

THE LOW-HANGING FRUIT IN THE CLIMATE BATTLE? CUTTING DOWN ON MEAT

Something is cooking in the world of climate politics. Or, perhaps more accurately, something isn't. This week, the American recipe website Epicurious announced that, for environmental reasons, it wouldn't publish any new beef recipes. No more steaks, burgers or creative ways with mince; no more juicy ribs. Since about 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from livestock farming, with beef responsible for nearly two thirds of those, it wanted to help home cooks do their bit.

All this seems guaranteed to trigger the sort of people who get very emotional about roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, particularly in the same week that the White House had to quash some wild scare stories about Joe Biden banning burgers to save the planet. (Spoiler alert: not happening.) But the twist in the tale is that Epicurious actually stopped publishing beef recipes a year ago without telling anyone, and it says its traffic numbers show the vegetarian recipes offered instead were gobbled up. Those who scream loudest don't, as ever, speak for everyone.

Cheap and relatively painless ways of tackling the climate crisis are rare, as Boris Johnson may discover once he actually spells out the detailed implications of Britain's ambitious pledge to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035. Swapping gas boilers for environmentally friendly heat pumps will cost thousands, and they won't be suitable for every home; so far, an awkward silence hangs over what the owners of those houses are supposed to do.

The Treasury, meanwhile, has still yet to rule on the potentially politically toxic question of introducing pay-as-you-go road charges, to replace the fuel tax that the increasing number of electric or hybrid drivers won't be paying. Johnson's preferred green solutions are ones that magically allow life to carry on much as before, while new technology does all the heavy lifting – a strategy he described at last week's climate summit as "cake have eat". But that was his Brexit strategy, too, and we've all seen how well that worked out. Dietary changes, however, are one of the few climate change measures where the biggest obstacle to change isn't economic but cultural, and where doing the right thing potentially saves rather than costs individuals money.

As a lifelong carnivore, even I've been slowly reducing red meat for a while. It started with one vegetarian day a week, then substituting fish for a couple of meat meals, then swapping in more chicken, and so far none of the family has actually noticed. (Like Epicurious, I've chosen not to advertise the strategy until someone complains.) We still eat beef and lamb sometimes, but it's becoming more of an occasional treat, less of a routine midweek spag bol. Taking it gradually, meanwhile, has made the whole thing feel doable rather than daunting.

Ministers have shied away from calls for a "carbon tax" on red meat for not entirely illegitimate reasons; taxing food is toughest on low-income households, because they spend proportionately more of their income on it. But if this government or its successors are reluctant to wield the big stick then they must dangle juicier carrots, starting with a public education campaign making the connection between healthy eating and helping the climate.

And that's just the start. A handful of restaurants are now experimenting with carbon labelling on their menus to highlight environmentally friendly choices. There's no reason that couldn't be extended to food sold in supermarkets, encouraging producers to cut unnecessary carbon emissions and earn better ratings. The food industry will protest, but it's that or stiffer tax and regulatory changes in years to come, which they'll like even less.

Even tiny changes such as putting the veggie dish at the top of restaurant menus, rather than at the bottom like a reluctant afterthought, can shift ordering habits – as could a few primetime TV shows on climate-friendly cookery, fronted by the kind of celebrity names capable of causing a run on ingredients. A plant-based menu for heads of state at this year's Cop26 climate crisis summit, showcasing adventurous meat-free cooking, should be a no-brainer, and so should providing more communal spaces to grow our own fruit and veg, building on a surge of enthusiasm for allotments in lockdown. In a culture war it's soft power that ultimately counts, and progressives may hold more of it than they know on this one. "Let them eat chickpeas" may not be a winning electoral strategy. But nor is burning down the planet just to make dinner.

Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/apr/30/climate>.

PART 1

TEXT ANALYSIS (Max. 4 points)

Answer the following questions

- 1. a. Give a brief explanation about the title of the text: Which figure of speech does the author use here, and what is he trying to convey?**

"The low-hanging fruit in the climate battle? Cutting down on meat". (0.5 points)

- b. Briefly explain the author's communicative intention in the text. (0.5 points)**

- 2. Explain the following statements:**

a. "But the twist in the tale is that Epicurious actually stopped publishing beef recipes a year ago without telling anyone, and it says its traffic numbers show the vegetarian recipes offered instead were gobbled up. Those who scream loudest don't, as ever, speak for everyone." (0.5 points)

b. "But if this government or its successors are reluctant to wield the big stick then they must dangle juicier carrots, starting with a public education campaign making the connection between healthy eating and helping the climate." (0.5 points)

c. "In a culture war it's soft power that ultimately counts" (0.5 points)

