

Lesson 56

It's radioactive.

Target: Having a conversation about nuclear power.

Vocabulary

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Nuclear Power



Related vocabulary

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| - a power plant | - to be nuclear | - to have a meltdown |
| - to generate power | - to be radioactive | - to shut down / a shutdown |
| - to produce energy | - to irradiate... | - to contaminate... |
| - a nuclear reactor (to go critical) | - radioactivity | - exposure to... |
| - a containment unit (to rupture) | - radioactive waste | - plutonium / uranium |
| - a core | - a half life | - a geiger counter |
| - a fuel / control rod | - fusion / fission | - a hot spot |

Conversation

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1 Use the questions below to have a conversation with your partner about the topic

Partner #1: Questions

- How many nuclear power plants does your country have? What other countries have them?
- Do nuclear power plants generate more or less power compared with coal / steam / wind power plants?
- How does nuclear energy work?
- What places in the world are currently hot spots for radiation?
- Which nuclear power plants have had meltdowns?
- Would you like to see nuclear-powered cars? Do you think it's possible?
- How do you think companies should dispose of radioactive waste?
- Is exposure to radiation deadly? How much is a dangerous dose?
- What's the difference between nuclear fusion and nuclear fission?
- Do you think we will ever discover cold fusion? Why? / Why not?

Partner #2: Questions

- If the money was good, would you work at a nuclear power plant?
- Which nuclear power plants have had meltdowns? Which one has been the worst? Why?
- What does a geiger counter measure?
- What are the best alternatives to nuclear energy?
- What areas in Japan are currently contaminated by radiation?
- What would you do if you were living near a power plant and you heard the reactor was about to go critical?
- Why is radiation measured in half lives?
- Are you at all worried about nuclear energy?
- What happens when the containment unit of a nuclear power plant ruptures?
- What should you do if you have been irradiated?

2 Complete one or more of the situations below

- Role-play:** Partner #1 & 2: You are both in a meeting where the goal is to look for realistic, sustainable alternatives to nuclear power. Make and back up some suggestions.
- Interview:** Interview a worker at Fukushima Dai Ichi about what happened.
- Speech:** Explain what happened at Fukushima Dai Ichi / Chernobyl / Three Mile Island
- Debate:** You think nuclear energy is good, but your partner doesn't agree.