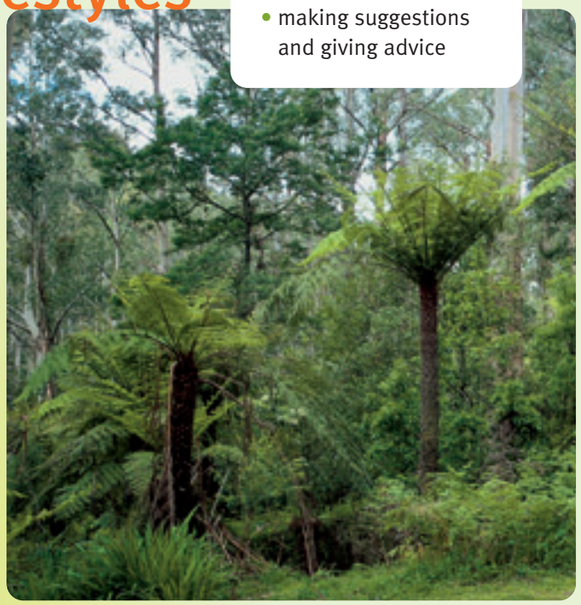
Unit 5

Homestudy Preparation

Sustainable lifestyles

In this unit we focus on

- talking about numbers and quantities
- making suggestions and giving advice



Australia's world heritage

There are over 750 cultural or natural sites in the UNESCO world heritage list. A lot of the sites in Europe are of cultural importance – the Tower of London, for example, or Berlin's Museum Island, or the historic centre of Vienna. By contrast, Australia's fifteen sites are places of great natural beauty, such as the Barrier Reef or Uluru (Ayer's Rock). They also include the Central Eastern Rainforest, which was nominated in 1987. Today, five percent of the Australian continent is covered by forest, compared with ten percent two hundred years ago. And only a little of this area is actually rainforest, about 0.3 percent of the country. But the rainforests are Australia's most important biological resource – home to over half of its plants and animals. In the past, rainforests have been cut down for commercial profit. The nomination of the Central Eastern Rainforest as a world heritage site was a milestone in the campaign to protect them.

Underline one of the phrases in brackets to replace the words in italics.

1 *Five percent* of the Australian continent is covered by forest. *(A lot / Only a few / Only a little)*
2 The rainforests are home to *over half* of Australia's plants and animals. *(a lot / much / only a few)*

Useful phrases

Making suggestions and giving advice
What about (doing) ...?
Why don't you (do) ...?
You could perhaps (do) ...
Maybe you could (do) ...
I think you should (do) ...
You'd better (do) ...
If I were you, I'd (do) ...
The best thing is (to do) ...

Language tip

To give advice and make suggestions in more formal situations, we can use phrases like:
May I suggest (doing) ...
Perhaps you'd like to (do) ...
It might be an idea to (do) ...

p. 82

Sustainable lifestyles

1 Talking points

What does the word *lifestyle* mean to you? Think about housing, transport, shopping, technology, leisure, work, etc. How is your lifestyle different from your grandparents' lifestyle?

2 Vocabulary

Complete this table:

Symbol	+	–		÷
Expression	*plus*		*multiplied by*	
Verb	*add*	*subtract*		*divide*

remember
☹ The population of Berlin is about ~~3,5~~ million.
☺ The population of Berlin is about **3.5** million.
(3.5 = three point five)
We use a comma to indicate thousands, e.g. £ 27,000.

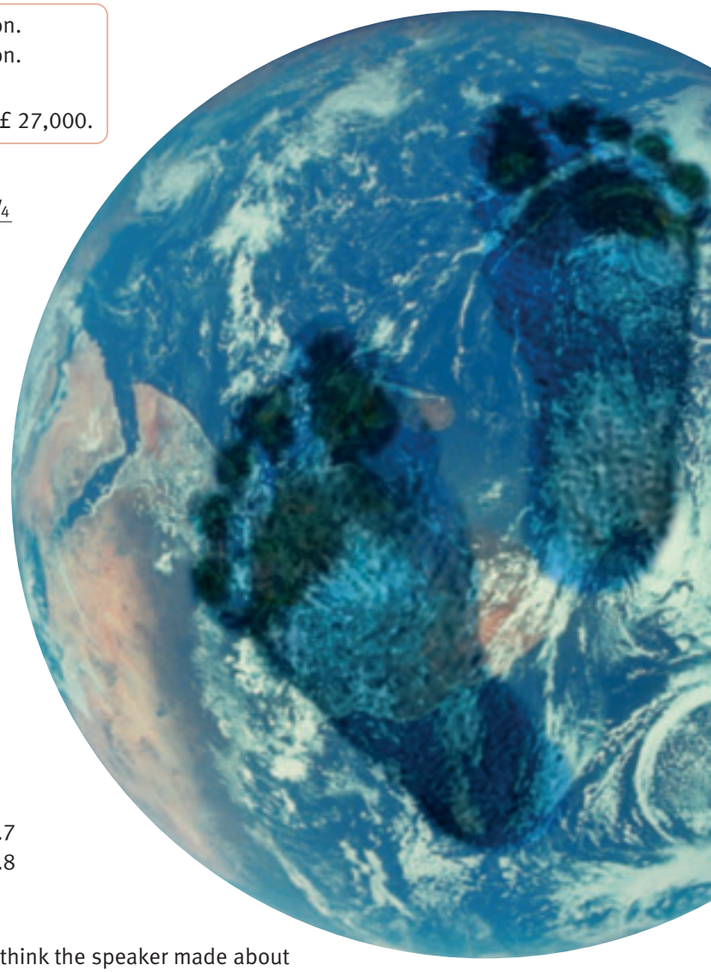
- Write these fractions in words:
a) 1/4 b) 1/3 c) 2/5 d) 1/2 e) 2/3 f) 3/4
Say what the underlined fractions are in percentages, e.g. 1/4 = twenty-five percent.

