

ENVIRONMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION —

A2 VOCABULARY

Extensive vocabulary bank — simple A2 English

1. The Environment and Nature

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
environment	the natural world around us
nature	the world of plants, animals, land and water
natural world	the world that is not made by people
earth	the planet we live on
world	the planet and everything on it
land	the part of the earth that is not water
ground	the surface of the earth
soil	the earth where plants grow
air	what people and animals breathe
water	a liquid that people, animals and plants need
fresh air	clean air outside
clean water	water that is safe to use or drink
natural area	a place with a lot of nature
green area	a place with grass, trees and plants
countryside	land outside towns and cities
wild	living in nature, not with people
natural	from nature
outdoors	outside buildings
outside	not inside a building
surroundings	the places and things around a person or place

2. Trees and Plants

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
plant	a living thing that grows in the ground
tree	a tall plant with a hard trunk
flower	the colorful part of some plants
grass	small green plants that cover the ground
leaf	the green part of a plant
leaves	more than one leaf
branch	a part of a tree that grows from the trunk
trunk	the thick main part of a tree
root	the part of a plant under the ground
seed	a small thing from which a plant grows
fruit	food that grows on some plants and trees
vegetable	a plant or part of a plant that people eat
bush	a small plant with many branches
forest	a large area with many trees
rainforest	a hot forest with a lot of rain
garden	a place where people grow plants
park	a public place with grass and trees
field	an area of land where plants may grow
crop	a plant that farmers grow for food
wood	the hard part of a tree
grow	to become bigger
plant a tree	put a young tree into the ground
water a plant	give water to a plant
cut down a tree	make a tree fall
grow well	grow in a good way
die	stop living
dry up	become dry because there is no water

3. Animals and Wildlife

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
animal	a living thing that is not a plant
wild animal	an animal that lives in nature

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
wildlife	wild animals and birds
bird	an animal with wings and feathers
fish	an animal that lives in water
insect	a very small animal such as an ant or bee
bee	a small flying insect that makes honey
butterfly	an insect with large wings
frog	a small animal that can live in water and on land
snake	a long animal with no legs
elephant	a very large animal with a long nose
tiger	a large wild cat with stripes
monkey	an animal that often lives in trees
bear	a large animal with thick hair
home	the place where an animal lives
habitat	the natural home of an animal or plant
endangered	in danger of disappearing
protect animals	keep animals safe
save animals	stop animals from dying
feed animals	give food to animals
hunt animals	look for animals to kill
kill animals	make animals die
keep animals safe	protect animals
lose a home	no longer have a place to live
disappear	stop being there

4. Water and the Sea

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
water	a liquid that people need
river	water that flows across land
lake	a large area of water surrounded by land
sea	a large area of salty water
ocean	a very large area of salty water
stream	a small river
waterfall	water falling from a high place
pond	a small area of still water
coast	land next to the sea
beach	land next to the sea with sand or stones
rain	water that falls from the sky
rainwater	water that comes from rain
tap	a thing that water comes out of
drinkable water	water that is safe to drink
dirty water	water that is not clean
clean water	water that is not dirty
waste water	water that has already been used
save water	use less water
waste water	use more water than necessary
turn off the tap	stop the water
water pollution	harmful things in water
polluted river	a river with harmful things in it
flood	a lot of water covering land
drought	a long time with very little rain
water shortage	not enough water

5. Weather

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
weather	what the air is like at a particular time
climate	the usual weather of a place
sun	the bright star that gives us light and heat
sunlight	light from the sun
rain	water falling from the sky
snow	soft white ice that falls from the sky
wind	moving air
cloud	a white or grey thing in the sky

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
storm	very bad weather
thunder	the loud sound during some storms
lightning	the bright light during some storms
temperature	how hot or cold something is
heat	very high temperature
hot	having a high temperature
warm	a little hot
cool	a little cold
cold	having a low temperature
dry	having very little water
wet	covered with water
rainy	with a lot of rain
sunny	with a lot of sun
windy	with a lot of wind
very hot	having a very high temperature
heavy rain	a lot of rain
strong wind	wind that moves very fast

