

Sports in (climate) crisis

The following exercises are based on the article: 'When it comes to climate action, the ball is in sport's court' about sport and the climate crisis, which is available on a separate downloadable PDF.

Read the article again and choose the main point each paragraph is making.

Paragraph 1

- a Runners like Usain Bolt are efficient because they use very little energy.
- b Sports events use a lot of energy.
- c The Olympic Games should not continue because they are not sustainable.

Paragraph 2

- a The sporting world isn't paying much attention to its environmental responsibilities.
- b There are different reasons each sport affects the environment.
- c Solutions to the environmental damage caused by sport are difficult to identify.

Paragraph 3

- a Global heating threatens sports that rely on ice and snow.
- b Sport is a good way to communicate the climate crisis because you can see its effects.
- c Not only does sport affect the climate, the climate affects sport.

Paragraph 4

- a The financial cost of the climate crisis to the sports world will be significant.
- b Heat is making some sports events dangerous for athletes.
- c The climate crisis is affecting sport in different ways.

Paragraph 5

- a There are many sportspeople who are fighting the climate crisis.
- b There is a way for sport to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- c Sport cannot reduce its carbon emissions quickly enough.

Use a word from the article to complete each sentence.

1. An inventor has created a bicycle that can be used to _____ the lights in your home. (paragraph 1)
2. We need to find more ways to _____ clean energy from natural sources. (paragraph 1)
3. The average household in Canada _____ nearly 12,000kWh of electricity per year, while in Nigeria that figure is just 570 kWh. (paragraph 1)
4. It is unfair to expect individuals to solve the crisis by reducing their carbon footprint. Governments must force corporations to recognise their _____. (paragraph 2)
5. What measures can sport take to start to have a more positive _____ on the living planet? (paragraph 3)
6. If we don't act now, we are likely to _____ a rise in global temperature of more than 2°C, with severe consequences. (paragraph 4)
7. The evidence is that recent unseasonal weather events such as flooding and forest fires were made much more likely as a result of global _____. (paragraph 4)
8. We all need to ask ourselves what _____ we can play in the climate emergency. (paragraph 5)
9. Sport is in an ideal place to _____ awareness of the climate crisis. (paragraph 5)
10. Some companies have been looking at ways to reduce _____ for a while; others were forced to during the pandemic. (paragraph 5)

Look at the problem tree. Make sentences about the information using the expressions below, which introduce causes, consequences and possible solutions.

As a result, ... Consequently, ... due to ... means there will be ...

This has the effect of ... would avoid the need for ... would protect people from ...

... can/will lead to would mean, thanks to can cause ...

Example: Higher temperatures **will lead to** a lack of snow for skiing.

