

Preliminary assignment for the week in Finland (20–26 Jan 2020)

1. a) This Task 1 is an individual assignment for each travelling student: For one full week (7 days), record all your plastic waste and, if possible, weigh it, for example, with a kitchen scale. At the end of each day, and at the end of the week, add up how many pieces of plastic you discarded and what the combined weight was. Write the information down in the table sent as a separate attachment taking into account the following observations:

- The size of the pieces of plastic may vary. Some items, such as a plastic candy wrapper, may be small, whereas others, such as a broken plastic bag, can be quite large.
- Even though most of you live with your family, try to focus on your personal plastic waste.
- You can choose the seven-day period yourself, but try to choose as normal a week as possible (and not, for example, the Christmas holiday week).

b) When everyone has filled in their individual tables, make a summary of all the students' data:

- What's the average *number* of items thrown away per person during one week?
- What's the average *weight* of the plastic thrown away per person during one week?

2. As a group, try to find answers to the following questions:

- a) Are drink bottles recycled in my country / region / hometown?
 - i. If so, where can they be taken? Does one get money for recycling them? What happens to the drink bottles that have been collected?
 - ii. If drink bottles are thrown into the garbage, what happens to them?
- b) Are other sorts of plastic packaging material collected in my country / region / hometown?
 - i. If so, in what year did this begin?
 - ii. If so, where can an individual consumer take this type of plastic?
 - iii. If so, how many kilograms of plastic is collected to be recycled per year per person?
 - iv. If so, does your country also refine plastics in addition to collecting them (instead of transporting them to some other country)?
 - v. If this type of plastic is thrown into the garbage, what happens to it?
- c) In addition to drink bottles and plastic packaging material, are other sorts of plastic objects (e.g. a used toothbrush, a broken toy, a worn-out chopping board) recycled in my country / region / hometown?
- d) What kind of bags are available at a regular supermarket? Do plastic bags have a separate price?
- e) In your opinion, for what purposes is plastic the best or one of the best materials?

3. Prepare to present your findings concerning Tasks 1 and 2 in Finland. Your presentation may last about 15 min. Being in Finland, we will research, for example, what policies there are in your country to reduce the negative effects of using plastics and what solutions private companies have come up with.