

9Ga – Cleaning up/Natural pollution

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
carbon dioxide		A slightly acidic gas formed when carbon reacts with oxygen and during respiration (CO_2).
combustion		The scientific word for burning.
natural pollutant		Natural substances that can cause harm to the environment if they are present in high enough concentrations.
nitrogen oxides		Acidic gases formed when nitrogen reacts with oxygen. Includes nitrogen dioxide (NO_2).
pH		A scale which measures how acidic or alkaline a solution is.
photosynthesis	<i>foto-sinth-e-sis</i>	Process in plants which takes in carbon dioxide and water and, using the Sun's energy, makes glucose and oxygen.
pollutants		Harmful chemicals present in the environment which are not normally there or only there in harmless concentrations.
pollution		The effects of substances released into the environment in amounts that will cause harm.
respiration	<i>res-per-ay-shun</i>	Process which occurs in all living cells that releases energy from food. Carbon dioxide is one of the products.
starch		Type of insoluble carbohydrate found in plants.
sulphur dioxide		An acidic gas formed when sulphur reacts with oxygen (SO_2).
sugar		Type of soluble carbohydrate. Glucose is an example of a sugar.
vitamin		Nutrient needed in small quantities for health (e.g. vitamin C).

9Gb – Acid rain

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
acid rain		Rain which is more acidic (lower pH) than natural rainfall due to the presence of polluting gases such as sulphur dioxide.
catalytic converter		A device fitted to a car's exhaust to change harmful gases into less harmful gases.
chemical weathering		Weathering caused by chemicals dissolved in rainwater.
corrode		When a substance wears away because it has reacted with a substance such as an acid.
fossil fuels		Coal, oil and natural gas – all fuels that were formed from the remains of dead plants and animals millions of years ago.
neutralise		When something is added to an acid or an alkali to make it more neutral – closer to pH 7.
sulphur precipitator	<i>pre-sip-it-ate-or</i>	A device used in power stations to remove sulphur dioxide gas from the gases coming out of the chimney.

9Gc – Monitoring pollution

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
air quality		How clean or polluted the air is.
monitor		To measure and record data over a period of time.

9Gd – The global warming debate

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
climate change		The changes that will happen to the weather as global warming happens.
computer model		Using computers to build models involving complex calculations, and using these to make predictions.
global warming		The gradual increase in mean (average) global temperatures.
greenhouse effect		The trapping of the Sun's energy by gases in the atmosphere, which helps to keep the Earth warm.
greenhouse gases		Any gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. They include carbon dioxide, methane and water vapour.

9Gd – Focus on: Temperatures in the past

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
ice core		A long cylinder of ice obtained by drilling down into an ice cap or glacier. Ice cores can be used to investigate past climates.