6. Climate Change and Global Warming

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
climate change	changes in the earth's usual weather
global warming	the earth becoming warmer
get warmer	become warmer
get hotter	become hotter
temperature rise	an increase in temperature
hotter weather	weather with higher temperatures
changing weather	weather that is becoming different
very hot days	days with very high temperatures
less rain	a smaller amount of rain
more rain	a larger amount of rain
long dry periods	long times without much rain
melting ice	ice becoming water
rising sea levels	the sea becoming higher
floods	large amounts of water covering land
droughts	long periods without enough rain
strong storms	storms with very strong wind or rain
hotter summers	summers that are warmer than before
warmer winters	winters that are warmer than before
change the weather	make the weather different
protect the earth	keep the planet safe

7. Pollution

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
pollution	harmful things in the air, water or land
pollute	make the environment dirty
air pollution	dirty or harmful air
water pollution	dirty or harmful water
land pollution	rubbish and harmful things on land
noise pollution	too much unwanted noise
dirty air	air with harmful things in it
dirty water	water with harmful things in it
dirty land	land with rubbish or harmful things on it
smoke	a grey or black gas from a fire or engine
car smoke	smoke or gases from cars
factory smoke	smoke from factories
car exhaust	gases that come out of a car
factory	a building where things are made
chemical	a substance used to make or clean things
oil	a thick liquid that can make water dirty
plastic	a common material used to make many things
harmful	causing damage
dangerous	able to cause harm

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
dirty	not clean
clean	without dirt or harmful things
make dirty	cause something to become dirty
cause pollution	make pollution happen
reduce pollution	make pollution less

8. Rubbish and Waste

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
rubbish	things people do not want
trash	another word for rubbish
garbage	another word for rubbish
waste	things that are not wanted or useful
litter	rubbish left in public places
bin	a container for rubbish
rubbish bin	a container for unwanted things
plastic bottle	a bottle made of plastic
plastic bag	a bag made of plastic
glass bottle	a bottle made of glass
paper bag	a bag made of paper
can	a metal container for food or drinks
box	a container with sides and a top
food waste	food that people throw away
plastic waste	unwanted plastic
household waste	rubbish from people's homes
old clothes	clothes that people no longer use
broken things	things that do not work
throw away	put something in the rubbish
drop litter	leave rubbish on the ground
pick up litter	take rubbish from the ground
collect rubbish	bring rubbish together
clean up	remove rubbish and dirt
make less rubbish	reduce the amount of rubbish
too much rubbish	more rubbish than is good or useful

9. Recycling and Reusing

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
recycle	use old materials to make new things
recycling	using old materials again
recycling bin	a bin for things that can be recycled
recyclable	able to be recycled
recycled	made from old materials
reuse	use something again
reusable	able to be used again
reduce	make or use less
repair	fix something
separate	put different things apart
sort	put things into different groups
collect	bring things together
paper recycling	using old paper again
glass recycling	using old glass again
plastic recycling	using old plastic again
metal recycling	using old metal again
reusable bottle	a bottle that can be used many times
reusable bag	a bag that can be used many times
old paper	paper that has already been used
old glass	glass that has already been used
old metal	metal that has already been used
use again	use something another time
fix instead of throwing away	repair something rather than put it in the rubbish

10. Plastic

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
plastic	a material used to make many things
plastic bag	a bag made of plastic
plastic bottle	a bottle made of plastic
plastic cup	a cup made of plastic
plastic box	a box made of plastic
plastic waste	unwanted plastic
plastic rubbish	plastic that people throw away
single-use plastic	plastic used only once
plastic bottle waste	unwanted plastic bottles
use less plastic	use a smaller amount of plastic
avoid plastic bags	try not to use plastic bags
reuse plastic	use plastic things again
recycle plastic	use old plastic to make new things
throw away plastic	put plastic in the rubbish
plastic pollution	plastic that makes nature dirty
plastic in the sea	plastic that enters the sea
plastic in rivers	plastic that enters rivers
plastic in nature	plastic left in natural places

