

# Recycling - Turning Trash Into Treasure

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)



Every day, people **throw** away many things. Old **paper**, **glass** bottles, and plastic bags fill up bins on the street. All this trash is a big **problem** for our **earth**. If we do not take care of it, where does it all go?

Most trash goes to a big open area of land called a dump. The dump gets bigger and bigger each year. Trash left on the ground can make the air smell bad and look ugly. It can also make nearby water **dirty** and hurt the animals that live there.

Recycling means using old things to make new things again. We can **clean** old glass bottles and turn them into new ones. Old paper can become fresh new paper. Even old oil from cooking can be collected and used again. Recycling helps us **save** what we already have.

Many schools now teach kids how to recycle the right way. Students put paper in one box and bottles in another. Some classes even start a small **garden** using food scraps from their lunch. It is easy and fun to help the earth every day.

Everyone can make a difference no matter how young or old. You can pick up trash at the park on weekends. You can bring your own bag to the store when you shop. Small actions by many people can keep our **nature** clean and beautiful for many years to come.

## A. Vocabulary

---

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. throw _____   | a. a hard, clear material you can see through                |
| 2. paper _____   | b. free from dirt or marks; neat and tidy                    |
| 3. glass _____   | c. to toss something away                                    |
| 4. problem _____ | d. trees, animals, rivers, and everything not made by people |
| 5. earth _____   | e. not clean; has marks or mess                              |
| 6. dirty _____   | f. a place to grow flowers or vegetables                     |
| 7. clean _____   | g. to keep something so it is not lost                       |
| 8. save _____    | h. something that is hard to solve                           |
| 9. garden _____  | i. the world we live on; the planet                          |
| 10. nature _____ | j. a thin material made from trees, used for writing         |

## B. True or False

---

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Most trash goes to a dump. _____        | 2. Recycling means throwing things in the ocean. _____ | 3. Trash can make water dirty. _____                     |
| 4. Old paper can become new paper. _____   | 5. Recycling is very hard to do. _____                 | 6. Trash on the ground can make the air smell bad. _____ |
| 7. Glass bottles cannot be recycled. _____ | 8. Food scraps can be used in a garden. _____          | 9. Only adults can help with recycling. _____            |

## C. Fill in the Blanks

---

**Word Bank:** throw, paper, glass, dirty, save, clean, nature

- Every day, people \_\_\_\_\_ away many things.
- Old \_\_\_\_\_ bottles can be cleaned and used again.
- Trash on the ground can make water \_\_\_\_\_.
- Recycling helps us \_\_\_\_\_ what we have.
- We can \_\_\_\_\_ old bottles and turn them into new ones.

## D. Comprehension Questions

---

- Where does most trash go?
- What does recycling mean?
- How can trash hurt animals?
- What do some school classes do with food scraps?
- What are two things you can do to help?

## E. Discussion Questions

---

- Does your family recycle at home? What do you recycle?
- Why is it important to keep our earth clean?
- What would happen if nobody recycled?

---

## Answer Key

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-j, 2-e, 3-f, 4-c, 5-g, 6-a, 7-h, 8-i, 9-b, 10-d

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-F

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-throw, 2-glass, 3-dirty, 4-save, 5-clean

**D. Comprehension:** 1. Most trash goes to a big dump; 2. Using old things to make new things; 3. Dirty water and trash on the ground hurt nearby animals; 4. They start a garden using food scraps; 5. Pick up trash at the park and bring your own bag to the store