by rivers. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.



I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 8–10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach visuals for the vocabulary (pledge, funding, restore) and drill pronunciation of Angela Eagle, Liverpool, and litres.
- Run a first skim read for the key numbers (half a million; £79m; £53m; £26m; 4C; 15,000). Then a second read for the benefits of trees; pair-check answers before whole-class feedback.
- Differentiation: stronger students find three benefits of trees in the text; others find two and underline the sentences that support them.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick show of hands, then ask for one reason from both sides.
2. Put students in pairs with different choices and have each explain their priority.
3. Board ideas (shade, water, parks) and prompt for one practical step per idea.
4. Form mixed pairs (charity/council roles) and ask for one challenge and one solution.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 60-word notice inviting volunteers to a local tree-planting day.

Presentation: In groups of three, design a two-minute plan to restore one local place (river edge or meadow).

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Would like vs like

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many trees are planned, and over how long?
   Half a million trees over three years.
2. Where will Angela Eagle make the pledge?
   At the Labour party conference in Liverpool.
3. How much money goes to tree-planting and to nature strategies?
   £53m for trees and £26m for nature strategies.
4. Who will receive funding to restore local nature?
   Mayors, local authorities and charities.
5. Name two benefits trees can bring in cities.
   They give shade and lower heat by 4C; they reduce flood risks.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with like or would like.

1. On hot days, people usually ___ resting under trees. **like**
2. Next spring, I ___ to grow a small apple tree. **would like**
3. My children always ___ climbing trees in the park. **like**
4. This week councillors ___ to join a planting day. **would like**
5. Every summer, families ___ picnics by rivers. **like**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use like for general habits and preferences. Use would like to express a wish now or for a specific time. Forms: like + noun/verb-ing; would like + noun or to + verb. (Examples constructed.)

*"Many people **would like** more trees in their streets."*

*"City residents **like** green parks and shady paths."*