11. Transport and Pollution

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
transport	a way of moving people or things
car	a road vehicle for people
bus	a large road vehicle for many people
train	a vehicle that travels on railway lines
bicycle	a two-wheeled vehicle
bike	another word for bicycle
motorbike	a two-wheeled vehicle with an engine
vehicle	a machine used to carry people or things
road	a place where cars travel
traffic	cars and other vehicles on roads
traffic jam	many vehicles moving very slowly
engine	the part of a vehicle that makes it move
fuel	something used to make engines work
petrol	liquid fuel used in many cars
diesel	fuel used in some cars and trucks
electric car	a car that uses electricity
electric bus	a bus that uses electricity
public transport	buses, trains and similar transport
bike lane	part of a road for bicycles
walk	move on your feet
cycle	travel by bicycle
car sharing	using a car with other people
use the bus	travel by bus
use the train	travel by train
drive less	use a car less often

12. Energy and Electricity

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
energy	power used to make things work
electricity	energy used for lights and machines
electric	working with electricity
power	energy used by machines
light	something that lets us see
lamp	something that gives light
battery	something that stores electricity
solar energy	energy from the sun
solar power	power from the sun
solar panel	a device that uses sunlight to make electricity
wind energy	energy from wind
wind power	power made from wind
water power	power made from moving water

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
clean energy	energy that causes little pollution
green energy	energy that is better for nature
fossil fuel	fuel such as coal, oil or gas
coal	a black material used as fuel
oil	a liquid used as fuel
natural gas	a gas used as fuel
save energy	use less energy
waste energy	use energy without need
turn off	stop a machine or light
switch off	turn something off
use less electricity	use a smaller amount of electricity

13. Solar and Wind Power

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
sun	the star that gives us light and heat
sunlight	light from the sun
solar	connected with the sun
solar energy	energy from the sun
solar power	power from sunlight
solar panel	a device that changes sunlight into electricity
wind	moving air
wind power	energy from wind
wind energy	energy made using wind
wind turbine	a large machine that uses wind
clean energy	energy that does not make much pollution
green energy	energy that is good for the environment
make electricity	produce electricity
use sunlight	use light from the sun
use wind	use moving air to make energy

14. Forests

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
forest	a large area with many trees
rainforest	a hot forest with a lot of rain
tree	a tall plant
wood	material from trees
paper	material often made from trees
forest animal	an animal that lives in a forest
forest plant	a plant that grows in a forest
forest fire	a fire in a forest
cut down trees	make trees fall
plant trees	put new trees in the ground
save trees	stop trees from being destroyed
protect forests	keep forests safe
lose forests	have fewer forests
destroy a forest	damage a forest very badly
new trees	trees that have recently been planted
old trees	trees that have grown for many years
many trees	a large number of trees
forest area	an area covered by forest

15. Fires and Environmental Damage

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
fire	something that burns
forest fire	a fire in a forest
wildfire	a large uncontrolled fire in nature
burn	be on fire
burn down	destroy something with fire
smoke	gas from something burning
hot	having a high temperature
dry	without much water
dry land	land with little water

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
dangerous fire	a fire that can hurt people or nature
damage	harm something
destroy	damage something very badly
save	stop something from being lost
put out a fire	stop a fire
protect forests from fire	keep forests safe from fire

