

WORD FORMATION

1 Discuss the questions.

- When you buy something, do you ever worry about the effect it might have on the environment?
- Do you think people should worry about this? Why?/Why not?

2 Read the text, ignoring the gaps and the words in capitals. How does the production of pencils and pens affect the environment?

PENCILS, PENS AND PLANET EARTH

Pencils are considered to be one of the most ⁰ worthwhile inventions in human history, but when you pick up a pencil, do you ever think about how ¹ _____ the manufacture of these things can be to the environment? Well, perhaps you should.

Pencils are ² _____ from wood and graphite, but the graphite comes from mines which often pollute local rivers. In terms of the amount of ³ _____ damage it causes, mining a ton of graphite is much less ⁴ _____ than the extraction of many other resources from the ground, but think of the millions of people in the world who use pencils!

Some people think that using pens is less ⁵ _____ for the environment because pens last longer. With a single biro, you could draw a ⁶ _____ line for two miles! A pencil's lead would run out long before that. However, pens aren't a ⁷ _____ clean alternative. Cheap, ⁸ _____ pens are made from plastics, and these come from the oil industry. ⁹ _____ they also use up large quantities of metal and inks.

In the end, we need both pens and pencils. So instead of ¹⁰ _____ about which is better for the environment, perhaps we should buy ones which are made from recycled materials.

WORTH

DAMAGE

PRODUCT

ENVIRONMENT

HARM

DESTROY

CONTINUE

COMPLETE

DISPOSE

FORTUNATE

WORRY

