

# **UNIT 12** *Read and Write*



## **En esta unidad vas a:**

- leer un artículo sobre las emisiones de dióxido de carbono que generamos
- aprender a escribir en inglés evitando ciertos errores frecuentes.





# CARBON FOOTPRINTS

**W**hen police officers attend a crime scene, there are specially trained officers who look for fingerprints. Why? Because each individual has got a unique fingerprint, so this evidence can help the police to identify the criminal. But we've all got another unique feature – a carbon footprint.

A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that each person produces in their day-to-day activities. Instead of using our carbon footprint to solve a crime however, environmental organizations want us to use it to prevent the worst crime imaginable – the destruction of our planet.

No one wants to destroy the planet, but there's very clear evidence that modern lifestyles are affecting the climate. Flying, driving and heating our homes produces CO<sub>2</sub>, which is a serious threat to the survival of the planet. Everyone has got a carbon footprint and the impact it has on the climate can increase or decrease depending on lifestyle factors. For example, people who drive to work every day will have a higher carbon footprint than people who walk. The average European citizen emits over ten metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, whereas the worldwide average is less than half that amount.

So what can we do about our carbon footprint? First of all, we need to find out exactly how much CO<sub>2</sub> we produce. Many websites allow us to calculate our carbon footprint at the touch of a button, and offer environmentally friendly suggestions for how to reduce it as much as possible. However, a zero carbon footprint is virtually impossible for most people. So what's the solution? Offset our carbon emissions and buy some carbon credits!

Carbon credits are sold by some environmental organizations and allow us to pay for trees to be planted all over the world. The idea is that the trees will consume the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by our modern lifestyles, and therefore offset these emissions. If we don't want to plant trees however, we can buy other credits that are used to reward companies which reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This means that we can play a part in helping the planet, and companies can advertise themselves as environmentally friendly and therefore attract more business. Everyone benefits – individuals, companies and the planet!

**1 Indica si las siguientes afirmaciones son verdaderas (true) o falsas (false).**



- 1 The police look for footprints at crime scenes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon monoxide a person's activities produce. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The lifestyles people lead affect their carbon footprints. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 People in Europe produce less CO<sub>2</sub> than people in other parts of the world. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Before we address our carbon footprints, we should find out how much CO<sub>2</sub> we produce. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Most people can achieve a zero carbon footprint. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Carbon credits can be used to pay for trees to be planted. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Companies can benefit financially from being more environmentally friendly. \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Relaciona las preguntas (1-6) con las respuestas (a-f).**

- 1 Why do the police search for fingerprints?
  - 2 What does the article describe as the worst crime imaginable?
  - 3 What kind of activities produce CO<sub>2</sub>?
  - 4 What do some websites offer us?
  - 5 Why do people buy carbon credits?
  - 6 How can carbon credits be used?
- a To reward companies that reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.  
b To offset their carbon emissions.  
c To help them to identify criminals.  
d Flying and driving contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.  
e The destruction of planet Earth.  
f They give advice on how to decrease our carbon footprints.

1 c 2 \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_

**Words to remember**

**3 Busca las palabras en el texto.**



The pattern of lines on a person's finger (paragraph 1). **fingerprint**

- 1 Facts that make someone believe something is true (paragraph 1). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A person who lives in a particular place (paragraph 3). \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 To discover (paragraph 4). \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 To permit someone to do something (paragraph 4). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A key on a computer which you press (paragraph 4). \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 To decrease the amount of something (paragraph 4). \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Completa la tabla con palabras del texto.**

verb	noun
To organize (paragraph 2).	<b>organization</b>
To destroy (paragraph 2).	
To threaten (paragraph 3).	
To survive (paragraph 3).	
To suggest (paragraph 4).	
To solve (paragraph 4).	
To emit (paragraph 4).	

## Common mistakes

### Palabras que se suelen escribir de forma incorrecta

En inglés, hay palabras que tienen consonantes dobles.

### We've also got a secondary carbon footprint from our shopping habits.

También hay una segunda fuente de emisiones de dióxido de carbono, que es la de nuestros hábitos de compra.

<b>accommodation</b>	<b>address</b>	<b>coffee</b>	<b>colleague</b>	<b>different</b>	<b>necessary</b>	<b>recommend</b>	<b>shopping</b>
alojamiento	dirección	café	compañero/a	diferente	necesario/a	recomendar	compra

### False friends

Hay palabras inglesas que se parecen a palabras españolas pero cuyo significado es distinto. Estas palabras se denominan *false friends* (falsos amigos).

### Companies can advertise themselves as environmentally friendly.

Las empresas pueden anunciarse como respetuosas con el medio ambiente.

### When police officers attend a crime scene, there are specially trained officers who look for fingerprints.

Cuando la policía se presenta en el lugar del delito, hay agentes especializados que buscan huellas dactilares.

<b>actually</b>	<b>advertise</b>	<b>attend</b>	<b>eventually</b>	<b>pretend</b>	<b>sensible</b>	<b>success</b>	<b>topic</b>
en realidad	anunciar	asistir, presentarse	al final	fingir	sensato/a	éxito	tema

### 1 Elige la palabra correcta.



- What type of mountain bike would you **recommend** / **recomend**?
- This is my **colleague** / **colleagure**, Michelle Young.
- He looks very **different** / **diferent** without his glasses.
- Would you like a cup of **coffee** / **cofee**?
- Please complete the form with your name and **adress** / **address**.
- I don't like going **shopping** / **shoping** on Saturdays but I'm too busy during the week.
- You should only fly when it's absolutely **necessary** / **necesity**.
- Have you booked any **accommodation** / **accomodation** for the conference?

### 2 Completa los párrafos con las palabras del recuadro.



actually	advertise	attend	eventually
pretend	sensible	success	topic

Climate change is always in the news, but some of my friends aren't really interested in the **1** \_\_\_\_\_. They think that all this concern about environmental issues is excessive and that **2** \_\_\_\_\_, the media will find something else for us to worry about. One of them even says that environmentally friendly companies that **3** \_\_\_\_\_ their products and services as 'green' are only **4** \_\_\_\_\_ interested in making money. He says they **5** \_\_\_\_\_ to be different but really they're the same as any other company.

I'm not sure about that, but I think we could all do more to make slowing down climate change a **6** \_\_\_\_\_. For example, I don't understand why some environmentalists fly halfway across the world to **7** \_\_\_\_\_ conferences about climate change. It doesn't seem very **8** \_\_\_\_\_ to me as it increases their carbon footprint. Couldn't they communicate over the Internet instead? We've all got a part to play in trying to protect the future of the planet.