

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 随身英语

BBC

LEARNING  
ENGLISH

英语教学

### A matter of waste

### 废物回收一两事

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Vocabulary: recycling 词汇: 回收

Should you recycle the box from your takeaway pizza or throw it away? Can you recycle **aerosol** cans? Is all plastic recyclable? How **clued up** about recycling are you?

We probably all know that recycling is good for the environment. It saves energy and limits the drain on Earth's resources. But do you know which items you should or shouldn't recycle?



These days we are recycling more and more items

In the UK, we have a well-established system of **kerbside** recycling. Most people expect to separate recyclable material from general **refuse**. A typical household recycles paper, cardboard, plastic and glass bottles, **foil** and drinks cans. Food and garden waste is now also collected. But in the last four years, the number of items rejected for recycling in England has gone up by 84%, mainly as a result of **contamination**. Many items end up in **landfill** or being **incinerated** when, with more care, they could be recycled. The problem often stems from confusion over what and how to recycle.

Across the UK the system of recycling differs between **local authorities**, and multiple containers are used for different types of **recyclables**. In one area there may be one large **wheelie bin** for recycling all household items, another for garden waste, and yet another for general waste. There are also **composting** food **caddies** – a small one for the kitchen and a larger one for the kerbside. These use compostable bags for food waste, including tea bags, **coffee grindings** and egg shells. A few streets away, another **council** may use a separate container just for glass bottles. Waste collection times vary – either weekly or fortnightly. Each week, you have to remember which bin has to go out. It's all highly confusing.

One of the biggest problems recycling firms face is food contamination. If your plastic milk bottle is empty, it's ok to recycle it, but if it contains a small amount of milk, it could result in contamination of the plastic recycling process. Likewise, **paper fibres** cannot be recycled if they are contaminated with food, so a cheesy pizza box shouldn't be recycled.

**Conscientious** consumers are constantly faced with recycling **conundrums**. You've just finished a **carton** of juice. Should you remove the plastic **cap** before recycling the carton? You feel the fate of the planet lies in your hands. My advice: stop worrying and crack open a bottle of beer! ...Hang on!.... what should you do with the **bottle top**!?

## 词汇表

<b>aerosol</b>	喷雾器
<b>clued up</b>	对某事了解很多, 熟知的
<b>kerbside</b>	马路边
<b>refuse</b>	废物, 垃圾
<b>foil</b>	锡, 箔(纸)
<b>contamination</b>	污染
<b>landfill</b>	垃圾填埋, 垃圾填埋场
<b>to incinerate</b>	焚烧
<b>local authority</b>	地方政府
<b>recyclable</b>	可回收的
<b>wheelie bin</b>	带轮子的垃圾箱
<b>composting</b>	制作堆肥的
<b>caddy</b>	小罐
<b>coffee grindings</b>	咖啡渣
<b>council</b>	市政
<b>paper fibres</b>	纸纤维
<b>conscientious</b>	认真的, 用心的
<b>conundrum</b>	难题, 复杂的问题
<b>carton</b>	塑料盒
<b>cap</b>	瓶盖
<b>bottle top</b>	瓶盖

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *Recycling in the UK is a relatively recent phenomenon.*
2. What happens to items that have been rejected for recycling?
3. Why does the author of the article think people are confused by recycling? Give one reason.
4. How often are rubbish and recycling bins collected in the UK?
5. What expression does the author use to indicate a sense of responsibility?

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Don't throw \_\_\_\_\_! I'll take it to the charity shop.

it off	away that	out it	it out
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2. That talk about recycling was a real \_\_\_\_\_ of time. They didn't tell me anything I didn't already know!

loss	drain	waste	lack
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3. Today's solar energy industry has its \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1970s during the oil embargos.

vary	roots	stems	branches
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4. The reason many recyclable items are rejected is because they are \_\_\_\_\_ with food.

contained	contaminated	composted	consumed
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5. Global warming is possibly the biggest problem future generations will have to \_\_\_\_\_ with.

confront	face	deal	meet
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *Recycling in the UK is a relatively recent phenomenon.*

**False. In the UK recycling is well established.**

2. What happens to items that have been rejected for recycling?

**They end up in landfill or being incinerated.**

3. Why does the author of the article think people are confused by recycling? Give one reason.

**(Any one from) There are different kinds of containers for different items. The recycling system can differ from one local authority to another. Collection times vary. People have to remember which bin to put out each week.**

4. How often are rubbish and recycling bins collected in the UK?

**Every week or every two weeks**

5. What expression does the author use to indicate a sense of responsibility?

**The fate of the planet lies in your hands.**

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Don't throw **it out!** I'll take it to the charity shop.

2. That talk about recycling was a real **waste** of time. They didn't tell me anything I didn't already know!

3. Today's solar energy industry has its **roots** in the 1970s during the oil embargos.

4. The reason many recyclable items are rejected is because they are **contaminated** with food.

5. Global warming is possibly the biggest problem future generations will have to **deal** with.