- 3. Identify the text type/subtypes. Support your ideas by providing one example for each one of them in the text. (0.5 points)**
- 4. Identify the language functions in the text. Support your ideas by providing examples from the text. (0.5 points)**
- 5. Analyse the language register(s) in the text. Justify your answer providing examples from the text. (0.5 points)**

PART 2
PRACTICAL ENGLISH USAGE (Max. 6 points)

1. Provide the phonetic transcription of the following words using Received Pronunciation (RP) or General American (GA): (1 point: 0.1x10)

a) ethical	f) features
b) cooperation	g) citizenship
c) prestige	h) journey
d) ambiguous	i) colonel
e) circumstance	j) biography

2. Write the following words in the correct column according to their stress pattern:
 (0.5 points: 0.05x10)

curiosity - marshmallow - talented - unfrequented - simplicity - thermometer - Catholicism -
 underestimate- outrageous - independence

0oo	o0o	o0oo	o0ooo	oo0o	oo0oo

3. Provide a homophone for each word below: (0.5 points: 0.1x5)

a) mussel	c) course	e) bruise
b) wade	d) fryer	

4. Complete the sentences with a word derived from the ones given. (0.5 points 0.1x5)

- 1) He wasn't listening to me so I had to tell the story **NEW**
- 2) We felt disappointed by theof the play. **BRIEF**
- 3) The police have so far been unable tothe cause of the explosion. **CERTAIN**
- 4) Her essay was a little She should have made it a bit shorter. **WORD**
- 5) Nowadays a lot of people don't mind wearing other people's..... **CAST**

5. Find the ONE word that fits all three sentences in the following exercises and provide a ONE word synonym for the highlighted expressions. (1.5 points: 0.15x10)

1.

We need to keep up a () pace if we're going to get there before it gets dark.
Corey and Angela seem to have a very () **relationship**, and I can't imagine them splitting up
Kelly gave me a () look as if to say, 'I know where you've been.'

1.a The word that fits all gaps is _____

1.b Write a one-word synonym for the highlighted expression: _____

2.

You'll have a () persuading your dad to lend you the car.
It's a good () it's stopped raining or the picnic would be ruined.
The situation isn't really ideal, but we'll just have to make the best of a bad ().

2.a The word that fits all gaps is _____

2.b Write a one-word synonym for the highlighted expression: _____

3.

Waves () against the cliffs.
We **made a** () **for** the plane so as not to lose it.
A scarf adds a () of sophistication.

3.a The word that fits all gaps is _____

3.b Write a one-word synonym for the highlighted expression: _____

4.

That small incident was the () that set off the street riots.
They kept running into each other and eventually realized there was a () between them.
English teachers aim **to** () **off** debate among students.

4.a The word that fits all gaps is _____

4.b Write a one-word synonym for the highlighted expression: _____

5.

By November, the trees had () their leaves.
We keep our bikes in **the** ().
People () the virus in respiratory droplets and aerosols.

5.a The word that fits all gaps is _____

5.b Write a one-word synonym for the highlighted expression: _____

6. Rewrite the following sentences using the word in parenthesis so the second sentence has the same meaning as the first one. You must use between TWO and SIX words, including the word given. This word must not be changed. (1 points: 0.2x5)

1. I can't understand these instructions on the packet. (**head**)
- I can't these instructions on the packet.
2. My new job is much more satisfying than any job I've ever had. (**away**)
- My new job is one I've ever had.
3. My father persuaded me to learn another foreign language. (**talked**)
- It was my another foreign language.
4. I've been racking my brains to remember where I've seen that man before. (**finger**)
- Try as I on where I've seen that man before.
5. She still hasn't really recovered from being laid off in August. (**made**)
- She still really hasn't got in August.

7. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. (1 point: 0.1x10)

Myrtle Hannah

At the age of 49, Myrtle Hannah felt **1** ____ on the shelf, nor as if life had slipped her **2** ____, despite suggestions to the **3** ____ by many of her friends and relations. She enjoyed her job at the library immensely and had done so for the twenty-five years she had been there. She strongly felt that claims of her lack of ambition were unfounded, as she had **4** ____ her way up to chief librarian, acquiring all the necessary computer skills along the way. Her career provided her with great satisfaction and she could see no reason for 'moving on' as so many were **5** ____ to suggest. Not **6** ____ being left standing at the altar had made a great impact on her life, much to everyone's surprise. She had just turned up at work on Monday as always, secretly relieved that she had avoided a major upheaval in her routine, which she later admitted to **7** ____ had been preying on her mind. Her ex-fiancé had been of the same opinion, as he had confided in her a few days later, and they had remained, if not close friends, at least on speaking **8** ____ . Myrtle Hannah was content with her lot. **9** ____ learnt not to expect too much from others, she led a solitary but - in her eyes if not in anyone else's - fulfilling existence which she did not intend to allow anyone to tamper **10** ____ .