

WHO says 99% of people breathe unhealthy air

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced a shocking finding about the air we breathe. It has found that almost everyone on Earth breathes unhealthy air. The WHO made its air quality update ahead of World Health Day on April 7. The update reported that 99 per

cent of the world's population breathes air that exceeds WHO air quality limits. It looked at data from over 6,000 cities in 117 countries. People living in lower- and middle-income countries breathe the poorest-quality air. Millions of people die in these countries because of pollution-related diseases. The WHO said: "After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have 7 million preventable deaths...due to air pollution."

The WHO said its report highlighted the need to move away from fossil fuels. It asked governments to do more to reduce levels of air pollution. It said: "Current energy concerns highlight the importance of speeding up the transition to cleaner and healthier energy systems." It added that high gas prices, energy security, the dangers of air pollution, and climate change mean the world must be less dependent on fossil fuels. The WHO report included many recommendations for change. Among these were, "the exclusive use of clean household energy for cooking, heating and lighting," and to "build safe and affordable public transport systems and pedestrian- and cycle-friendly networks".

Sources: who.int / abcnews.go.com / ft.com

Writing

There is no way we can improve air quality around the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

WHO / shocking / air / breathe / unhealthy / population / income / pandemic / report / fossil fuels / transition / energy / change / cooking / heating / transport

True / False

- 1) The article says a WHO report on air quality is shocking. T / F
- 2) The WHO report looked at air quality in 117 cities. T / F
- 3) People who live in richer countries breathe the dirtiest air. T / F
- 4) The WHO said 7 million people die unnecessarily because of air pollution. T / F
- 5) The WHO said governments needed to lower their use of fossil fuels. T / F
- 6) The WHO said a move away from fossil fuels would lower gas prices. T / F
- 7) The WHO made one recommendation. T / F
- 8) The WHO wants better places for people to walk and cycle. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. finding | a. change |
| 2. exceeds | b. standard |
| 3. quality | c. because of |
| 4. unacceptable | d. worries |
| 5. due to | e. goes over |
| 6. highlighted | f. suggestion |
| 7. concerns | g. discovery |
| 8. transition | h. inexpensive |
| 9. recommendation | i. unsatisfactory |
| 10. affordable | j. focused on |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why is air quality important?
- c) What do you think of fossil fuels?
- d) What is the best clean energy?
- e) Can you live without using fossil fuels?
- f) What will air quality be like in 25 years from now?
- g) Would you be happy to walk or cycle everywhere?
- h) What would you like to ask your government about air quality?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a shocking finding about | a. WHO air quality limits |
| 2. air that exceeds | b. transport systems |
| 3. lower- and middle-income | c. pandemic |
| 4. surviving a | d. friendly networks |
| 5. 7 million preventable deaths | e. away from fossil fuels |
| 6. the need to move | f. the air we breathe |
| 7. the world must be less dependent | g. household energy |
| 8. the exclusive use of clean | h. due to air pollution |
| 9. affordable public | i. on fossil fuels |
| 10. cycle- | j. countries |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the WHO?
- What do you think about air?
- What's the air quality like where you live?
- How worried are you about air pollution?
- How does polluted air affect our health?
- Who suffers most because of poor air quality?
- How can we make our air quality better?
- Do you think we will need to buy oxygen one day?

Spelling

- edanoncnun a shocking finding
- air that edseexc WHO air quality limits
- middle-neoimc countries
- because of pollution-related isesaesd
- After surviving a eadpnicm
- 7 million abeelpernty deaths
- move away from ofsils fuels
- the ntiaotnris to cleaner and healthier energy
- be less enpedtdne
- mcoerstmdaoenni for change
- the eciveulxs use of clean household energy
- dntarepeis and cycle-friendly networks

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. e | 3. b | 4. i | 5. c |
| 6. j | 7. d | 8. a | 9. f | 10. h |

Role Play

Role A – Walk and Cycle More

You think walking and cycling more is the best way to save energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): using fans instead of air conditioners, using solar panels or using electric cars.

Role B – Use Fans and Not A/C

You think using fans instead of air conditioners is the best way to save energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): walking and cycling more, using solar panels or using electric cars.

Role C – Solar Panels

You think using solar panels is the best way to save energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): using fans instead of air conditioners, walking and cycling more or using electric cars.

Role D – Electric Cars

You think using electric cars is the best way to save energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): using fans instead of air conditioners, using solar panels or walking and cycling more.

Speaking – Energy Saving

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to save energy at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Electric cars | • Walk and cycle more |
| • Solar panels | • Warmer clothes in winter |
| • Less fast fashion | • Fans, not A/C |
| • LED lights | • Eat raw vegetables |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 T | 2 F | 3 F | 4 T | 5 T | 6 F | 7 F | 8 T |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.