

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Brainstorming

Work in pairs and try to complete answers for sections of this table about pollution.

<i>Air pollution can be caused by...</i>	<i>Water pollution can be caused by...</i>	<i>Soil pollution can be caused by...</i>
1. smoke from factories.	1. factories allowing dirty water to enter rivers or the sea.	1. chemicals leaking from household waste.
2. exhaust from cars.	2. chemicals used in farming getting into rivers etc.	2. farmers using chemicals on farms.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.

### B: Make A Prediction

Answer this question in pairs.

*Today's article is about Hong Kong.*

*What sort of pollution is a serious problem in Hong Kong?*



## Reading Activities

### A: Reading For Main Idea

1. Read Part One of today's article very quickly. (Do not read every word.) Check your prediction from Pre-Reading Activity B.  
*What sort of pollution is a serious problem in Hong Kong?*
2. From what point-of-view does this article look at the problem of pollution in Hong Kong?
  - a. It gives the views of children in Hong Kong.
  - b. It gives the views of artists and writers living in Hong Kong.
  - c. It gives the views of business people in Hong Kong.
  - d. It gives the views of politicians in Hong Kong.

Part One:

## Bad air *taints* Hong Kong's business reputation

Hong Kong, Mon Sep 11, (Reuters) - Andy Ridehalgh, a British expatriate who has worked as an English teacher for three years in Hong Kong, has had enough of the city's air pollution. He'll move with his wife and newborn son to southern France next year.

"I'm asthmatic and I use a lot more Ventolin when I'm here," he said, referring to his asthma medication. "If you think about the effect it's having on me, think about the effect it's having on a small baby. It's not something we want permanently."

Hong Kong's international business community, drawn for years by the city's low taxes and strong legal system, has become increasingly critical of the bad air tainting its business-friendly credentials. "It's a major concern to the chamber and its members and their families," said Deborah Biber, the Chief Executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce.

The British Chamber of Commerce called on Hong Kong's leader, Donald Tsang, to make the environment his top policy priority in the coming few years, saying the **deteriorating** environment was "adversely affecting ... our enviable international status."

### BREATHING BAD AIR

While the economic costs of bad air have been difficult to **quantify**, the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong found in a recent survey that four out of five business executives knew someone who was thinking of leaving or had left the territory because of the poor air.

Nearly 80 percent of the 140 executives polled also found that Hong Kong's level of attractiveness to investors is decreasing because of the deteriorating air quality.

"People in services don't want to breathe bad air. An investment banker can work anywhere in the world, he doesn't have to work in Hong Kong. He can go to Singapore, London or New York," said Alan Seigrist, the head of the group's environment committee, which carried out the survey.... (Continued...)

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**Glossary:** *taints* - damages, *deteriorating* - getting worse, *quantify* - measure and say how much of something

## B: Matching Information

Complete this summary of viewpoints of different people and groups in the article by using information from the article to fill the gaps in the table.

Who	Position	Why they are mentioned in the article
1. _____	English teacher from Britain living in Hong Kong with his family	Planning to leave Hong Kong because of air pollution
Deborah Biber	Leads the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong	2. _____
3. _____	Chief Executive of Hong Kong	Has been asked by the British business community in Hong Kong to make Hong Kong's environmental problems a number one concern
Alan Seigrist	4. _____	Researched and found that financiers are more reluctant to work in Hong Kong because of its poor air

## C: Choose The Best Answer

Use Part One of the article to choose the best answer for each of these statements.

- People want to do business in Hong Kong because...
  - it has low taxes.
  - it has strong laws.
  - both answers a. and b.
- Air pollution is affecting business in Hong Kong because...
  - it means fewer business people want to work there.
  - people see it as being cleaner than New York or London.
  - both answers a. and b.
- Andy Ridehalgh is worried about...
  - his own health if he stays in Hong Kong.
  - the health of his family if they stay in Hong Kong.
  - both answers a. and b.
- The findings of the American Chamber of Commerce's survey of executives suggest that...
  - better air quality would probably encourage business people to stay in Hong Kong.
  - business people are choosing to leave Hong Kong because of its air quality.
  - both answers a. and b.

## D: Vocabulary Extension

1. Choose any of the words below from **Part One** of today's article and check their meanings in your dictionary.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| * pollution     | * medication   |
| * deteriorating | * concern      |
| * environment   | * critical     |
| * quality       | * top priority |

2. Prepare sentences that use these words.

3. Then work in pairs and read your sentences to each other. As you read them, replace the word from today with the word '*elephant*'. Your partner must guess what the missing word is.



# Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

## A: Extra Reading

Complete these sentences with information from **Part Two** of today's article.

1. In [ ] the number of British, Canadian and Australian expatriates living in Hong Kong decreased from 63,000 to [ ].
2. A lot of the air pollution in Hong Kong comes from coal-fired power stations in [ ] and factories in [ ] province.
3. There are hopes that by [ ] air pollutants will have been cut by [ ].
4. From [ ] to June 2006 there were 65 smoggy days with a decreased visibility of less than [ ] kilometers.

