

Farmers and Biodiversity

A2 Reading, Listening, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
rural	relating to the countryside, not a city
repellent	a substance used to keep insects away
retired	no longer working because of age
increase	to become larger in number or amount
habitat	the natural home of a plant or animal
fence line	the border between two properties, marked by a fence
pick up	to lift or take hold of something
put on	to place clothing or a substance onto your body
head outside	to go outside, especially to start an activity
set up	to establish or start something, like a system or plan

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A2 Worksheet

Part 2: Reading

This text uses the Simple Present, Present Continuous, and Simple Past. Read the text.

John Rice starts his morning early every day. He picks up a water bottle instead of coffee, because summer days in rural Virginia often reach 95 degrees.

Right now, up the road, John Sessler is putting on his leather gloves. He is also spraying on insect repellent before he heads outside to work.

Even though both men are retired, they haven't slowed down. Last year, they started working together on a special project. They want to increase biodiversity — the number of different plants and animals living in one place.

Scientists from the Smithsonian set up new farming methods in the Shenandoah Valley. These methods help create and connect natural habitats, while farms stay productive.

Farmers like Rice and Sessler are happy to work across their fence lines. They believe that neighbors working together can help keep their valley full of wildlife.

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A2 Worksheet

Part 3: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. rural	___	A. to go outside, especially to start an activity
2. repellent	___	B. to place clothing or a substance onto your body
3. retired	___	C. a substance used to keep insects away
4. increase	___	D. relating to the countryside, not a city
5. habitat	___	E. the natural home of a plant or animal
6. fence line	___	F. to establish or start something, like a system or plan
7. pick up	___	G. no longer working because of age
8. put on	___	H. the border between two properties, marked by a fence
9. head outside	___	I. to become larger in number or amount
10. set up	___	J. to lift or take hold of something

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A2 Worksheet

Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the word with the same meaning.

1. Which word means the same as "rural"?

- ☐ A) urban
- ☐ B) countryside
- ☐ C) busy

2. Which word means the same as "retired"?

- ☐ A) no longer working
- ☐ B) working
- ☐ C) traveling

3. Which word means the same as "increase"?

- ☐ A) decrease
- ☐ B) stay the same
- ☐ C) grow

4. Which word means the same as "habitat"?

- ☐ A) natural home
- ☐ B) office
- ☐ C) school

5. Which word means the same as "repellent"?

- ☐ A) food
- ☐ B) substance that keeps insects away
- ☐ C) clothing

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "rural"?

☐ A) urban

☐ B) quiet

☐ C) green

2. Which word means the opposite of "retired"?

☐ A) old

☐ B) working

☐ C) tired

3. Which word means the opposite of "increase"?

☐ A) grow

☐ B) decrease

☐ C) rise

4. Which word means the opposite of "early"?

☐ A) late

☐ B) soon

☐ C) fast

5. Which word means the opposite of "productive"?

☐ A) busy

☐ B) helpful

☐ C) lazy

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A2 Worksheet

Part 6: Grammar — Which tense is used?

Read each sentence from the text. Circle the correct tense.

1. "John Rice starts his morning early every day."

☐ A) Present Continuous

☐ B) Simple Present

☐ C) Simple Past

2. "John Sessler is putting on his leather gloves."

☐ A) Present Continuous

☐ B) Simple Past

☐ C) Simple Present

3. "He is also spraying on insect repellent."

☐ A) Simple Past

☐ B) Simple Present

☐ C) Present Continuous

4. "Last year, they started working together on a special project."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Simple Past

☐ C) Present Continuous

5. "Scientists from the Smithsonian set up new farming methods last year."

☐ A) Simple Past

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Present

6. "They want to increase biodiversity."

☐ A) Present Continuous

☐ B) Simple Past

☐ C) Simple Present

Part 7: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. John Rice ____ his morning early every day.

