

## Talking about Change

### Present Tense forms

There are constant changes happening in our world, and when talking about the environment the choice of language we use can reflect the ongoing processes, the repercussions of human activity on nature and the current state of our environment.

Here we will look at the different *aspects* in the present tense; the *simple*, *continuous* or *progressive*, and *perfect*, which clarify and distinguish different perspectives of present time.

Finally, we will also take a look at the verbs commonly used to talk about environmental changes.

### Present Tense Forms

- 🔊 This text contains 4 different *present tense* forms, underline and match them to the forms below:

Since the early 1900s, many glaciers around the world have been rapidly melting. Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land.

Excerpt from WWF website by Lorin Hancock

Present Continuous \_\_\_\_\_

Present Perfect Simple \_\_\_\_\_

Present Perfect Continuous \_\_\_\_\_

Present Simple \_\_\_\_\_

- 🔊 Compare and contrast the different uses of the 4 present tense forms. In terms of talking about change, which of these forms is the odd one out?

- 🔊 Using the same forms, fill in the correct present tense forms of the verbs in brackets.

Everywhere on Earth ice \_\_\_\_\_ (*change*). The famed snows of Kilimanjaro \_\_\_\_\_ (*melt*) more than 80 percent since 1912. Glaciers in the Garhwal Himalaya in India \_\_\_\_\_ (*retreat*) so fast that researchers believe that most central and eastern Himalayan glaciers could virtually disappear by 2035. Arctic sea ice \_\_\_\_\_ (*thin*) significantly since the 1970's, and its extent \_\_\_\_\_ (*decline*) by about 10 percent in the past 30 years... When temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (*rise*) and ice \_\_\_\_\_ (*melt*), more water \_\_\_\_\_ (*flow*) to the seas from glaciers and ice caps, and ocean water \_\_\_\_\_ (*warm*) and \_\_\_\_\_ (*expand*) in volume.

Excerpt from National Geographic article by Daniel Glick

## Verbs for talking about the Environment

- 🔊 Using the texts from the previous two articles, find verbs which describe different kinds of change and put them in the appropriate column in the chart below.
- 🔊 Consider the following environments:

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| ➤ Oceans        | ➤ Deserts   |
| ➤ Rainforests   | ➤ Farmland  |
| ➤ Polar regions | ➤ Mountains |
| ➤ Cities        |             |

Can you think of any more verbs you can use to talk about changes in these particular environments? Add them to the chart below:

Increase	Decrease	Other kinds of environmental change

## Speaking

- 🔊 You are going to talk about ongoing environmental issues using the themes given below and the list of verbs you have compiled in the previous exercise.
- 🔊 In pairs/groups prepare one or two sentences on each of the themes below using at least one example of these forms: *Present Simple*, *Present Continuous*, *Present Perfect Simple* and *Present Perfect Continuous*

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ Wild fires        | ➤ Fossil Fuels            |
| ➤ Floods            | ➤ Renewable Energy        |
| ➤ Plastic pollution | ➤ Technological solutions |

- 🔊 Compare your ideas with other groups in the class. Whenever you find someone who has the same or a similar point, write it on the board.

## Writing

Select one of the above environmental themes to research further and write up a short report focussing on using examples of each of the present forms.

For the full articles used for the texts on page 1 :

[https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/why-are-glaciers-and-sea-ice-melting\\_Oland](https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/why-are-glaciers-and-sea-ice-melting_Oland).

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/big-thaw/>