



# FOOD WASTE



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
1998-C55E-CSK7



## 1 Warm up

Look at the images and answer the following questions.



sweets/cakes



takeaway



fruit and vegetable



fish and meat

1. Look at the photographs. How much do you typically spend on those types of food for your home and office each week?
2. Which of the foods in the photographs are you most likely to throw away? Why?
3. Why do you think that takeaway and restaurant portions are the size that they are?
4. Do you think businesses are responsible for food wastage? Why/why not?

## 2 Listening for specific information

Listen to the conversation between two people talking about food and answer the following questions.



1. What is the first speaker eating?
2. Who did the first speaker travel in China with?
3. Does the first speaker order food?



### 3 Completing notes

Listen again and complete the notes.

Roughly \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> of all the food produced for consumption is thrown away every year. This is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> dollars' worth of food, which could feed \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>. It is the equivalent of the entire country of China, which is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> acres, being used to grow food which is then thrown away. In addition, the water required to grow this much food is equal to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> people using \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>, per person, per day. There will not be this many people on the planet until around 2050, by which time we will need to have increased food production by \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>. Currently, around 700 million people go hungry. A lot of the waste is caused by high supermarket standards for appearance. For example, around \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> of European fish is discarded for this reason.

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. Was there anything that surprised you about the statistics quoted in the conversation? Why/Why not?
2. Where do you think most of the food waste comes from in your country? Explain your opinion.
3. In the conversation, one reason was given for food waste being so high. What do you think are other reasons?
4. What could you do to reduce the amount of food that you personally waste?
5. What suggestions do you have to reduce food waste in your country?

### 4 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the words to their definitions.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>excess</u> (n)      | a. the act of discarding something after it is no longer needed or useful                   |
| 2. <u>stability</u> (n)   | b. more than is required  |
| 3. <u>mutually</u> (adv.) | c. done or felt in equal amounts by two or more people                                      |
| 4. <u>disposal</u> (n)    | d. official praise and rewards for an achievement   |
| 5. <u>surplus</u> (adj.)  | e. to officially give a person some information   |
| 6. <u>notify</u> (v)      | f. an amount which is more than is required   |
| 7. <u>honour</u> (v)      | g. an unchanging state or situation   |
| 8. <u>recognition</u> (n) | h. to do something that shows what great respect you have for someone or their achievements |

**Part B: Now complete the following sentences with a different form of the word in brackets.**

1. Sales and Marketing ordered twice as many as we need, so we're going to be left with a \_\_\_\_\_ in the warehouse. (surplus)
2. I hadn't seen him for two years. So with his suit and tie, and his full beard, he was completely \_\_\_\_\_! (recognition)
3. Something's wrong with my work phone. I'm not getting \_\_\_\_\_ any more and I've missed three voice messages. (notify)
4. Congratulations on the promotion! You should have more \_\_\_\_\_ income now. Might be able to afford a holiday! (disposal)
5. I'm not sure now is the right time to invest. The market is quite \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment. (stability)
6. Following the situation with the waitress, the CEO really had to do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing and resign. (honour)
7. I found out today that my manager and I have a \_\_\_\_\_ friend, Desmond. She's known him since they were at university together apparently. (mutually)
8. I know he's upset about the contract, but I thought his shouting was \_\_\_\_\_. Some people in the office looked deeply uncomfortable. (excess)

**Now in pairs, discuss the following questions.**

1. What elements do you need in your life to feel a sense of stability?
2. Have you ever had to notify someone of some good news? What happened?
3. Have you ever received any official recognition? What was it for? What would you like to achieve recognition for?
4. Who do you know who has been honoured for something they have done or achieved?
5. What systems do you have in your country for waste disposal? Is recycling an important part of that system?
6. How much money do you think is an excess of money?





## 5 Skimming for gist (optional exercise)

Read the article on page 5 and match the following titles to the paragraphs. You will not need two of them.

1. Dealing with the difficulties
2. The woman behind it all
3. Setting up the website
4. Realising there is a problem
5. Finding investment
6. Matching excess to need

## 6 Skimming for details

Read the following sentences from the article on page 5 and write the number in the correct gap. You will not need two of them.

