

# 11.1 Making the world a better place

GOALS ■ Talk about unlikely situations in the future ■ Talk about global issues

## Vocabulary & Speaking global issues

- 1 Work with a partner and discuss the questions.
- 1 What do you understand by 'global issues'?
  - 2 Which of the issues below are most affecting your country at the moment? How?
  - 3 What recent news stories can you think of in connection to these issues?



- 2 Match the newspaper headlines a–g to one or more of the global issues above.

- a **10 billion people by 2050**
- b **A possible cure for AIDS?**
- c **Financial crisis spreads through Europe**
- d **Is global warming really happening?**
- e **World hunger: the facts and figures**
- f **World happiness report: the happiest country is ...**
- g **Car factory creates 2,000 new jobs**

- 3a Look at the words and phrases in exercises 1 and 2 and check you know their meaning.

- b Complete the statements using words and phrases from exercises 1 and 2.

- 1 Many people are looking for jobs abroad because of high \_\_\_\_\_ in my country.
- 2 There has been an increase in extreme weather conditions as a result of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The government has introduced strict laws on tobacco and alcohol to improve public \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The \_\_\_\_\_ is slowly rising. There are now about 60 million people living in this country.

- c Which of the statements above are true for your country?

- 4 Work in a group and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you know about any recent advances in science and technology?
- 2 What are the most important problems facing the environment today?
- 3 What makes a country the happiest in the world?

## Grammar & Listening *if + past tense + would*

- 5a 11.1 ))) Listen to a programme in which people present an idea in 60 seconds which could improve the world and answer question A.

A What is the idea?	B How would it improve the world?
1	Could help scientists find <sup>1</sup> _____ for illnesses, e.g. <sup>2</sup> _____ disease and Alzheimer's. Could solve social & <sup>3</sup> _____ problems.
2	Salsa helps you get <sup>4</sup> _____ and be happy. More happiness = less <sup>5</sup> _____ & less <sup>6</sup> _____.
3	Little gifts, e.g. some <sup>7</sup> _____, a little toy, some home-made <sup>8</sup> _____ would make the world seem <sup>9</sup> _____ and friendlier.

- b 11.1 ))) Listen again and complete the notes for question B.

- 6 Work in a group. Discuss whether you think each suggestion is a good or a bad idea. Give each idea a score out of 10.
- 7a 11.2 ))) Listen to the judge's opinions about the ideas. Are her scores the same as yours?
- b 11.2 ))) Listen again and complete the sentences.
- I would \_\_\_\_\_ a smart pill if I \_\_\_\_\_ it was safe.
  - If only a few people \_\_\_\_\_ afford them, that would give them an unfair advantage.
  - If you \_\_\_\_\_ a little bit every day, then you would \_\_\_\_\_ confident.
  - If everybody \_\_\_\_\_ a gift to a neighbour once a year, it wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ the world's problems.
- 8 Look at the sentences above and answer the questions.
- Do they describe situations that are real or imaginary?
  - Are the situations in the past or the present/future?
  - What tense is the verb after *if*?
  - What is the verb form in the main clause?
- 9 Choose the best option to complete the rules in the Grammar focus box.

### GRAMMAR FOCUS *if + past tense + would*

- We use *if + 1 past / present* tense to talk about **2 a likely / an unlikely** or imagined future situation and we use *would/wouldn't + infinitive* to talk about the result.  
*If scientists took a smart pill, they'd be more likely to find cures for illnesses.*
- The *if* clause can come first or second. If it comes **3 first / second**, we usually put a comma before the next clause.

→ Grammar Reference page 154

- 10a Make sentences using the prompts below.
- if we all / stop eating meat / we feel healthier
  - crime rates / go down / if guns be illegal
  - even if we produce / no greenhouse gases at all / it not stop global warming
  - the world be a better place / if there be no tobacco industry
  - if we live in an ideal world / we still find something to complain about
- b Do you agree with the statements in exercise 10a? Discuss them with a partner.
- 11 Make notes about what you would do in these imaginary situations.
- If I could break the law once today ...
  - If I had to choose between health, money and happiness ...
  - If I could meet my country's leader ...
  - If I were in charge of my government's finances ...
  - If I could go back in time and change one event ...



- 12 Work in a group. Make the sentences in exercise 11 into questions and answer them.
- A *What would you do if you could break the law once today?*  
B *I'd go to an expensive restaurant, eat loads of food and leave without paying.*
- 13a **TASK** Work with a partner. You are going to give a 60-second presentation about an idea to make the world a better place. Follow the steps below.
- Think of an idea which would make the world a happier, safer, healthier and/or greener place. Use your imagination! The idea could be:
    - a new way of behaving
    - a new invention
    - a new law
    - a new 'special day' (e.g. international hand-washing day)
  - Write a paragraph of about 120 words. Describe your idea and explain how it would improve the world. Use at least one sentence with *if + past tense + would*.
  - Take turns to read the presentation aloud. Time yourselves.
- b With your partner, form a group with two or three other pairs of students. One person from each pair reads aloud their presentation. The other members of the group give an overall score out of 10 based on the following questions.
- Could it improve the world?
  - Is it an original and interesting idea?
  - Was it 60 seconds long?