☐ A) start

☐ B) started

☐ C) starts

2. John Sessler ____ on his leather gloves right now.

☐ A) is putting

☐ B) puts

☐ C) put

3. Last year, they ____ working together.

☐ A) start

☐ B) started

☐ C) are starting

4. They ____ to increase biodiversity.

☐ A) wants

☐ B) wanted

☐ C) want

5. Scientists ____ new farming methods last year.

☐ A) set up

☐ B) sets up

☐ C) are setting up

6. Right now, he ____ insect repellent.

☐ A) sprays

☐ B) is spraying

☐ C) sprayed

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A2 Worksheet

Part 8: Grammar — Change the tense

1. Change to Present Continuous: "John Rice starts his morning early."

- ☐ A) John Rice started his morning early.
- ☐ B) John Rice is starting his morning early.
- ☐ C) John Rice starts his morning early to work.

2. Change to Simple Past: "They start working together."

- ☐ A) They are starting working together.
- ☐ B) They starts working together.
- ☐ C) They started working together.

3. Change to Simple Present: "Scientists were setting up new methods."

- ☐ A) Scientists set up new methods.
- ☐ B) Scientists setted up new methods.
- ☐ C) Scientists are setting up new methods.

4. Change to Present Continuous: "He sprays insect repellent."

- ☐ A) He sprayed insect repellent.
- ☐ B) He is spraying insect repellent.
- ☐ C) He sprays insect repellent daily.

5. Change to Simple Past: "They want to increase biodiversity."

- ☐ A) They are wanting to increase biodiversity.
- ☐ B) They wants to increase biodiversity.
- ☐ C) They wanted to increase biodiversity.

Part 9: Word Scramble

Put the words in the correct order. Write the full sentence.

1. starts / John / Rice / his / morning / early / every / day.

Your sentence: _____

2. is / John / Sessler / putting / on / his / leather / gloves.

Your sentence: _____

3. started / Last / year, / they / working / together / on / a / special / project.

Your sentence: _____

4. set / Scientists / from / the / Smithsonian / up / new / farming / methods.

Your sentence: _____

5. are / Farmers / like / Rice / and / Sessler / happy / to / work / across / their / fence / lines.

Your sentence: _____

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A2 Worksheet

Part 10: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Maya and Leo talk about the farmers. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Maya: Have you heard about the farmers in the Shenandoah Valley?

Leo: Yes! John Rice ____ (1) ____ his morning very early every day.

Maya: Right now, John Sessler ____ (2) ____ on his gloves before work.

Leo: I read that last year, they ____ (3) ____ a special project together.

Maya: They want to ____ (4) ____ biodiversity on their farms.

Leo: I heard scientists ____ (5) ____ new farming methods last year.

Maya: These methods create good ____ (6) ____ for animals.

Leo: The farmers work across their ____ (7) ____ to help each other.

Maya: It's great that they ____ (8) ____ outside every day to do this work.

1. Blank 1

- ☐ A) start
- ☐ B) started
- ☐ C) starts

2. Blank 2

- ☐ A) is putting
- ☐ B) puts
- ☐ C) put

3. Blank 3

- ☐ A) start
- ☐ B) started
- ☐ C) starting

4. Blank 4

☐ A) decrease

☐ B) protect

☐ C) increase

5. Blank 5

☐ A) set up

☐ B) sets up

☐ C) setting up

6. Blank 6

☐ A) farms

☐ B) habitats

☐ C) valleys

7. Blank 7

☐ A) roads

☐ B) rivers

☐ C) fence lines

8. Blank 8

☐ A) head

☐ B) heads

☐ C) heading

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Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

1. rural → D
2. repellent → C
3. retired → G
4. increase → I
5. habitat → E
6. fence line → H
7. pick up → J
8. put on → B
9. head outside → A
10. set up → F

Part 4: Synonyms

1. Which word means the same as "rural"?

☐ A) urban

☒ B) countryside ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) busy

2. Which word means the same as "retired"?

☒ A) no longer working ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) working

☐ C) traveling

3. Which word means the same as "increase"?

☐ A) decrease

☐ B) stay the same

☒ C) grow ✓ CORRECT

4. Which word means the same as "habitat"?

☒ A) natural home ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) office

☐ C) school

5. Which word means the same as "repellent"?

☐ A) food

☒ B) substance that keeps insects away ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) clothing

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Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "rural"?