16. Farming and the Environment

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
farm	a place where people grow food
farmer	a person who works on a farm
field	land used for growing crops
crop	a plant grown for food
rice	a common food grown in fields
corn	a plant grown for food
fruit	food that grows on plants
vegetable	a plant used as food
soil	earth where plants grow
seed	a small thing from which a plant grows
water	something plants need
rain	water from the sky
farm animal	an animal kept on a farm
cow	a large farm animal
chicken	a common farm bird
pig	a common farm animal
goat	a farm animal with horns
plant crops	put crops into the ground
grow crops	make crops grow
water crops	give water to crops
harvest	collect crops
food production	growing and making food
organic food	food grown with fewer artificial chemicals

17. Cities and Green Places

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
city	a large place where many people live
town	a place smaller than a city
street	a road in a town or city
park	a public green place
garden	a place where plants grow
green space	a place with grass, trees and plants
tree-lined street	a street with trees along it
bike lane	part of a road for bicycles
footpath	a path for people walking
pedestrian	a person who is walking
public transport	buses, trains and similar services
bus stop	a place where buses stop
traffic	vehicles using roads
traffic jam	many vehicles in one place
noise	an unwanted sound
clean air	air without much pollution
clean streets	streets without rubbish
rubbish bin	a container for rubbish
recycling bin	a container for recyclable things
plant trees	put trees in the ground
make cities greener	put more plants and trees in cities

18. Protecting the Environment at Home

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
turn off the lights	stop the lights
turn off the TV	stop the TV
turn off the tap	stop the water

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
save electricity	use less electricity
save water	use less water
take a short shower	spend little time in the shower
use less water	use a smaller amount of water
use less plastic	use a smaller amount of plastic
use a reusable bag	use the same bag many times
use a reusable bottle	use the same bottle many times
recycle paper	recycle used paper
recycle glass	recycle used glass
recycle plastic	recycle used plastic
separate rubbish	put different rubbish in different bins
repair things	fix things
use things again	reuse things
buy less	purchase fewer things
not waste food	use food instead of throwing it away
keep the home clean	make sure the home is not dirty
save energy	use less energy

19. Environmental Actions at School

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
keep the classroom clean	do not leave rubbish there
use both sides of paper	write on both sides
recycle paper	send used paper for recycling
use less paper	use a smaller amount of paper
turn off the lights	stop using the lights
turn off computers	stop computers when they are not needed
save electricity	use less electricity
use reusable bottles	use bottles many times
use less plastic	use less plastic
put rubbish in the bin	do not leave rubbish on the ground
pick up litter	take rubbish from the ground
plant trees	put new trees in the ground
plant flowers	put flowers in the ground
make a school garden	create a garden at school
keep the school green	protect plants and green spaces

20. Environmental Protection

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
protect	keep safe
save	stop something from being lost
look after	take care of
care for	look after
keep clean	make sure something stays clean
clean up	remove dirt and rubbish
reduce	make or use less
reuse	use again
recycle	use old materials again
repair	fix
avoid	try not to do something
use less	use a smaller amount
use again	reuse
save water	use less water
save energy	use less energy
save trees	protect trees
protect animals	keep animals safe
protect forests	keep forests safe
keep rivers clean	stop rivers becoming dirty
keep the sea clean	stop the sea becoming dirty
reduce rubbish	make less rubbish
reduce pollution	make pollution less
stop pollution	prevent pollution
help nature	do things that are good for nature

21. People and Environmental Responsibility

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
people	human beings
person	one human being
family	people who are related
children	young people
students	people who study
teacher	a person who teaches
farmer	a person who works on a farm
worker	a person who works
government	the people who run a country
city	a place with many people
community	people living in the same area
neighbour	a person who lives near you
everyone	all people
someone	one person
together	with other people
help	do something good for someone or something
care	think that something is important
responsibility	something that you should do
rule	something people must or should do
law	an official rule
follow the rules	do what the rules say