1. Food charities, homeless shelters and soup kitchens can sign up with MEANS Database and state their needs.
2. Our record time is two minutes and 37 seconds.
3. Of all of her achievements, this is the one which makes her the most proud.
4. She admits that her GPA would likely be better had she not been running the website at the same time.
5. 'I remember crying and being so angry,' said Belding of the incident.
6. It was a particularly difficult time for everyone involved.
7. Belding was 14 when she first had the inspiration for the site.
8. That was taken and mixed with pork and beans as was apparently very popular with all who enjoyed it.





## A MEANS to an end

### Answering the problem of hunger

- A. As a teen, Maria Rose Belding quickly learnt first-hand about the problem of food waste while working for a church charity. They took in food donations and distributed them to local people in need. One day, they received hundreds of boxes of macaroni and cheese. However, due to the lack of ability to use it and no real infrastructure to communicate with other charities, the entire stock had to be thrown out after its use-by date had expired. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> 'There were people sitting in the parking lot, waiting to come get food. And they could see me throwing away food in front of them.'
- B. Fuelled by the frustration of this experience, Belding set up a website: MEANS Database - MEANS being an acronym standing for Matching Excess and Need for Stability. It allows food businesses, such as restaurants and caterers, to communicate directly with food charities and non-profit organisations which can distribute unwanted food to those in need. This results in a mutually beneficial arrangement whereby the businesses do not need to pay charges for waste disposal, and the hungry are fed. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> Then, when those in the food industry have surplus supplies, they can go to the site, say what they have, where they are and by when the food needs to be taken away. All of the charities within a certain radius are notified and they can claim the food.
- C. The donations that MEANS Database has been able to find a home for are quite incredible. A five-star restaurant in Seattle once donated 50 pounds of squab, which is very similar to a baby pigeon. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> They've managed to redistribute 11,000 pounds of green beans, 42,000 pounds of milk and 250 pounds of swedes. Belding says, 'We'll find a home for it 95% of the time. The average amount of time it takes for food to be claimed is half an hour. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> ' Since it was set up, MEANS Database has grown to cover 48 states in America, as well as the District of Columbia. It works with around 3,000 partners to feed those in need.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> Now in her mid-twenties, she is the Chair of the Board for MEANS and has authored numerous published articles on food security and poverty. She has been recognised and honoured by the Obama White House in 2014 and 2016 with President's Volunteer Service awards. In 2018, she was named Glamour College Woman of the Year and Hero of the Year by CNN, the youngest woman ever to receive that recognition. Throughout her college years at American University in Washington DC, she ran the business in-between attending classes for her Bachelor of Science degree. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> However, as she herself put it, 'What makes it worth it, is knowing that we're building something that matters a lot more than we do.'

Sources: CNN Health by Kathleen Toner, *esme.com*, MEANS Database and BBC News by Ian Rose

### Glossary

*acronym* – a word composed of the first letters of other words

*squab* – a type of baby pigeon

*swede* – a root vegetable

*Bachelor of Science* – a type of undergraduate degree, often abbreviated to B.S. There is also a Bachelor of Arts, often abbreviated to B.A.





## 7

**Reading comprehension**

Complete the following summary with one, two, or three words from the article.

Marie Rose Belding had \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> of the problems with food waste while still a teen. While helping at a local charity, she found herself throwing food away while hungry people watched. The \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> to communicate with other charities and restaurants created a situation which had a real effect on her. She poured her \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> with the situation into creating a website, MEANS Database, which connected charities to businesses that had \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> food. It meant that when caterers or restaurants had food they wanted to dispose of, they could log on to the website which would notify charities inside a particular \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> of the business. According to Belding, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> of the food is matched with people in need. Since creating the website, Belding has had several pieces connecting poverty to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> published and received awards and recognition for her work. During her \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>, she split her time between running the website and attending classes and acknowledges she could have got a better mark had she not done that. However, she points out that building something which matters a lot more than herself is what make the whole enterprise \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>

## 8

**Talking point**

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. Did you find the article about Marie Rose Belding interesting? Why/why not?
2. Do you think the governments in countries around the world should be doing more to deal with the problem of food waste? Why/why not?
3. Is this type of business something that could happen in your country? Why/why not?
4. Marie Rose Belding said, "What makes it worth it, is knowing that we're building something that matters a lot more than we do." Do you agree with this idea? Why/why not?

## 9

**Extended activity/homework**

Read the following question.

*Food waste is always going to be a problem because richer countries have so much of it and do not value it. If you can make money but still throw food away, then it will continue to happen.*

To what extent do you agree with the above statement?

You should:

- Write at least 250 words
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation