

UNIT 12 *Read and Write*



En esta unidad vas a:

- leer un artículo sobre el reciclaje en Alemania e Italia
- aprender a escribir en inglés utilizando estadísticas.



How Europe recycles



Sophie Williamson in Germany

Germany has one of the best reputations for recycling in Europe and more than half of all household waste is recycled. The majority of people separate glass, paper, plastic packaging and organic waste from their other rubbish, and nearly nine out of ten people use the recycling bins outside their house or flat.

The bins are different colours, which makes them easier to use. There's one bin for plastic packaging for example, another for paper and cardboard, another for organic waste, other bins for different coloured glass, and another bin for anything else. There are also special recycling points for things like batteries and chemical waste.

Many Germans also use the same system in their kitchen where they have five different bins. Others use a mixture of bins and plastic bags. People take recycling seriously here, and the system is very effective and successful.

Marc Phillips in Italy

On a recent visit to Rome, I saw that more people are recycling now than they did in the past, when only a small minority put their rubbish in recycling bins. Now about 25% of household waste is recycled in Italy, and the government is making a real effort to meet European Union targets for recycling.

Some years ago, the majority of Italians threw all their rubbish into the green bin outside their house or flat. However, there are now separate bins for paper and others for plastic too, although in some areas they are not always easy to find.

To encourage people to use the recycling bins more, there is a fine for people who don't recycle. The law says that people must separate their rubbish and put it in a recycling bin if there is one within 500 metres of their house or flat. The fine is over €600 for those people who refuse to take their rubbish to the nearest recycling bin.

1 Completa el resumen con una palabra en cada espacio.



In Germany most people recycle their household **1** _____. They take their rubbish outside and put it into different coloured **2** _____ bins. They have to take **3** _____ and chemical waste to special recycling points. Many people also have **4** _____ different bins in their kitchen.

In Italy **5** _____ people recycle now than before. A few years ago most people put all their rubbish into the **6** _____ bin outside their house. Now there are separate bins for paper and **7** _____, but sometimes it's difficult to find them. People sometimes have to pay a **8** _____ if they don't use the recycling bins near their home.

2 Elige la opción correcta.

- 1** In Germany **more** / **less** than 50% of household waste is recycled.
- 2** There's a special bin outside houses and flats for **organic** / **chemical** waste.
- 3** People **can** / **can't** put batteries in the coloured recycling bins.
- 4** Most people separate their rubbish first in the **kitchen** / **street**.
- 5** In Italy **more** / **less** than 50% of household waste is recycled.
- 6** The government is trying to meet targets for **waste** / **recycling**.
- 7** People use **the same** / **different** bins for paper and plastic.
- 8** They have to pay a fine of **more** / **less** than €600 if they don't recycle.

Words to remember

3 Busca las palabras en el texto.

An adjective to describe things in a house (paragraph 1).
household



- 1** Rubbish (paragraph 1).



- 2** A plastic covering for a product (paragraph 1).



- 3** Containers for rubbish (paragraph 1).



- 4** You put these inside something to give it electricity (paragraph 2).



- 5** You can carry your shopping home in these (paragraph 3).



- 6** Money you have to pay as a punishment (paragraph 6).



- 7** To say 'no' when someone asks you to do something (paragraph 6).



Statistics

Para hacer referencia a estadísticas, normalmente se utilizan *percentages* (porcentajes) y *fractions* (fracciones). Observa que, a diferencia del español, nunca se añade el artículo delante del porcentaje.

Now about 25% of household waste is recycled in Italy.

Ahora en Italia se recicla aproximadamente el 25% de los residuos domésticos.

More than half of all household waste is recycled.

Más de la mitad de los residuos domésticos se reciclan.

Otras fracciones habituales son:

a third **two thirds** **a quarter** **three quarters**
 un tercio dos tercios un cuarto tres cuartos

a fifth **four fifths**
 un quinto cuatro quintas partes

Para expresar estadísticas también se utiliza la construcción *out of* (de cada).

Nine out of ten people use the recycling bins.

Nueve de cada diez personas utilizan los contenedores de reciclaje.

Las siguientes expresiones se utilizan para hacer referencia a estadísticas aproximadas:

less than a quarter menos de un cuarto	about 25% sobre el 25%	more than half más de la mitad
nearly four out of five casi cuatro de cada cinco	over 80% más del 80%	

1 Completa el informe con las expresiones del recuadro.

More than half	Three quarters	Over four fifths
Nine out of ten	Less than four out of ten	more than a quarter
Less than a fifth	Nearly two thirds	Less than one out of ten

How much water do people use?

A water company recently asked their customers how much water they use in their homes. **Over four fifths (81%)** of the customers think that they use too much water and would like to use less. These are the results of the survey.

In the bathroom

1 _____ (90%) people said that they usually have a shower instead of a bath. **2** _____ (39%) people said they use a glass of water when they clean their teeth instead of leaving the tap on.

In the kitchen

3 _____ (51%) of the customers said that they always keep a jug of cold water in the fridge. **4** _____ (65%) said they had a dishwasher and **5** _____ (26%) said they often use the washing machine when it isn't full.

In the garden

6 _____ (9%) customers said that they have a swimming pool in their garden.

7 _____ (19%) of them use recycled water to water their garden.

The car

8 _____ (75%) of car drivers wash their car more than once a month.

