

## Unit 9 Environmental Issues

### Warm Up

Match the *before* situation with the *after*



Zhuhai is a city in the Southwest of the Pearl River Delta in southern China. It has more than 300 beaches. And there are many different islands. Some of them have been developed for tourism by the government, such as Dongao Island, Hebao Island, and Lingding Island. Others are still under development while the government focuses on environmental protection.

Zhuhai has many nature reserves, including the coastal wetland reserve, the biggest mangrove reserve in China, where the almost extinct glyptostrobus tree can be found. The glyptostrobus is a member of the conifer family, as is the Christmas tree. According to Wikipedia, “There appear to be no remaining wild glyptostrobus in China.”

However, the glyptostrobus lives on in Zhuhai, which may therefore be the last place in China to keep this tree alive.

All these beaches and reserves have become symbols of Zhuhai and help build the reputation of the city. With the development of the city, more and more pollution is affecting Zhuhai. People need to learn to preserve our environment. Thus, the government is promoting environmental awareness among the population.



The glyptostrobus tree

## Reading

Read the passage again and answer the following questions.

1. How many beaches are there in Zhuhai?
2. What kind of reserves does Zhuhai have?
3. What do you think of Zhuhai's environment? Why?

Work with your partner and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. Zhuhai is in the Northwest region of the Pearl River Delta.
2. All of the islands in Zhuhai are developed.
3. Zhuhai has the biggest mangrove reserve in China.
4. The government has built a panda reserve in Zhuhai.
5. The glyptostrobos reserve is the biggest one in China.
6. There are no pollution problems in Zhuhai.

## Dialogue

- Jennifer: Did you watch TV yesterday?
- Alison: No. Why?
- Jennifer: The sea near the Lovers' Road turned red during the day and it was shining at night. A lot of people rushed there to take photos.
- Alison: Wow! That's weird. Did they say why?
- Jennifer: Yes. It happened because of pollution. Industrial wastewater and sanitary wastewater were poured into the sea, leading to the rapid growth of Algae.
- Alison: Oh, algae are not harmful. Why is this so serious?
- Jennifer: Well, actually it is called red tide. The increasing amount of Algae impedes the breath of the ocean animals. What's more, if the ocean animals eat the Algae, they will be poisoned and die. You know? If Zhuhai people continue to eat local seafood, we could also be poisoned.
- Alison: Sounds horrible. I don't want to eat seafood anymore.
- Jennifer: Yes, hopefully, the government will do something about it.

## Speaking

Act out the dialogue with your partner.

## Grammar Task

Make sentences following the example.

Example:           a. The ocean animals eat the Algae.

                          b. The ocean animals are poisoned and die.

                          If the ocean animals eat the Algae, they will be poisoned and die.

a. Alison eats chocolate.

b. Alison gets fat.

\_\_\_\_\_.

a. It rains.

b. We stay at home.

\_\_\_\_\_.

a. I don't get high grade in my exam.

b. My mom punishes me.

\_\_\_\_\_.

a. You don't dress well.

b. You are not allowed to go into that restaurant.

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Listening

**Listen and fill in the blanks.**

One day a fish named Nimo swam into a new sea area. He met another fish named Summer and he told her that the \_\_\_\_\_ human beings had poured all the waste water into the sea. Not only had his hometown been destroyed but also his food had been \_\_\_\_\_. In order to comfort Nimo, Summer told him that one of the city council members had put forward a \_\_\_\_\_ to develop a marine conservation area. If this proposal was approved, it would improve people's \_\_\_\_\_ of protecting the sea and he hoped there would be no more water \_\_\_\_\_ again.

## Writing

**How can we help protect the sea around Zhuhai? Write about 100 words.**

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## Reading



Qiao Island Mangrove Reserve

The Zhuhai mangrove is located mainly on Qiao and Hengqin islands. There are different kinds of animals and plants in the mangrove wetland, including many birds and marine animals. The mangrove stops prevents windstorms from developing, and helps prevent soil erosion.

In Zhuhai, land reclamation from the ocean has damaged the mangrove wetland. In recent years, with economic development people have needed more land for housing or commercial buildings,

and the mangrove wetland has been damaged as a result.

Therefore, the government will formulate environmental regulations, and all of us should be more aware of how we can protect the environment. If we fail to undertake environmental protection, the mangrove wetland will disappear, and Zhuhai will lose one of its most beautiful assets.

## Comprehension Task

**Read the passage again and talk with your partner according to the following questions.**

1. Where is the mangrove wetland located?
2. What benefits has the mangrove wetland brought?
3. What causes damage to the mangrove?
4. What should we do to protect the mangrove?

