

E-waste

Level

Intermediate

Tasks

Checking comprehension of a set of verbs related to dealing with e-waste

Reading an article to scan for these verbs, or derivatives of them

Reading the article intensively to summarise the key points

Identifying words in the article from the definitions given

Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Find out how many computers the students have, counting computers at home and at work. Establish how old the computers are and what will happen when new machines are bought (e.g. the computers will be upgraded, will go to a friend or colleague, etc.). Hand out the worksheet and ask students to check that they know the verbs in the box. They can use a dictionary or ask a partner. Encourage students to provide any derivatives of the verbs, as they will come across some of these in the article.
- 2 Ask students to scan the article to find as many of the verbs, or derivatives of them, as they can. Set a time limit of two minutes.

Answers

Paragraph 1: *dumped, disposal*

Paragraph 2: *dump, recycled, discarded, dismantled, damaging*

Paragraph 3: *dumping, recycled*

Paragraph 4: *disposable, disposal*

- 3 Students read the whole article. Ask students to summarise what happens to old computers.
- 4 Ask students to find the words or expressions in the article from the definitions given.

Answers

(a) *contravene* (b) *landfill sites* (c) *regulations* (d) *directive* (e) *upgrade*

- 5 Ask students to work in groups to discuss their answers to the questions. Monitor the discussion. Ask some students to report their ideas to the class, then hold a class feedback session.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.basel.int/>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/>

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/WhatisEwaste/>