☒ A) urban ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) quiet

☐ C) green

2. Which word means the opposite of "retired"?

☐ A) old

☒ B) working ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) tired

3. Which word means the opposite of "increase"?

☐ A) grow

☒ B) decrease ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) rise

4. Which word means the opposite of "early"?

☒ A) late ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) soon

☐ C) fast

5. Which word means the opposite of "productive"?

☐ A) busy

☐ B) helpful

☒ C) lazy ✓ CORRECT

Part 6: Which Tense is Used?

1. "John Rice starts his morning early every day."

☐ A) Present Continuous

☒ B) Simple Present ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Simple Past

2. "John Sessler is putting on his leather gloves."

☒ A) Present Continuous ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Simple Past

☐ C) Simple Present

3. "He is also spraying on insect repellent."

☐ A) Simple Past

☐ B) Simple Present

☒ C) Present Continuous ✓ CORRECT

4. "Last year, they started working together on a special project."

☐ A) Simple Present

☒ B) Simple Past ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Present Continuous

5. "Scientists from the Smithsonian set up new farming methods last year."

☒ A) Simple Past ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Present

6. "They want to increase biodiversity."

☐ A) Present Continuous

☐ B) Simple Past

☒ C) Simple Present ✓ CORRECT

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 7: Correct Verb Form

1. John Rice ____ his morning early every day.

☐ A) start

☐ B) started

☒ C) starts ✓ CORRECT

2. John Sessler ____ on his leather gloves right now.

☒ A) is putting ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) puts

☐ C) put

3. Last year, they ____ working together.

☐ A) start

☒ B) started ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) are starting

4. They ____ to increase biodiversity.

☐ A) wants

☐ B) wanted

☒ C) want ✓ CORRECT

5. Scientists ____ new farming methods last year.

☒ A) set up ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) sets up

☐ C) are setting up

6. Right now, he ____ insect repellent.

☐ A) sprays

☒ B) is spraying ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) sprayed

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 8: Change the Tense

1. Change to Present Continuous: "John Rice starts his morning early."

☐ A) John Rice started his morning early.

☒ B) John Rice is starting his morning early. ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) John Rice starts his morning early to work.

2. Change to Simple Past: "They start working together."

☐ A) They are starting working together.

☐ B) They starts working together.

☒ C) They started working together. ✓ CORRECT

3. Change to Simple Present: "Scientists were setting up new methods."

☒ A) Scientists set up new methods. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Scientists setted up new methods.

☐ C) Scientists are setting up new methods.

4. Change to Present Continuous: "He sprays insect repellent."

☐ A) He sprayed insect repellent.

☒ B) He is spraying insect repellent. ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) He sprays insect repellent daily.

5. Change to Simple Past: "They want to increase biodiversity."

☐ A) They are wanting to increase biodiversity.

☐ B) They wants to increase biodiversity.

☒ C) They wanted to increase biodiversity. ✓ CORRECT

Part 9: Word Scramble

1. starts / John / Rice / his / morning / early / every / day.

✓ John Rice starts his morning early every day.

2. is / John / Sessler / putting / on / his / leather / gloves.

✓ John Sessler is putting on his leather gloves.

3. started / Last / year, / they / working / together / on / a / special / project.

✓ Last year, they started working together on a special project.

4. set / Scientists / from / the / Smithsonian / up / new / farming / methods.

✓ Scientists from the Smithsonian set up new farming methods.

5. are / Farmers / like / Rice / and / Sessler / happy / to / work / across / their / fence / lines.

✓ Farmers like Rice and Sessler are happy to work across their fence lines.

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 10: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☐ A) start

☐ B) started

☒ C) starts ✓ CORRECT

2. Blank 2

☒ A) is putting ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) puts

☐ C) put

3. Blank 3

☐ A) start

☒ B) started ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) starting

4. Blank 4

☐ A) decrease

☐ B) protect

☒ C) increase ✓ CORRECT

5. Blank 5

☒ A) set up ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) sets up

☐ C) setting up

6. Blank 6

☐ A) farms

☒ B) habitats ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) valleys

7. Blank 7

☐ A) roads

☐ B) rivers

☒ C) fence lines ✓ CORRECT

8. Blank 8

☒ A) head ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) heads

☐ C) heading