



ENVIRONMENT

Feeding the 7 billion©

by Valentine Rinner

Vocabulary & pronunciation study by Laurent Dufour©

Words are explained alongside the text

Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold*

You've almost certainly already heard some of these **appalling figures**: each year in **Europe** **approx**imately half of the food we produce ends up not being eaten. At the same time 1 out of 9 people on the planet **suff**ers from **malnut**rition and each minute 2,000 trees are **chopped down** to make more **agricult**ural land and use up more of our **resour**ces to grow food that we already have.

Waste **issu**es around food are some of the most central in increasing **glob**al and local food **secu**rity as well as ensuring our **ecolog**ical **fu**ture. **Curbing** food waste is one of the United Nations' **Sustain**able **Develo**PMENT Goals (the UNSDGs). SDG target, number 12.3 **seek**s to cut **per capita** food waste in half by 2030. If my math is **cor**rect that would mean that in Europe we have 15 years to waste only a third of the food we grow instead of half of it. Are you **up for** that **chall**enge?

You've **prob**ably already asked yourself: what can I do at my level? Followed by the **inev**itable: aren't my **eff**orts only a mere drop in the **oce**an? It won't change anything... **Inde**ed, forcing yourself to finish up last week's **brocc**oli for it not to end up in the **trash** won't solve global waste issues.

However some people have started to **speak up** and are **in**itiating simple actions that are gaining **momentum** and **imp**act. Across the Channel, London-born Tristram Stuart is the **figure**head of the anti food waste movement. He **speaks out against** waste at all levels of the **food supply chain**.

appalling (adj.) alarming, shocking

figures (n.) calculations, amount expressed in numbers

to chop down (phrasal vb.) to cut through something to make it fall down

waste (n.) unnecessary and wrong use of time, money, substances, food, abilities, etc.

global (adj.) relating to the whole world

to curb (vb.) to limit, restrain

sustainable (adj.) environmentally friendly

to seek (sought-sought) (vb.) to try to obtain

per capita (adj.) for each individual person

up for (prep.) willing and able to take part in an activity

trash (n.) container for refuse

to speak up (spoke-spoken) (phrasal vb.) to express an opinion

momentum (n.) speed and strength

to speak out against (phrasal vb.) to state one's opposition to

He **originated** the Feeding the 5000 in 2009 – a free **banquet** cooked from food that was going to be wasted by shops and **supermarkets**.

The **event** was held in Paris in 2013 as Le banquet des 5000 and was a huge **success**. It was co-**organized** by a **variety** of local **organizations** such as Disco Soupe: an anti food waste **collective**. Their mission statement is that friendly collective public **experiments** with cooking wasted foods is a way toward **questioning** the **status quo** on our eating system and **habits**. This event was highly mediatized and **contributed** to **heightening** political **awareness** and **eventually** led to large **structural** changes.

Indeed, the French **Senate** passed a law that will **facilitate** the cooperation between supermarkets and **charitable** organizations regarding unsold food. **Edible** unsold food ended up in the trash usually **purposely** poisoned with **chemicals** to **prevent** homeless people **from** taking the food. Purposely poisoning edible food is now an **illegal** practice in our country. With this **unanimously** adopted law we are slowly **narrowing** the **legislative gap** with our neighbors.

However supermarkets aren't the only wasters. Each French person wastes between 20 and 30 kilos of food every year. That's over 1 million tons for all of us. Two French food **entrepreneurs** noticed that we usually throw food away because **packaged** foods are sold in fixed **quantities** that might not **correspond** to our needs. So they **launched** a **franchise** of **bulkfood grocery** stores. Each month sees a few more franchises opening across the country.

Buying the exact quantity you need is only a **slight** change to your grocery shopping and **storing** habits, and the **result** is that it allows you to prevent not only food waste, but also plastic waste by reducing packaging, and **economic** waste by not buying more than you need.

Supporting anti food waste initiatives is at the same time **economical**, fun, **trendy** and **environmentally** proactively friendly. So now at the very least go finish that broccoli and start buying in bulk!

food supply chain (n.) food system, processes that describe how food from a farm ends up on our tables

to question (vb.) to express doubts about the value or truth of something

to heighten (vb.) to strengthen and intensify

awareness (n.) knowledge based on information or experience

eventually (adv.) finally

edible (adj.) eatable

purposely (adv.) deliberately

to prevent someone from doing something (vb.) to stop someone from doing something

to narrow the gap (exp.) to lessen the difference

to launch (vb.) to start, initiate

bulkfoods (n.) food items offered in large quantities, stored loose, and not wrapped in separate boxes or containers

grocery (n.) store that sells food and household supplies

slight (adj.) small in degree

to store (vb.) to put things in a special place for use in the future

economical(adj.) not using a lot of money

trendy (adj.) currently popular or fashionable



***Tip!**

Syllable stress can help us to understand spoken words.

Let's take the words 'organize' and 'organization' as an example. First count the syllables: 'or.gan.ize' has 3 syllables, 'or.gan.i.za.tion' has 5 syllables.

Syllable stress is when you say one of the syllables slightly louder and with more emphasis.

So in this example we say: organize and or.gan.i.zation .