Energy: from fossil fuels to windmills

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each energy word.

Word | Source | Process | Impact | Infrastructure

1 grid [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 emissions [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 hydropower [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 extraction [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 energy storage [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 carbon footprint [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 biomass [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 transition [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 Electricity flows through grid of. _____
2 The plant produces emissions of. _____
3 They generate hydropower of from rivers. _____
4 They began extraction of oil. _____
5 They invested in energy of storage. _____
6 Flying increases your carbon of footprint. _____
7 They burn biomass of for fuel. _____
8 The transition of to clean energy is slow. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For the network that delivers electricity to homes: grid / a single wire.
2 For gases released into the air, often from burning fuel: emissions / clean air.
3 For electricity generated using flowing water: hydropower / solar power.
4 For removing raw materials like oil or gas from the ground: extraction / recycling.
5 For keeping energy for later use: energy storage / immediate consumption only.
6 For the total greenhouse gases caused by a person or activity: carbon footprint / clean record.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

biomass | carbon footprint | emissions | energy storage | extraction | grid | hydropower | transition

Report A: The national 1 _____ struggled to cope with rising demand, prompting new investment in 2 _____ technology.
Report B: Oil 3 _____ continued despite growing concern about 4 _____ from fossil fuels.
Report C: The dam generates significant 5 _____, while some regions still burn 6 _____ for heating.
Report D: Companies are under pressure to reduce their 7 _____ as the 8 _____ to renewable energy accelerates.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The energy storage challenge

Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar generate electricity intermittently, depending on weather conditions, creating a fundamental mismatch with the constant demand placed on the electricity grid. Effective energy storage technology, capable of storing surplus electricity generated during favourable conditions for use during periods of low generation, remains one of the most significant obstacles to a full transition away from fossil fuels. Battery technology has improved considerably, but large-scale storage remains expensive relative to fossil fuel power generation, meaning many grids still rely on fossil fuel backup capacity to guarantee reliable supply even as renewable capacity expands.

1 How do renewable energy sources such as wind and solar generate electricity? _____

2 What mismatch does this create? _____

3 What does effective energy storage technology need to be capable of? _____

4 What remains one of the most significant obstacles to a full transition? _____

5 What has improved considerably, according to the text? _____

6 What do many grids still rely on, and why? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 Gases were released from burning the fuel. EMISSIONS _____

2 They removed oil from underground. EXTRACTION _____

3 They kept extra electricity for later use. ENERGY STORAGE _____

4 The country moved gradually towards renewable energy. TRANSITION _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of the challenges involved in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Include specific obstacles.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Infrastructure 2 Impact 3 Source 4 Process 5 Infrastructure 6 Impact 7 Source 8 Process

2 Corrections

1 flows through the grid 2 produces emissions 3 generate hydropower from rivers 4 began extraction of oil
5 invested in energy storage 6 increases your carbon footprint 7 burn biomass 8 transition to clean energy is slow

3 Suitable descriptions

1 grid 2 emissions 3 hydropower 4 extraction 5 energy storage 6 carbon footprint

4 Reports

1 grid 2 energy storage 3 extraction 4 emissions 5 hydropower 6 biomass 7 carbon footprint 8 transition

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Intermittently, depending on weather conditions.
2 A fundamental mismatch with the constant demand placed on the electricity grid.
3 Storing surplus electricity generated during favourable conditions for use during periods of low generation.
4 Effective energy storage technology.
5 Battery technology.
6 Fossil fuel backup capacity, to guarantee reliable supply even as renewable capacity expands.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 Emissions were released. 2 They carried out extraction.
3 They used energy storage. 4 The country made a transition.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.