

## Climate Change: A Hot Topic Under the Microscope

**\*\*Please do not translate while reading the article or answering questions. I need this to gather data on what needs to be focused on in our classes\*\***

*This article does not present any actual facts.*

Climate change remains a pressing issue that continues to polarize (polarise) opinions and spark heated debates worldwide. Scientists and environmentalists agree that the Earth's climate is undergoing rapid changes, with consequences that are far-reaching and, in some cases, irreversible.

The recent heatwaves and wildfires have brought the issue of climate change to the forefront once again. Experts warn that these extreme weather events are not just isolated incidents but symptomatic of larger systemic changes occurring on a global scale.

"Climate change is like a ticking time bomb," remarked Dr. Emily Rivers, a leading climatologist. "We are witnessing unprecedented shifts in weather patterns that threaten ecosystems and human livelihoods."

In coastal regions, rising sea levels are a cause for concern, posing a threat to low-lying communities. "We're seeing coastal erosion at an alarming rate," noted marine biologist Dr. Jonah Sands. "It's a wake-up call for governments to take decisive action."

Governments and policymakers face mounting pressure to implement sustainable practices and reduce carbon emissions. However, progress has been slow, with some countries dragging their feet (feat) on commitments to renewable energy and carbon neutrality. "This issue requires a paradigm shift in how we approach energy consumption," stated environmental activist Maya Green. "We can't afford to bury our heads in the sand any longer."

The effects of climate change are not just environmental but also economic and social. Agricultural productivity is being affected by changing weather patterns, leading to food shortages and price hikes. "Farmers are bearing the brunt (bunt) of these changes," observed agricultural economist Dr. Alex Fields.

Despite these challenges, there is hope on the horizon. Grassroots movements and international agreements like the Paris Agreement signal a growing awareness and commitment to tackling climate change collectively.

"We're at a crossroads," concluded Dr. Rivers. "It's time to roll up our sleeves and take concrete steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change before it's too late."

As the world grapples with the complexities of climate change, the call for action grows louder. The future of our planet hangs in the balance, and the choices we make today will shape the world for generations to come.

## Questions

1. **Make a list of the idioms used in this text and explain what you think they mean.**
2. **Make a list of homophones used in this text and explain why each is used in that particular way.**
3. **Write a summary of the article.**
4. **Give your thoughts on the article, did you like it or not? Explain.**