### Part Two:

(Continued.../.) With few natural resources save its deep water harbor, Hong Kong can ill afford to lose top business talent to cities including Singapore that are also competing to be the Asian hub for global banks, money managers and other multinationals.

Government statistics for 2005 showed double-digit percentage declines in the number of British, Canadian and Australian expatriates who live in Hong Kong to around 51,000 individuals from 63,000. The government included pollution as a factor.

#### LONG TERM PROBLEM

Much of Hong Kong's air pollution comes from local coal-fired power stations, experts say, but a large amount is also blown across the border from the tens of thousands of Chinese factories in neighboring Guangdong province, many of them Hong Kong-owned.

The Hong Kong and Guangdong governments have pledged to cut pollutants including sulfur dioxide by 40 percent by 2010.

For the first six months of this year, Hong Kong suffered 65 days of smog reduced visibility of less than five kilometers, making it difficult at times to glimpse buildings across the harbor. Its particulate levels are around 40 percent higher than in Los Angeles, the most polluted city in the United States e the pedal goes out into the water.

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## B: Discussion

Answer these questions in small groups.

1. How can the government of a country encourage businesses to become 'cleaner' and more environmentally-friendly?
2. How can people living in an area persuade their government to take environmental pollution seriously?

## C: Language

**Part One:** The first conditional is used to talk about a possible condition and a probable future result. We say what we think will happen in a situation.

*If I stay in Hong Kong, my asthma will get worse.*

The first conditional is **if + present simple, will + infinitive** (*without to*).

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct forms in the following sentences.

1. If Hong Kong [ ] up its air, business people [ ] to live there. (*clean, want*)
2. If the leader [ ] to stop air pollution, he [ ] to cut pollutants from power stations and factories. (*want, need*)
3. If the city [ ] cleaner air, business people [ ] to other places like Singapore. (*not get, move*)
4. If we [ ] businesses that pollute the environment, they [ ] harder to have fewer pollutants. (*fine, try*)
5. If we [ ] more trees, it [ ] the quality of the air. (*plant, improve*)

**Part Two:** The second conditional is used to talk about an imaginary condition and its probable result in the present or future.

The second conditional is **if + past simple, would + infinitive** (*without to*).

*If we didn't use cars, the air in our city would be much cleaner.*

(In the sentence above the condition is imaginary because it is different from the real situation because we do use cars.)

*If I were\* the President, I would make strong laws about air pollution. (But I am not the President.)*

\*A lot of people say, "If I **was** President,..." , especially when speaking. This is now quite common in everyday English.

Complete these sentences using your own ideas and writing about air pollution.

1. If I were the leader of Hong Kong, ... (*you complete the sentence*)
2. If I were a businessperson living in Hong Kong, ...
3. If I were a politician living in Singapore, ...
4. If people were not worried about the air pollution in Hong Kong, ...
5. If I had asthma and lived in Hong Kong, ...

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Reading Activities

### A: Brainstorming - Notes

The purpose of this activity is to get students sharing what they know about causes of pollution. If students are interested, there are a number of excellent website about pollution, effects and what we could do to clean the planet up.

### B: Make A Prediction - Notes

Students quickly say what kinds of pollution affect Hong Kong. Students will find the answer to this question in the next activity.

## Reading Activities

### A: Reading For Main Idea - Answers

1. Air pollution.
2. c.

### B: Matching Information - Answers

1. Andy Ridehalgh, 2. Says air pollution is a serious worry to businesses, 3. Donald Tsang, 4. Leads the American Chamber of Commerce's environment committee in Hong Kong.

### C: Choose The Best Answer - Answers

1. c, 2. c, 3.a. 4. c.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Extra Reading - Answers

1. 2005, 51,000, 2. Hong Kong, Guangdong, 3. 2010, 40%, 4. January, 5.

### B: Discussion - Sample Answers

1. Have awards and competitions for the 'cleanest' businesses, offer tax breaks for companies that are environmentally-friendly, penalize companies who break environmental regulations, allow businesses to advertise their environmentally-friendly brands which are approved by the government, have education campaigns for businesses, encourage cooperation between businesses in different countries that are interested in having more environmentally-friendly production.

2. Write letters to politicians and newspapers, only buy environmentally-friendly products, ask their politicians what they are doing to encourage companies to be environmentally-friendly.

### B: Discussion - Notes

This activity provides good preparation for the language activity.

### C: Language - Answers and Sample Answers

#### Part One

1. If Hong Kong cleans up its air, business people will want to live there.
2. If the leader wants to stop air pollution, he will need to cut pollutants from power stations and factories.
3. If the city doesn't get cleaner air, business people will move to other places like Singapore.
4. If we fine businesses that pollute the environment, they will try harder to have fewer pollutants.
5. If we plant more trees, it will improve the quality of the air.

#### Part Two

1. If I were the leader of Hong Kong, I would set up a group to look at air pollution.
2. If I were a businessperson living in Hong Kong, I would pressure the government to clean up the air.
3. If I were a politician living in Singapore, I would advertise in business magazines inviting investors to come to Singapore instead of Hong Kong.
4. If people were not worried about the air pollution in Hong Kong, the problem would probably get worse.
5. If I had asthma and lived in Hong Kong, I would think about moving somewhere else.

