

Select Readings, Second Edition Elementary, Chapter 5 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

How Big Is Your Carbon Footprint?

If you walk along a beach without your shoes on, you make footprints in the sand. But that is only one kind of footprint. Your *carbon footprint* is another type of footprint. The size of our carbon footprint shows how much our daily activities change the world around us. A large carbon footprint means we are changing the world a lot. A small carbon footprint means very little change.

Every day, we use a lot of fossil fuels¹ for things like energy and heat in our homes, or for driving our cars. When we use a lot of fossil fuels, carbon dioxide² goes out into the air. Carbon dioxide is one of the main causes of climate change. *Climate change* means the changes in the weather and the air around us over a long period of time. The whole world is slowly getting hotter, and many people believe it is because of using too much energy from fossil fuels.

How can we make our carbon footprint smaller? There are many ways to do this. Some of these things are simple:

- Turn off things like lights, computers, and TVs when you are not using them.
- Turn down the heat in your house, and turn down the water heater—a change of just two degrees can make a big difference.
- Try to do all of your shopping for the week in one trip. Going out to shop many times every week uses a lot of energy.
- Only wash your clothes when you have enough to fill up the washing machine³. This uses less energy and less water.
- Buy food and other things that come from places close to your home. If food and other things travel a long way to your store, they use more energy than things that come from somewhere nearby.

Simple changes in our everyday lives mean that all of us can have a smaller carbon footprint and help take care of the world we live in.

1. Using more energy leaves _____.
A. a larger carbon footprint
B. a smaller carbon footprint
C. a footprint in the sand
D. the only kind of footprint
2. The passage talks about using fossil fuels for all of these EXCEPT _____.
A. home energy
B. driving cars
C. heating homes
D. going to work
3. What happens when we use fossil fuels?

¹ **fossil fuels** fuels for making energy, like oil, coal, and natural gas

² **carbon dioxide** CO₂

³ **washing machine** machine for washing clothes

- A. The air makes more fossil fuels.
 - B. We use less carbon dioxide.
 - C. The climate changes into fossil fuels.
 - D. Carbon dioxide goes into the air.
4. One of the biggest _____ of climate change is too much carbon dioxide in the air.
- A. causes
 - B. because
 - C. effect
 - D. effects
5. Too many fossil fuels are now making the world _____.
- A. get hotter
 - B. get colder
 - C. over a long period of time
 - D. use too much energy
6. The passage says we can use less energy by turning off all of these EXCEPT _____.
- A. computers
 - B. phones
 - C. lights
 - D. TVs
7. Changing your water heater from 50° to 48° _____.
- A. can make a big difference
 - B. can waste water
 - C. will make only a small difference
 - D. will make your house warmer
8. Going shopping once a week instead of many times a week _____.
- A. uses more energy
 - B. uses less energy
 - C. is a long trip
 - D. is a short trip
9. The passage says you should only wash your clothes _____.
- A. once a week
 - B. in your washing machine
 - C. when your washing machine is full
 - D. when the water in your washing machine is cold
10. You should buy food and other things that _____.
- A. travel a long way to the store
 - B. you can make at home
 - C. come from places nearby
 - D. use more energy