22. Talking About Environmental Problems

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
too much rubbish	a very large amount of rubbish
too much plastic	a very large amount of plastic
too much pollution	a very large amount of pollution
dirty air	air that is not clean
polluted river	a river with harmful things in it
not clean water	water that is not clean
throw rubbish on the ground	leave rubbish on the ground
use too much plastic	use a very large amount of plastic
cut down trees	make trees fall
lose their homes	animals no longer have places to live
be in danger	be at risk of being hurt or dying
weather is changing	the weather is becoming different
earth is getting warmer	the planet is becoming warmer
not enough clean water	too little clean water
very little rain	a very small amount of rain
too much water	a very large amount of water
cars make air dirty	cars cause dirty air
factories make air dirty	factories can cause dirty air
plastic can harm animals	plastic can hurt animals
rubbish can make rivers dirty	rubbish can pollute rivers

23. Talking About Solutions

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
recycle more	use more old materials again
use less plastic	use a smaller amount of plastic
save water	use less water
save energy	use less energy
plant more trees	put more trees in the ground
protect animals	keep animals safe
keep rivers clean	stop rivers becoming dirty
keep streets clean	do not leave rubbish on streets
use public transport	travel by bus or train
walk more	travel on your feet more often
cycle more	travel by bicycle more often
use reusable bags	use bags many times
use reusable bottles	use bottles many times
make less rubbish	create less waste

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
do not waste food	use food instead of throwing it away
do not throw rubbish on the ground	put rubbish in a bin
recycle paper	use old paper again
reuse bottles	use bottles again
repair old things	fix things instead of throwing them away
turn off the lights	stop using lights when they are not needed

24. Cause and Effect

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
throw rubbish on the ground	make places dirty
use too much plastic	create more rubbish
throw plastic into rivers	make rivers dirty
put rubbish in the sea	harm sea animals
cut down trees	lose forests
burn fuel	make dirty air
use many cars	create more air pollution
leave lights on	use more electricity
waste water	have less water to use
drop litter	make streets dirty
plant trees	create more green areas
recycle paper	use old paper again
reuse bags	use fewer new bags
use public transport	use fewer cars
walk or cycle	use less fuel

25. Words for Change and Quantity

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
change	become different
increase	become more
decrease	become less
rise	go up
fall	go down
grow	become bigger
become	start to be something different
get	become
more	a larger amount
less	a smaller amount
fewer	a smaller number
higher	more up
lower	more down
bigger	larger
smaller	less large
warmer	more warm
hotter	more hot
colder	more cold
drier	less wet
wetter	more wet
a lot of	a large amount or number
many	a large number
much	a large amount
some	an amount, but not all
a few	a small number
a little	a small amount
too much	more than is good or needed
too many	more than is good or needed
not enough	less than is needed
enough	as much as is needed

26. Core A2 Verbs

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
avoid	try not to do something
burn	be on fire

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
change	become different
clean	make something not dirty
clean up	remove dirt and rubbish
collect	bring things together
cut down	make a tree fall
damage	harm something
destroy	damage something very badly
disappear	stop being there
grow	become bigger
help	do something good
hunt	look for animals to kill
kill	make an animal or person die
look after	take care of
pick up	take something from the ground
plant	put a seed or plant in the ground
pollute	make air, water or land dirty
protect	keep safe
reduce	make or use less
repair	fix something
recycle	use old materials again
reuse	use something again
save	stop something from being lost
separate	put things apart
sort	put things into groups
throw away	put something in the rubbish
turn off	stop a machine or light
use	do something with something
waste	use too much or use badly
water	give water to a plant or crop

27. Core A2 Adjectives

Word / phrase	Simple A2 meaning
clean	not dirty
dirty	not clean
dangerous	able to cause harm
dry	without much water
endangered	in danger of disappearing
environmental	connected with the environment
electric	using electricity
green	good for the environment
harmful	causing damage
healthy	good for your health
natural	from nature
polluted	made dirty by harmful things
recyclable	able to be recycled
recycled	made from used materials
reusable	able to be used again
renewable	naturally replaced
safe	not dangerous
sunny	with a lot of sun
wet	covered with water
wild	living in nature
windy	with a lot of wind