

# Step To Advanced Student Book

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Additional photographs by Chen Kuo-shu.

# Leave Only Footprints **05**

## Speaking

### 1 Vocabulary – Environmental Problems

overpopulation  
deforestation  
desertification

global warming  
overfishing  
air pollution

species extinction  
urban sprawl  
soil erosion



### 2 Discussion

1. What environmental problems are shown in the pictures?
2. Where do they occur?
3. What causes these problems? What are some possible solutions?
4. What environmental problems are there in your country?

## Reading

**Solar-powered Cars**

Every few years a strange collection of low black vehicles gather in the far north of Australia for the World Solar Challenge. This is a solar-powered car race covering 3,020 kilometres across Australia from Darwin to Adelaide. The cars are powered by solar cells that convert solar energy into electricity. The World Solar Challenge usually attracts about a dozen teams from around the world, most of which are sponsored by universities and companies. A Dutch team from Delft University has been the most successful team in the past decade. Another team, comprised of Hawaiian high school students, was the subject of a 1996 American film featuring Halle Berry, *Race the Sun*.

The World Solar Challenge goes through the Outback, the remote and arid areas in the centre of the country, and takes four days. The solar-powered cars are allowed to drive from 0800 to 1700, and they average over 90km/hr. The purpose of the race is to promote the development of solar-powered racing cars. This aim has been more than realised; solar technology has improved so much since the first race in 1987 that the cars can now go well over the legal speed limits. In fact, new rules have been introduced to reduce speeds.

The next challenge for solar-powered vehicle makers is to develop cars that are larger and more comfortable than the racing models. Some progress has been made towards this aim. In December 2008, Swiss teacher Louis Palmer completed a 17-month, 52,000km trip around the world in a 'solar taxi'. His three-wheeled car pulled a trailer with solar cells and batteries. Palmer's solar car can travel 300km on a single charge, and reach speeds of 90km/hr. The prototype was expensive but he hopes that, if mass produced, it could sell for around 10,000 Euros.

1. When was the first World Solar Challenge held?
2. What is the purpose of the race?
3. How long did Louis Palmer's journey take?
4. What is the starting point for the World Solar Challenge?
 

A. Australia	B. Adelaide	C. Darwin
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5. *Race the Sun*...
 

A. was directed by Halle Berry	B. is based on a true story	C. won the race
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6. How much did Louis Palmer's car cost to produce?
 

A. 52,000	B. No number is given	C. 10,000 Euros
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## Writing

## 3 Giving Both Sides of an Argument

**Some people say that** keeping wild animals in zoos is cruel and unnatural. **In some cases, this is true, but** most zoos provide a nice living environment for the animals.

**Giving the other side**

Some / Many people say (that)...

Opponents / Critics of \_\_\_\_\_ say / argue / claim (that)...

Supporters / Proponents of \_\_\_\_\_ say / argue / claim...

**Concession and rebuttal**

In some cases, this is true, but...

This may be partly true, but...

