

# Turn Off That Light!

## A Discussion

Look at these examples of wasting energy. Which ones does the class think are the most wasteful?

- Going to bed leaving the light on.
- Leaving the TV in standby mode for 3 days.
- Taking your sweater off and increasing the heating.
- Having a half-hour hot shower to wake you up.
- Putting a light on your garden lawn to light up the house.
- Going on holiday and forgetting to turn off the air conditioning.
- Leaving your car engine running for 10 minutes while waiting for a friend.



How many of these are you yourself guilty of? Why do you think it's important to save energy?

## B Vocabulary

You are going to listen to a radio programme about one of the examples of energy waste we spoke about before, the excessive or wasteful use of light. Before you listen, here are some difficult words that you will hear in the programme.

Work with another student to put each word into its dictionary definition.

Spill (n)	Pervasive	Glare
Implement	Trespass	Gutter

1. \_\_\_\_\_. (v) Go onto private property without permission. (n) The act of going onto private property without permission.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. (adj) Widespread, common, usually with a negative connotation.
3. \_\_\_\_\_. (n) The accidental release of a liquid, often used in association with hazardous materials and oil/gas products.
4. \_\_\_\_\_. (v) To allow a new regulation or rule to be passed and enforced.
5. \_\_\_\_\_. (n) Light which is too bright and may reduce visibility in the surrounding area.
6. \_\_\_\_\_. (n) Plastic tubing which is used on roofs to channel rainwater to a pipe that leads down to ground level.

**C** Listening**Part One**

As you listen to the conversation between Mike Kuplowski, presenter of the My World radio show, and his guest Susan Conroy, complete these sentences.



1. Susan Conroy works for the \_\_\_\_\_ Dark Skies Association.
2. Light pollution has been estimated to cost somewhere between 25% and \_\_\_\_\_ of global energy costs.
3. Hundreds of stars were visible to the naked eye only \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
4. Every year in the USA, \_\_\_\_\_ dollars are spent on wasted light.
5. Susan says that over lighting of some business premises actually helps criminals to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Mike's brother lives near a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The important thing about lighting in our own gardens is that it is angled \_\_\_\_\_.

**Part Two**

Now, as you listen to the radio programme for a second time, choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) for each of these questions.

1. The odd thing about light pollution is that most people
  - a) have never witnessed it.
  - b) don't see it on a day to day basis.
  - c) don't have much knowledge about it.
  - d) don't want legislation to stop it.
2. Speaking about the stars, Susan makes a comparison with twenty years ago in order to show
  - a) that tougher legislation is needed.
  - b) that the situation is deteriorating.
  - c) that cities are getting bigger.
  - d) that there are fewer stars than in the past.



**C** Listening

3. A positive benefit of reducing light pollution that Susan mentions is
- the US could import less foreign oil.
  - the US could export more oil to foreign countries.
  - the US wouldn't need to burn coal to produce electricity.
  - the US could stop importing oil after a few months.
4. Which of these people does Susan not mention with reference to the light pollution problem?
- Drivers
  - Criminals
  - Amateur astronomers
  - Pilots
5. What is the best definition of "light trespass" as described by Susan?
- Using light sources that allow light to escape upwards into the sky.
  - Using too strong a light source which creates dark shadows.
  - Using light sources which do not meet international standards.
  - Using light sources that allow light to escape into areas surrounding the parking lot, building, etc.
6. Which of these measure does Susan **not** mention when talking about what we as individuals can do to reduce light pollution?
- Contacting politicians.
  - Not to use light bulbs without a cover.
  - Only buy light fittings from a recognised store.
  - Use downward facing lighting.

**D** Speaking

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions:

- Do you think Susan Conroy exaggerated the light pollution problem?
- Are you and your family light polluters?
- What is the night sky like above your hometown? How many stars can you see?
- Do people in your neighbourhood use security lights and other sources of light pollution?
- What other ways can we save money by not wasting energy?

