

National News

Study Shows Divorce Harmful to Environment

Over the past few years, **environmentalists** all around the world have been **dedicating themselves** not only **to** looking for ways to protect the earth but also to better understanding the ways that we have been damaging our planet. While we are all aware of the direct causes, such as the burning **fossil fuels**, you may be surprised to learn that researchers have recently linked **divorce** to **deteriorating** environmental conditions.

According to a recent study, the rate of divorce in a number of different countries, both rich and poor, has had a **considerable** impact on the environment. The findings show that when divorced couples move into **separate** homes, they tend to **consume** more energy and **commodities**. A married couple traditionally lives together with their children in a single home, **whereas** divorce causes one of the **spouses** to move out and find a new place to live. These single-person homes lead to the use of more land and building materials. These extra homes will require extra **electric appliances** such as refrigerators, TVs, air-conditioners, and ovens which use a lot of power. To be sure, two people living together can **conserve** more energy than two people living separately, in the same way that two people driving to work in the same car use less gas than two people in two cars. What's worse, it was found that families in which the parents are divorced tend to produce more waste, **gray water**, and greenhouse gases, which are all a **burden** on the environment and lead to both climate change and a decrease in the **diversity** of **living creatures**.

Almost anyone would surely make the argument that they shouldn't have to stick with their spouses if their marriages don't work out. In the past, couples considering getting divorced were **urged** to stay together for the **benefit** of their children. These days, however, they may be urged to remain married **for the sake of** the environment.

- _____ 1. According to the passage, which of the following is **FALSE**?
- (A) Fossil fuels are damaging our planet.
- (B) Divorced couples conserve a lot of energy.
- (C) Married couples traditionally live together.
- (D) Divorce has a negative effect on the environment.
- _____ 2. What does the passage **IMPLY**?
- (A) Divorce rates around the world will continue to go up.
- (B) Divorced people should not use electric appliances.
- (C) Remaining married is good for the environment.
- (D) Divorced parents want to stay with their children.
- _____ 3. What is meant by the word “spouse”?
- (A) Husband or wife. (B) Sister or brother. (C) Mother or father. (D) Aunt or uncle.



Before You Read

►當新娘 (bride) 與新郎 (groom) 結婚時，他們通常會在教堂裡，在牧師 (minister) 及親友的見證下，說出他們的婚誓 (marriage vows)。然而，並非每段婚姻都很美滿，當一對夫妻決定他們的婚姻關係不想再繼續下去時，他們會訴請離婚 (get a divorce)。在大多數的西方國家中，夫妻所擁有的孩子的監護權 (custody) 通常歸母親，而父親通常需支付小孩的撫養費 (child support)。若沒有小孩的話，則夫妻其中一方常需支付另一方贍養費 (alimony)。

◆ Vocabulary and Idioms

- 1.environmentalist [ɪn,vairən'mentlɪst] *n.* 環保人士
- 2.dedicate oneself to sth. *v. phr.* 將自己奉獻給……；
致力於……
- 3.fossil fuel ['fɒsəl 'fjuəl] *n.* 化石燃料
- 4.divorce [dɪ'vɔrs] *n.* 離婚
- 5.deteriorate [dɪ'tɪəriə,ret] *v.* 變壞；惡化
- 6.considerable [kən'sɪdərəbl] *adj.* 相當大的；相當多的
- 7.separate ['seprɪt] *adj.* 分開的；各自的
- 8.consume [kən'sjum] *v.* 消耗
- 9.commodity [kə'mɒdətɪ] *n.* 商品；日用品
- 10.whereas [hwaɪ'æz] *conj.* 然而；而
- 11.spouse [spauz] *n.* 配偶
- 12.electric appliance [ɪ'lektrɪk ə'plaɪəns] *n.* 電器用品
- 13.conserve [kən'sɜ:v] *v.* 保護
- 14.gray water [gre 'wɒtə:] *n.* 廢水
- 15.burden ['bɜ:dn] *n.* 負擔
- 16.diversity [daɪ'vɜ:sətɪ] *n.* 多樣性
- 17.living creature ['lɪvɪŋ 'kri:tʃə:] *n.* 生物
- 18.urge [ɜ:dʒ] *v.* 力促；竭力推薦
- 19.benefit ['benɪfɪt] *n.* 利益
- 20.for the sake of... *prep. phr.* 為了……起見

◆ Patterns

1. Over the past few years, environmentalists all around the world have been dedicating themselves not only to looking for ways to protect the earth but also to better understanding the ways that we have been damaging our planet.
⇒含有“over/for/in/during the past...”的句子，通常用以表示「從過去繼續到現在的動作或狀態」，需用現在完成式或現在完成進行式。
2. While we are all aware of the direct causes, such as the burning fossil fuels, you may be surprised to learn that researchers have recently linked divorce to deteriorating environmental conditions.
⇒而含有“recently/lately（最近）”的句子，表「現在剛剛完成的動作」，也需用現在完成式。

◆ Translation

研究顯示離婚對環境有害

過 去這幾年以來，全世界的環保人士，不僅致力於找尋保護地球的方法，也致力於更了解我們破壞這個星球的方式。雖然我們都了解像是燃燒化石燃料這樣直接的肇因，然而，當得知研究者最近把離婚和日益惡化的環境條件牽上關係，你可能會非常驚訝。

根據一項最近的研究，在許多不同的國家，包括富國及貧國，離婚率已經對環境造成相當大的影響。研究發現顯示出，當離了婚的夫妻搬到各自的家，他們往往會消耗更多的能源及日用品。一對結了婚的夫妻，根據傳統會和他們的孩子們住在同一個屋子裡。而離婚導致夫妻中一方必須搬出去，另找一個新的住處。這些一個人住的家導致更多土地及建材的使用。這些額外多出的家，將需要額外的、耗電量大的家電用品，像是冰箱、電視、冷氣、及烤箱。無可否認的，兩個人住在一起，比起兩個人分開住，可以節省更多能源。相同地，兩個人開同一台車上班，比起兩個人開兩台車上班，會使用較少的汽油。更糟的是，我們發現，父母離異的家庭往往產出更多廢棄物、廢水、及溫室氣體。這些對環境都是負擔，且會導致氣候改變及生物種類的減少。

幾乎任何人都會提出理由反駁，認為如果他們的婚姻行不通，他們不應該要和配偶勉強住在一起。在過去，考慮離婚的夫妻會被規勸為了孩子的利益而在一起。而現在，人們可能會勸他們為環境起見，而保持婚姻關係。

◆ Answer

- (1) B (2) C (3) A

[illegible]