- In each sentence, one of the words in *italics* is incorrect. Cross it out.
1 The official *area / size / space* of a football field is 0.405 hectares (4,050 square metres).
2 Our kitchen is 3.7 square metres – we haven't got enough *area / room / space* for a dishwasher.

3 T 9 Listening

- Listen to a lecture about the ecological footprint and answer the questions:
1 What is an ecological footprint?
2 Why do we need so much land and water?
3 How big is your country's footprint?

- T 10 Listen again. What do these figures refer to?
a) 6 billion b) 100% c) 10 billion d) 1.7
e) 3/4 f) 2.8 g) 5 1/2 h) 3.8



4 Writing

Work with a partner. What suggestions do you think the speaker made about how people can reduce the size of their ecological footprint. Write as many sentences as you can in five minutes. The *Useful phrases* and *Language tip* on the Preparation page may be helpful.
Now compare your suggestions with two other students.

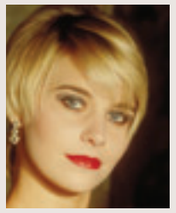
5 Text focus

Read the newspaper cutting. Which of the two writers is more self-critical? Do you think either of them will change their lifestyles? Why (not)?

Grass roots voices

Ian and Sara Harvey were at Newcastle's Civic Centre last Monday to hear Dr. Jane Bell's lecture on the ecological footprint. Afterwards, they used a scoresheet to calculate their footprint size. Here's what they have to say.

Ian Well, we certainly got a lot of information. Dr. Bell made it clear that there is only a little space available for every person. Just 1.8 hectares. And how many hectares is my footprint? 6.2, I'm afraid. Well, our house is rather big – we have a large number of rooms – although my wife and I really don't need so much space. And I've got a lot of bad habits. I normally shower for about 30 minutes a day, although I know that in some parts of the world, there is hardly any water. I feel bad about that. And if everyone used a car as often as I do, we'd have no oil left by the middle of the century. Dr. Bell had plenty of helpful suggestions for saving our resources – don't change your clothes every day, buy lots of locally produced food, eat less meat, go on holiday near your home, etc. If I'm honest, I probably won't make many changes to my lifestyle. But I'd like to try.



Sara OK, my footprint – 7.9 hectares – is quite big. But I didn't hear many practical suggestions about how to make it smaller. If I don't use my car, it doesn't mean that we'll have fewer roads. And anyway, there are no bus stops near our house. So there isn't much sense in that. It's easy for someone like Dr. Bell to suggest using a bike. How much time does she think I've got? Scientists say we're using too much land – but is that really true? I think we have plenty of space – I mean, look at Scotland – it's practically empty except for one or two big cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh. OK, so I'd hate to live there, with so many cows and sheep and only a few people ... . But seriously, there are too many pessimists around today and I don't have a great deal of patience with them. Hardly any of the terrible predictions I've heard have ever come true.

6 Grammar focus: Talking about quantities and numbers (Quantifiers: G23, p.79)

typical mistake

☹ We spent ~~much~~ money on our new car. ☺ We spent **a lot of** money on our new car.

- Read the texts again and put a circle round the uncountable nouns, e. g. (information).
- Look at the texts again. Underline the words and phrases from the table. Decide if they are used with uncountable (**U**) or plural (**P**) nouns, or with both, and put a tick (✔) in the boxes.

	U	P		U	P		U	P
a little	☐	☐	a few	☐	☐	hardly any	☐	☐
less	☐	☐	fewer	☐	☐	no	☐	☐
much	☐	☐	many	☐	☐	lots / a lot (of)	☐	☐
a great deal (of)	☐	☐	a large number (of)	☐	☐	plenty (of)	☐	☐

- Replace the words in *italics* with: *a great deal, only a little, plenty of, very few.*

1 Most people in this country spend *a lot* of money on consumer goods.
2 *Hardly any* of us are worried about the future of our planet.
3 *Not much* of the food we buy in this country is processed and packaged.
4 People think we have *more than enough* time to reduce the size of our footprint.

Choose one of these statements. Then tell the class if you agree with it and if it is true for you.