## Grammar Task

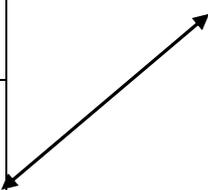
Use the appropriate form of the word to fill in the blank.

1. If the mangrove wetland is damaged, the animals there \_\_\_\_\_ (die).
2. If the sea level \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) rising, many areas will be flooded.
3. If acid rain \_\_\_\_\_ (spread) a lot, plants and animals will die.
4. If one \_\_\_\_\_ (do) harm to the environment, our planet \_\_\_\_\_ (suffer).

## Vocabulary task

Match the appropriate definition to each word.

Distribute	to go away and not be found again
Formulate	to make or build something using different components
Disappear	to prepare or elaborate a detailed plan, proposal or theory
Construct	to begin or take up a task
Undertake	to provide, deliver or give something to people



## Grammar awareness

### First conditional

We use first conditional if the things we discussed will probably happen.

### Basic form

If clause	Main clause
Simple present	Simple future
If Zhuhai people continue to eat this kind of seafood,	they will also be poisoned too.
If we fail to undertake environmental protection,	the mangrove will disappear.

Various grammatical functions

Possibility:                    If he fails again, he may get kicked out of the school.

Permission:                    If you finish, you can go home.

Request or suggestion:      If you want a balanced diet, you need to eat more vegetables and fruit.

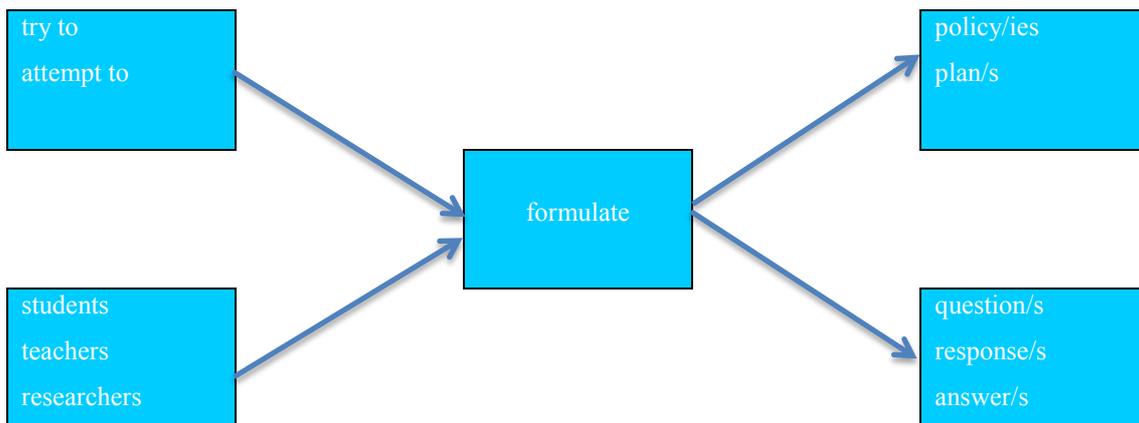
Various tenses used in if-clause

Present continuous:         If you are waiting for the train, you should get in the line.

Present perfect:             If you haven't finished your homework, you should hurry.

## Word Awareness

The top left box shows that *formulate* is used frequently with the verbs of endeavor. The bottom left box shows *formulate* is primarily used by people in the areas of science and education. The top right box shows how *formulate* is commonly used in planning and policy-making. The bottom right box shows how *formulate* is part of an overall question-and-answer process.



Examples:

I try to formulate a decent question in my mind.

Arts educators attempt to formulate policies that will satisfy the demands of educational institutions.

Through active engagement, students formulate meaning and establish memory of newly acquired information.

Teachers should formulate musical objectives for each student.

Computers allow researchers to formulate more precise theories about brain function.

