

Learning English Voice of America News

prepared by Melissa Robinson

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/>

- Pick a story that will generate discussion. You can search by skill level.
- Play the clip once so everyone gets a sense of what the story is about.
- While the clip is playing, write comprehension questions and vocabulary words on the board.
- Play the clip a second time and ask them to specifically listen for the answers to your comprehension questions.
- Go over the vocabulary words. VOA lists some after every story, but you should also listen for ones that may also be new and ask if any other terms or phrases are unfamiliar.
- Go over the correct answers to the comprehension questions.
- Ask questions that are related to the story and will prompt discussion.

An example audio story is “Feed the People or Save the Planet?” It can be found here:

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/feed-people-or-save-the-planet/2684211.html>

Sample comprehension questions for this story

- Why are Americans eating less meat?
- What country is now the world’s largest meat consumer?

Vocabulary

recommendation

vulnerable

sustainability

stray

food chain

carbon footprint

consumer

Sample discussion questions

- What do you consider when you are deciding what food to buy? Price, health, environment?
- Do Americans eat more or less meat than the people in your country?
- Did you learn anything new from this story? Did it change your mind about anything?

VOA also has segments called “Everyday Grammar” and “English in a Minute” that are helpful.

April 2015