7 Find out

Work in pairs. Use the scoresheet to ask questions about your partner's lifestyle. Write the scores in the right column and then calculate the size of his/her footprint.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT SCORESHEET

Score

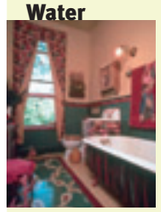
Home

1 **10** points for every 10 square metres of your home (round up or down) ... ☐

2 Home type: detached house **40** / semi-detached house **30** / terraced house **20** / flat in apartment block **10** ..... ☐

3 Subtract **10** points for every household member (including yourself) ..... ☐

Water



4 **10** points for every day of the week that you shower ..... ☐

5 Points for average length of shower:
Under 3 min. **10** / 3-6 min. **20** / 7-10 min. **30** / Over 10 min. **40** ..... ☐

6 **60** points for every day of the week that you take a bath (average) ..... ☐

7 Scores for wearing same clothes a second day:
All clothes **10** / most clothes **20** / some clothes **30** / none **40** ..... ☐

Food

8 **10** points for every day of the week that you eat meat ..... ☐

9 Points for buying locally grown food:
Under 25% **40** / 25%-50% **30** / 51%-75% **20** / Over 75% **10** ..... ☐

10 Points for buying processed and packaged food:
Under 25% **10** / 25%-50% **20** / 51%-75% **30** / Over 75% **40** ..... ☐

Mobility

11 Points for weekly car travel (driver or passenger):
0 km **0** / under 100 km **20** / 100-300 km **40** / over 300 **60** ..... ☐

12 Points for petrol consumption per 100 km (car users only):
Under 5 litres **10** / 5-9 litres **20** / 10-15 litres **40** / over 15 litres **60** ..... ☐

13 Points for using public transport (weekly average):
0 km **50** / under 100 km **40** / 100-300 km **30** / over 300 **10** ..... ☐

14 Points for cycling / walking (journeys under 2 km):
Rarely **50** / Sometimes **30** / Usually **20** / Always **0** ..... ☐

15 Points for air travel in the last 12 months:
Under 2 hours **10** / 2-5 hours **40** / 6-10 hours **70** / over ten hours **120** ... ☐

Add up the score: ☐ Now divide by 100 ◯ and that is your footprint in hectares.

Now multiply your footprint size by 6 ☐. Divide the result by 10.

The answer ◯ is the number of planets we would need if everyone had your lifestyle.

Discuss your results in class. Tell the class how many planets we would need if everyone's footprint was the same size as yours.
Suggest ways in which other students could reduce the size of their footprints. The *Useful phrases* on the Preparation page may be helpful.

5 Homestudy Consolidation

1 Lewis and Harris

Complete the text by adding these words:
a great deal, a large number, few, fewer, less, little, a lot of, many, much, no, plenty of.

The island of Lewis and Harris is the largest of the Outer Hebrides. With 25,000 inhabitants, it is one of the (1) ..... remaining bastions of Gaelic culture, which has died out in so (2) ..... other places. Tradition is important in everyday life, and (3) ..... of islanders, about 70 percent, actually speak Gaelic. The island is famous for Harris tweed, which is exported all over the world, but there is (4) ..... modern industry than in other parts of Scotland. The main economic activities are weaving, fishing and farming. Most of the farms are so small that quite (5) ..... farmers have two or three jobs. However, the islanders have (6) ..... of respect for traditional religious practice and Sunday is a day of rest.

There isn't (7) ..... commercial activity and shops, playgrounds and even public toilets are closed. Some hotels do a (8) ..... business and serve meals to tourists, but tourists can't travel to the island, as there is (9) ..... Sunday ferry. The Outer Hebrides attracts (10) ..... tourists than the Inner Hebrides, which are closer to the Scottish mainland. But people who enjoy the outdoor life will find (11) ..... spectacular countryside on Lewis and Harris.

2 L 16 Vocabulary

Write down the symbols and numbers you hear.

....
....
....
....

3 Write it in English

1 Ungefähr 20 Prozent der Inselbewohner leben in dem Hauptort, Stornoway.
2 Die Fähre nach Stornoway braucht zweieinhalb Stunden.
3 Fast drei Viertel der Inselbewohner sprechen Gälisch.

4 L 17 Listening

Ian and Sara Harvey are discussing their next holiday. Before you listen, complete the suggestions they make and match them with the responses.

Suggestions

1 We ..... perhaps spend two weeks in Tuscany.
2 ..... doing a cycling tour through the Mecklenburg lake district.
3 Why ..... we go to Scotland?
4 ..... we could hire a car and tour the island.
5 The ..... thing would be to rent a holiday cottage.
6 We'd ..... look at some of the other places before we decide.

Responses

a) ☐ Yes, I'd enjoy a bit of driving.
b) ☐ But that's not very far from home.
c) ☐ I don't really want anything too energetic.
d) ☐ So what kind of place would you like?
e) ☐ But we've already been to Italy several times.
f) ☐ No, thank you. I don't want any self-catering.

Now listen and check your answers.

L 18 Speaking practice p. 82