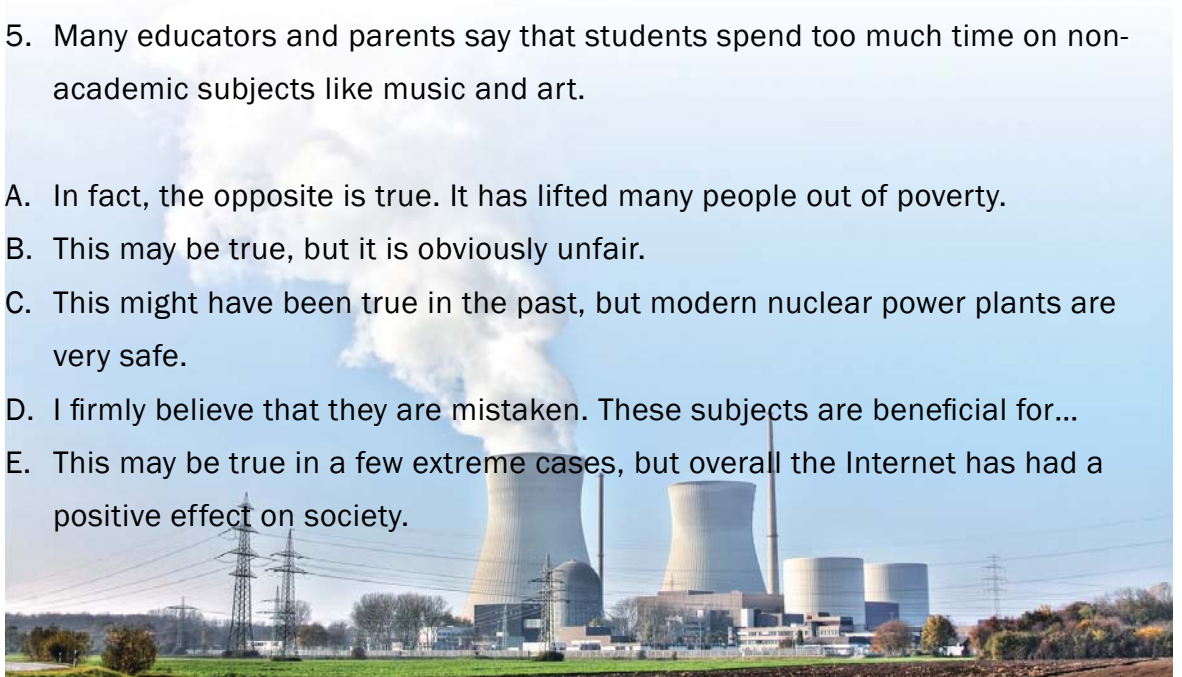
**Straight rebuttal**

I believe this is... wrong. / a faulty argument. / irrelevant.

In fact,... this is incorrect. / the opposite is true.

## 4 Match

1. Opponents of nuclear power claim that it is dangerous.
  2. Proponents of compulsory retirement say that it creates jobs for young people.
  3. Critics of globalisation argue that it is increasing poverty in developing countries.
  4. Some people say that the Internet causes serious problems such as addiction to online games.
  5. Many educators and parents say that students spend too much time on non-academic subjects like music and art.
- A. In fact, the opposite is true. It has lifted many people out of poverty.
  - B. This may be true, but it is obviously unfair.
  - C. This might have been true in the past, but modern nuclear power plants are very safe.
  - D. I firmly believe that they are mistaken. These subjects are beneficial for...
  - E. This may be true in a few extreme cases, but overall the Internet has had a positive effect on society.



## Speaking

## Task 2 Giving a Presentation

Task Two takes 8–10 minutes in total. Two students take turns giving a 2–3-minute pre-prepared presentation. After the presentation, the other student comments and asks questions. Remember: Students cannot take notes into the Speaking Test.

1 Complete the guidelines for making presentations by using the words in the box.

figures	formal	questions	passion	repetition
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The Part Two presentation is similar to a discussion essay but there are some differences.

1. The language in a presentation is less \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Because you have time to prepare the presentation, you can do some research and find some facts and \_\_\_\_\_. However, be careful not to overuse these.
3. You show more \_\_\_\_\_; it's important that the people believe what you are saying. Try to be confident and show your feelings.
4. You can use humour.
5. Ask rhetorical \_\_\_\_\_ (a rhetorical question is one where an answer is not expected). They help make listeners feel involved in the presentation.
6. While you should avoid \_\_\_\_\_ in essays, it is an important speaking device to stress your points. Many speakers like to repeat the start of sentences in threes.

2 What points are these examples of?

*We need to stop consuming so much... We need to stop using coal... We need to stop... Global warming might not seem like a serious problem for someone living in chilly England, but...*

*Should we only test medicines and medical techniques on people?*

*In the United States alone, over three million dogs are put to sleep every year.*

3 Choose one of the following topics. Prepare a two-minute presentation.

1. It's wrong to keep animals as pets. Do you agree?
2. Trying to save endangered animals is a waste of money. Do you agree?
3. We shouldn't use animals for medical research. Do you agree?
4. Global warming is not a serious problem. Do you agree?
5. Technology is the key to saving the environment. Do you agree?