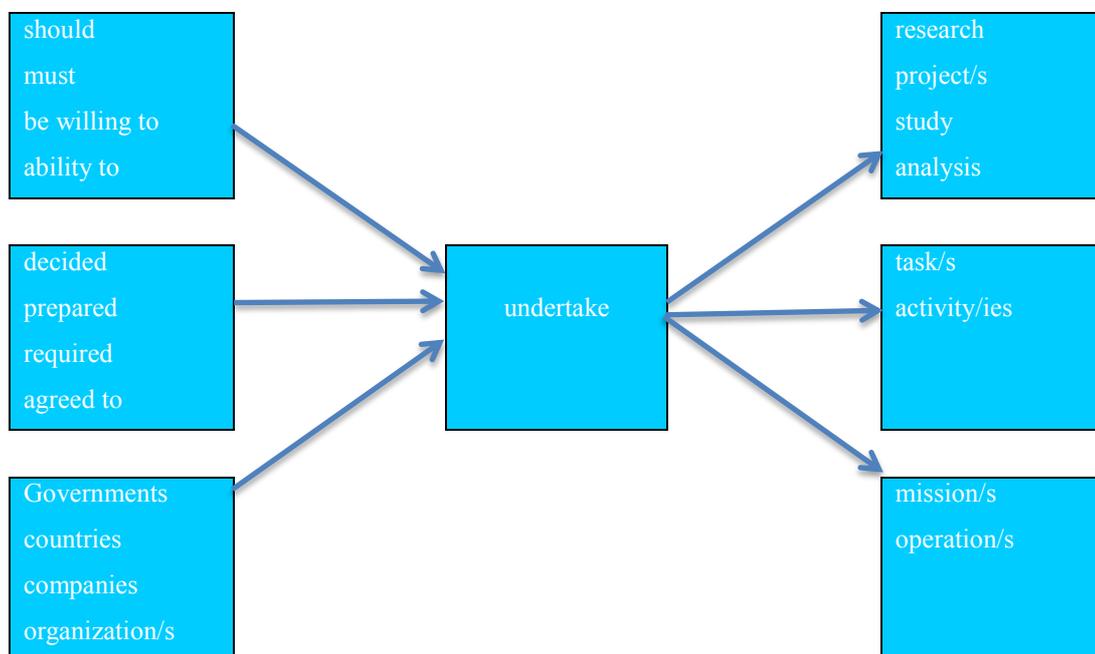
Anyone truly caring about the weak will readily see that we must formulate a world population policy, and do it soon.

We really need someone to help us formulate a plan to figure things out.

I had decided to not formulate any questions in my mind.

We have to formulate just the right response, because our words will be remembered for all time.

Modal verbs are the most frequent verbs to occur with *undertake* (top left), suggesting that undertakings are very probabilistic in nature. The middle left box shows the main verbs commonly used with *undertake*. The bottom left box shows that it is governments and corporations that are the most common agents of *undertake*. The top right box shows that *undertake* is frequently used in academic discourse. The middle left box daily activities that take place with *undertake*. The bottom box show shows that *undertake* is frequently used in military contexts.



Examples:

the Soviet Union should undertake a pre-emptive nuclear strike on the United States.

the creation of a government willing to undertake what is set to be the most painful round of spending cuts

EU countries are prepared to undertake action according to their means.

Wu Yi, China's vice prime minister, also agreed to undertake a broader crackdown on piracy of American copyrights and trademarks

They call upon governments to undertake aggressive family planning programs

The Russian government has a track record of pressuring state-owned companies to undertake large and risky projects

Each center should educate students, undertake research, and foster exchanges

They insist that a way must be found to undertake an objective analysis of the multiple conflicts and injustices

She will soon undertake the task of selecting Mr. Right from among sixteen eligible bachelors

American troops are about to undertake another humanitarian **mission** in Africa.

If the president of the United States decides to undertake military operations with the coalition mentioned by the secretary

## Words You Need To Know

**Construct** (v.): to make or build something using different components. 建造 The workers had been constructing the building for a month.

**Disappear** (v.): make someone or something invisible or unnoticeable. 消失 She had disappeared into the crowd.

**Distribute** (v.): to provide, deliver or give something to people. 分发 The books will be distributed free to local schools.

**Formulate** (v.): to prepare or elaborate a detailed plan, proposal or theory. 制定 They have decided to formulate a new plan today.

**Occur** (v.): Something unexpected happens or takes place. 发生 An accident involving over ten vehicles has occurred in the east-bound lane.

**Phenomenon** (n.): a fact that can be observed, felt, etc., especially something remarkable. 现象 Gravity is a natural phenomenon.

**Poison** (v.): a substance that can harm your health or destroy your life if you eat or drink it. 毒药 Her drink had been laced with a deadly poison.

**Preserve** (n.): to keep something safe from harm, especially protecting wild animals from being hunted or made extinct. 保护区 It is necessary to develop mangrove preserve.

**Remarkable** (adj.): something or somebody unusual or surprising and therefore worthy to be noticed. 非凡的 The 20<sup>th</sup> century was remarkable for its inventions.

**Reputation** (n.): a social evaluation or common opinion that people have about how good a person is. 声誉 The company has a worldwide reputation for quality.

**Reserve** (n.): a place for protecting wild animals from being hunted, or for protecting plants. 保护区 Zhuhai has several mangrove reserves.

**Sanitary** (adj.): keeping something free from dirt and germs or bacteria. 干净的 His kitchen didn't look very sanitary.

**Undertake** (v.): begin to or take on a task. Students are required to undertake simple experiments.

**Unethical** (adj.): wrong or unacceptable behavior according to moral beliefs or principles. 不道德的 What he has done is not unethical at all.