

Getting Ready

How important are these issues to you? Check (✓) your answers and compare them with a partner.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
air pollution			
water pollution			
crime			
global warming			
overpopulation			
poverty			
unemployment			
other:			

Listening 1

People are talking about issues. Which issue do they think is most important right now?

Listen and circle the correct answer.



1 a water pollution

b air pollution

2 a unemployment

b crime

3 a public transportation

b housing

4 a government

b unemployment

5 a public transportation

b unemployment

6 a education

b health

Listening 2

Task 1

What issues are these people talking about? Listen and circle the correct answer.



1 a air pollution

b water pollution

c overpopulation

2 a global warming

b water pollution

c unemployment

3 a poverty

b overpopulation

c war

4 a crime

b traffic

c air pollution

5 a air pollution

b garbage

c unemployment

6 a housing

b poverty

c crime

Task 2

Listen again. Are these statements true or false? Check (✓) the correct answer.



	True	False
1 He wants to be the mayor of his city.		
2 She's going to move to Chicago.		
3 He reads a lot of sports magazines.		
4 She bought a new car.		
5 She buys less packaged food, like frozen dinners.		
6 He moved to a small apartment downtown.		

Task 1

Listen to a talk on very large cities, or “megacities.” Why do people move from the country to megacities? Listen and check (✓) the reasons you hear.



	Reason	Not a reason
1	They want to find work.	
2	They want to be farmers.	
3	They think salaries will be higher.	
4	They think the work will be easier.	
5	They think the people will be friendly.	
6	They think city life will be glamorous.	
7	They want to be on television.	
8	They want better health care.	

Task 2

Listen again. Are these statements true or false? Check (✓) the correct answer.



	True	False
1 Jobs are often difficult to find in megacities.		
2 Salaries in megacities are very low.		
3 Many people end up in huge, expensive house.		
4 Health care is much cheaper in megacities.		
5 Air pollution is a problem in megacities.		
6 The problems in megacities are becoming easier.		

Task 1

Listen to the conversation. Write the missing words.



A: There are in the world today.

B: I know. There's water pollution, air pollution, global warming, unemployment.

A: Yeah, and there's the destruction of the rain,, housing shortages... It can get depressing if you think about it too much.

B: No kidding. What do you think the biggest issues are?

A: I really think air pollution is the most important issue. If we don't and improve air quality, we'll all have health problems.

B: I agree that air pollution is a The air in the city has become so dirty.