

To the Student

Are you a global citizen? If not, you may soon become one! This coursebook has been designed to teach you English through reading, listening and discussion about some of the most important issues facing our world today. The first unit introduces some of those issues. Each of the next twelve units focuses on a specific issue. The final unit introduces the work of the United Nations and some of its agencies.

In each unit, you will do a wide variety of communicative activities involving reading, listening, speaking and writing. You will also be expected to think about the issues, and to express your own ideas and opinions.

Here is a brief introduction to the different activities.

Quizzes

Most units begin with a quiz. You are not expected to know all of the answers, and it is better if you don't, because we want you to find out the answers by reading and listening.

Surveys & questionnaires

In these activities, you will talk about your experiences and ideas.

Warming Up, Brainstorming, What do you know?

These are activities in which you share your ideas and knowledge about the topic.

Reading

There are three kinds of reading tasks in this book: reading to find answers to quiz questions; reading to find answers to other questions; and reading to exchange information with other students. If you find these difficult, you should prepare them before class, with the help of a dictionary.

Listening

There are three kinds of listening tasks in this book: listening for answers to quiz questions; listening for gist and then for specific information; and listening for note-taking and discussion. Usually you will hear the tape at least three times. If you still can't understand it, ask your teacher to read the tapescript to you slowly and clearly and to explain any phrases you can't understand. Make sure you look up in your dictionary any key words which are provided.

Writing

In each unit, you are given a choice of tasks to do. Your teacher will probably ask you to do them for homework. First, gather any information you need, and take notes of all your ideas. Then write a rough draft in Japanese. Next, write an English draft. Don't try to translate your Japanese draft word for word, but try to express the same ideas in natural English. Finally, check your composition carefully for mistakes.

Vocabulary

Make a note of all new words you meet in the text. Write down not only their meanings but also clear examples so you will remember how they are used. Then you will find the vocabulary exercises easy and fun.

Games

There are four games. Your teacher will explain how to play them.

Discussion

Be prepared to express your ideas and opinions in English. If necessary, write them down first.

Role plays

There are five role plays. Your teacher will explain what to do.

Problems and solutions

This section asks you to think about the problems introduced in the unit and to try to find possible solutions. If you are not very good at this sort of thing, you could discuss the issues with friends in Japanese before class.

Further contributions

If you find anything in your daily newspaper that is related to the themes you are studying, cut it out and bring it to class. Your teacher will be very happy if you can explain it - in English, of course!

YOU, ME AND THE WORLD

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1 Introduction to Global Issues | 1 |
| 2 Waste and Recycling | 6 |
| 3 Endangered Species | 11 |
| 4 Rainforests | 17 |
| 5 Global Warming | 24 |
| 6 Energy | 28 |
| 7 Developing Countries | 33 |
| 8 Human Rights | 42 |
| 9 Tourism | 50 |
| 10 Peace and Conflict | 57 |
| 11 Gender Issues | 63 |
| 12 Us and Them | 69 |
| 13 Refugees | 76 |
| 14 The United Nations | 82 |

UNIT ONE



INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL ISSUES

1 World Quiz

- Answer as many of the following questions as you can. Don't worry if you can answer only a few; you will soon be able to answer them all!

1. Countries

- (1) Which country has the world's largest population?
- (2) Which countries have no armed forces?
- (3) Which European nation is not a member of the United Nations?
- (4) Which countries have nuclear weapons?

2. Organizations

What are these organizations concerned with?

- (1) WWF
- (2) Amnesty International
- (3) Oxfam
- (4) UNHCR

3. People

What are the names of these famous people?

- (1) The first black president of South Africa.
- (2) The winner of Burma's last free election in 1991.
- (3) The exiled religious leader of Tibet.
- (4) The Secretary General of the United Nations.

- **Which questions were you unable to answer, or not sure about? Try to find out the answers by asking other students. You will have a chance to check your answers in the listening section.**

2 Listening

- **You will hear some information. Listen carefully and check your answers to the Quiz. Write down any new answers.**

3 Reading

- **Read each of the following newspaper reports.**

1. A team of 132 volunteer doctors and nurses, mostly from the US, arrived in Colombia at the beginning of September and immediately began operating on local children with disfigured faces. During five days of surgery, more than 550 children were treated.
2. A new-style farm has just begun operations in a village in Northern Japan. They don't grow rice or raise animals. What they produce is electricity – with the help of three US-made wind turbines. The Tachikawamachi wind farm generates enough electricity to supply 100 households.

3. Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias yesterday criticized the US for selling billions of dollars worth of weapons to Third World dictators since the end of the Cold War in 1990. In his address to the State of the World Forum, Arias called for a total ban on the sale of weapons to non-democratic nations.
4. According to a report released yesterday, many of the carpets, clothes and toys sold in the west are produced by children working for low wages and in terrible conditions in Third World factories. The authors of the report, commissioned for UNICEF, estimate that a quarter of a billion children between the ages of five and fifteen are employed full-time.
5. An investigation conducted after a mother and her son were found to have died of starvation in Tokyo last month has revealed a total of 122 similar deaths in Tokyo over the past five years. Social welfare experts believe these cases show that welfare administrators are not providing enough support to the needy.
6. The number of people living in countries in which civil and political rights are respected grew last year by 135 million, according to a report published yesterday by an American civil rights organization. At the same time, the report was highly critical of the fact that western governments have been giving huge amounts of economic aid to some of the world's most repressive states.

● **Now try to match each of the above reports with one of the following titles.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) <i>UNICEF Condemns Child Labor</i> | (f) US Doctor Receives Nobel Prize |
| (b) Civil Rights Demonstration in New York | (g) Malnutrition Amidst Plenty |
| (c) Mother and Son Die in Tragic Accident | (h) <i>US Blasted for Arms Exports</i> |
| (d) More Freedom | (i) Farm Jobs for Children |
| (e) <i>When the Wind Blows</i> | (j) Operation Smile |

● **Now read each story again and decide if the news is good or bad.**

4 Quiz on Global Issues

- Here are some problems which affect many people.

damage to the environment

What are the most serious environmental problems?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

armed conflicts

In which countries are armed groups fighting against each other or against the government?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

violations of human rights

In which countries are human rights commonly violated?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

poverty in developing countries

Which are the world's poorest countries? Can you name three?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

5 Writing

- Find a report or article in your newspaper which is related to one of the topics mentioned in this unit and write a short summary in English, giving the main ideas and your opinions or comments.

6 Vocabulary

● Fill in each space with a suitable word from Unit One.

1. Some countries elect their leaders; others are ruled by d.....
2. In such countries, citizens' human rights are often v.....
3. The doctors were not paid for their work; they were v.....
4. The new power station g..... enough electricity for the whole town.
5. The villagers could not afford to buy food, and so they died of s.....
6. Armies cannot fight a war without w.....
7. Costa Rica was the first modern country to a..... its army.
8. The panda is one of the world's most e..... species.
9. China has a p..... of over one billion people.
10. The report c..... the President for raising taxes.

