

Quiz

How green are you?

1 If you are moving between rooms in your home, which is the best way to save energy?

- A. Keep the lights on as you move from room to room
- B. Turn off the lights every time you leave a room and turn them back on again when you return

2 Which is the most eco-friendly* method for washing your clothes?

- A. Hand washing them in hot water
- B. Taking them to the dry-cleaners*
- C. Machine-washing them in cold water

3 You are going on holiday. Which is the most eco-friendly option?

- A. A driving holiday in France
- B. Taking the plane to Spain
- C. Going on a yoga retreat in India

4 Which of these would save the most water?

- A. Turning the tap* off when you brush your teeth
- B. Taking a shower instead of a bath

5 Which of these options would make the biggest contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions?

- A. Travelling by train instead of by car
- B. Hanging* your washing to dry on a line rather than using a tumble* dryer

6 When you turn off a TV by leaving it on "standby*", how much electricity is it using, compared to when it is on?

- A. 25%
- B. 55%
- C. 85%

7 Which of these appliances uses the most energy?

- A. A fridge-freezer
- B. An electric oven
- C. A washing machine

8 Which of these industries is responsible for the most CO₂ emissions?

- A. The computer industry
- B. The aviation industry
- C. The publishing industry

Answers:

1-B It is a myth that a light* bulb uses a lot of energy every time you turn it back on. In fact, it uses three seconds' worth* of energy, so turn it off when you leave a room.

2-C Heating water uses large amounts of energy – 90% of the total energy used by a washing machine. It is more ecological, therefore, to machine-wash clothes in cold water than hand wash them in hot water. The worst option is dry-cleaning*, which uses solvents that are damaging* to the environment.

3-A Planes release* huge amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere, so it's better to go on holiday near home, even if it means driving a car.

4-B. On average*, taking a shower instead of a bath will save around 50 litres of water. Leaving the tap* on when you brush your teeth wastes* around 24 litres of water.

5-A Over the course of a year, it is estimated that a person will reduce their CO₂ emissions by 2.9 tonnes if they travel by train instead of by car. That said, the effect of drying clothes on a line instead of in a tumble* dryer is also significant, saving 0.9 tonnes in the course of a year.

6-C Any appliance* on "standby*" uses 85% of its normal electricity consumption. Domestic appliances account* for 30% of our total energy consumption, causing 12% of our CO₂ emissions.

7-A Of all domestic appliances, fridge-freezers use the most energy, accounting for approximately 25% of the average* household* bill. So remember to empty the fridge and turn it off when you go on holiday.

8-A Computers and related* equipment account for 3-4% of the world's CO₂ emissions – more than the aviation industry.

VOCABULARY

account for: représenter
appliance: appareil
average: moyen

average (on ...): en moyenne
damaging (be ...): nuire
dry-cleaners: pressing

dry-cleaning: nettoyage à sec
eco-friendly: respectueux de l'environnement

hang washing on a line: étendre du linge
household bill: facture ménagère

light bulb: ampoule
related: apparenté
release: émettre

standby (on ...): en veille
tap off/on: robinet fermé/ouvert
tumble dryer: sèche-linge

waste: gaspiller
worth (three seconds' ...): cela vaut trois secondes...

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