

## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

### An Inconvenient Truth

Today's topic is about inconvenient truths facing us today and how we respond to them.

1. Tell your partner two things that are true about yourself and one thing that is not true and ask them which one is not true.
2. Which of the following statements do you think are true:
  - The air is getting cleaner in my country
  - People are getting smarter
  - The English soccer team is getting better
  - Summers in my country are getting hotter
  - You are perfect
3. Have you seen the following movies? Discuss
  - Inconvenient Truth
  - The Day After Tomorrow
  - 2012

#### Inconvenient Truth 1: Global Warming

The Movie *Inconvenient Truth* made some claims about global warming. In small groups read and discuss each claim.

- a. **We will have more heat waves.** What are the hottest (maximum) temperatures in your country? Is your city getting warmer?
- b. **Global sea levels could rise by more than 20 feet (6 metres) with the loss of shelf ice in Greenland and Antarctica.** Would your country be affected if the sea level rose more than 6 metres? What other countries in the world may be effected? How should the world respond?
- c. **The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have almost doubled in the last year.** Have you experienced a hurricane or typhoon? What happened? Are hurricanes/cyclones increasing in your country?

#### Inconvenient Truth 2: Carbon Tax

A big debate is happening in Australia at the moment – should we put a carbon tax on the top 500 companies who are use the most carbon (the biggest polluters).

- a. What do you know about carbon tax?
- b. Does your country have a carbon tax?
- c. What are some advantages for carbon tax?
- d. What are some disadvantages for carbon tax?

Divide your group into two groups and prepare a mini-debate on the topic:

#### Group 1: There should be a carbon tax on big companies

*I think there should be a carbon tax because.....*

#### Group 2: There shouldn't be a carbon tax on big companies

*I don't think there should be a carbon tax because...*

#### Inconvenient Truth 3: We are not perfect.

We all know we are not perfect. This is an inconvenient truth. Think about this passage in the Bible: All of us have sinned (done or thought bad things) and fall short of God's Glory (Romans 3:23). How do you deal with this inconvenient truth? Choose one or more

- a. Try to forget all the bad things I have done...
- b. Try and do extra good things to balance the bad things I do.
- c. Try to always be good...
- d. Ask God for forgiveness...
- e. other

**A solution to this problem:** In the Bible (1 John 1:9), it also says: "if we confess our sins to God, he will forgive us and take our sins away." In pairs, what is one thing you have done wrong this week? What can you do about it or what have you done about it?

#### Vocabulary

**Inconvenient:** (adjective). Causing difficulty, such as unexpected delays.

**Carbon Tax:** A carbon tax is a tax on the burning of fuels such as coal, gas, and oil.

**Forgiveness:** to decide not to be angry with someone or punish them. To forgive someone.

**Confess:** Admit something.

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