

33 Past regrets

You can use “should have” or “ought to have” to talk about past mistakes. They both signal that you wish you had done something differently in the past.

⚙️ **New language** “Should have” and “ought to have”

Aa **Vocabulary** Time markers

🧩 **New skill** Expressing regret about the past

33.1 KEY LANGUAGE “SHOULD HAVE” AND “OUGHT TO HAVE”

You use “should have” or “ought to have” to express regret about something that did not happen in the past. “Ought to” is less common than “should” and usually sounds more formal.



This bill is so big. I **should have** / **ought to have** used less electricity.



33.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES “SHOULD HAVE” AND “OUGHT TO HAVE”

Perhaps I **ought to have** used energy-saving light bulbs.

The negative form “ought not to have” is grammatically correct, but it is rarely used.

I **shouldn't have** fallen asleep with the TV on.



33.3 FILL IN THE GAPS USING “SHOULD HAVE” OR “SHOULDN'T HAVE”

We shouldn't have damaged the environment. It's becoming a long-term problem.

- 1 People _____ thrown things in the river. The fish population has declined dramatically.
- 2 Factories _____ reduced pollution in accordance with environmental agreements.
- 3 Companies _____ used fewer vehicles in order to lower their carbon footprint.
- 4 Factories _____ released pollution into the water. It has poisoned the ecosystem.





33.4 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

You really should have not watched a horror film on your own.

You really shouldn't have watched a horror film on your own.

- ① I ought have gone to bed earlier last night. I'm feeling really exhausted now.

- ② We really shouldn't to have eaten so much at lunchtime. I'm feeling sleepy now.

- ③ You should drove more carefully on the wet road. You could have had an accident.

- ④ Should have I bought this desktop computer, or would the laptop have been better?



33.5 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Humans intentionally introduce non-native species.

True ☒ False ☐

- ① New species are introduced to help other animals.
True ☐ False ☐
- ② Sometimes no animals hunt the introduced species.
True ☐ False ☐
- ③ The Small Indian Mongoose is not native to Mauritius.
True ☐ False ☐
- ④ The mongooses killed the rats on Mauritius.
True ☐ False ☐
- ⑤ The mongooses also killed all the local animals.
True ☐ False ☐

58

THE ENVIRONMENT

MONGOOSE MADNESS

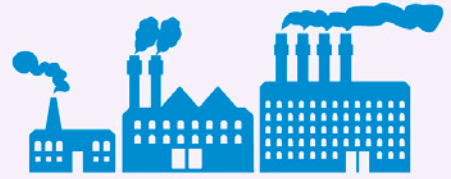
Mongoose wreak havoc on Mauritius.

One surprising environmental problem caused by humans is the introduction of non-native species of animals to solve local problems.



The new species is supposed to eat the animal that is causing a problem for humans. The difficulties arise when there are no predators for this newly introduced species or when it decides to feed on plants and animals that we do want. For example, the Small Indian Mongoose was introduced to Mauritius and should have dealt with an ever-growing rat population. The mongooses killed the rats, but then they also killed many local animals which then became extinct on the island.

33.6 VOCABULARY TIME MARKERS



1980s

1990s

Initially, the factories were quite small.

[At first, the factories were quite small.]

During the 1980s, people invested money in the factories.

[At some point in the 1980s, people invested in the factories.]

Throughout the 1990s, the factories grew in size.

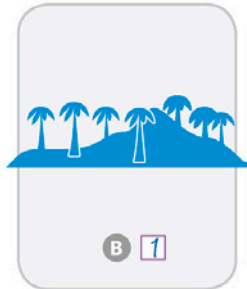
[From the beginning to the end of the 1990s, the factories grew in size.]



33.7 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND NUMBER THE PICTURES IN THE ORDER THEY ARE DESCRIBED



A ☐



B ☒ 1



C ☐



D ☐



E ☐

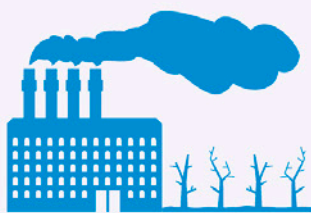
Aa

33.8 LISTEN AGAIN AND FILL THE GAPS USING THE WORDS FROM 33.6

Initially, Easter Island was expansively forested.

- ① _____ the rise of a new civilization, the islanders built statues to honor their ancestors.
- ② _____ this time, the islanders were cutting down lots of trees.
- ③ _____ his visit, the first European explorer noticed that there weren't many trees.
- ④ The ship HMS Blossom visited in 1825, and _____, the statues had been toppled over.
- ⑤ An airport was built in 1987 and _____, lots of tourists have visited Easter Island.





2004



2005



Pollution peaked in 2004.
By that time many trees had died.

[At the start of 2004, many trees had already died.]

Following new laws in 2005, pollution levels dropped.

[After new laws were passed in 2005, pollution levels dropped.]

Since then, there have been some signs of a recovery.

[From that point onward, there has been a slight recovery.]



33.9 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Humans are producing less waste now than they used to.

True ☐ False ☒ Not given ☐

- 1 Radioactive waste is the most widespread problem.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 2 All the waste is poured into rivers.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 3 The kind of waste humans produce has changed over time.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 4 Modern plastics can be difficult to dispose of effectively.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

28 THE ENVIRONMENT

THE PROBLEM WITH POLLUTION

Pollution levels rising across the globe.

The growing human population is producing more and more waste, ranging from sewage and smog to radioactive fuel. Dealing with all this waste is a huge problem. Much of it is just dumped, pumped into the atmosphere, or even poured into rivers and oceans. The resulting pollution is damaging nature.

One of the main issues is the kind of waste humans are now producing. Until the mid-20th century, most of the waste was buried and it just slowly decayed. Nowadays, however,

modern plastics make up a large portion of what we throw away. These plastics are almost indestructible by any natural process, so they just pile up, creating huge heaps of waste.



33 CHECKLIST



"Should have" and "ought to have" ☐

Aa Time markers ☐



Expressing regret about the past ☐