

Unit 1: Problems! Problems! Problems!

Level 3

Reading: How can we create positive social change during these turbulent times?

World problems, such as global warming, war, prejudice, sickness, and poverty, **plague society** today. How can we solve these problems through our governments, businesses, and organizations? How can individual citizens of various countries around the world collaborate on finding solutions? These are tough questions, but it is extremely important that we **address** them in order to come up with solutions to these critical issues of **planetary survival**.

Key Words

plague – to cause difficulties, struggles, troubles, etc.
society – a system in which people live and relate to each other, consisting of families, neighborhoods, towns, cities, states, and nations.
address – look at, deal with, answer
planetary – worldwide
survival – staying alive

Conversation

Wow! Sometimes I feel completely overwhelmed as I contemplate the numerous problems in the world.	
	What problems are you referring to specifically?
Have you been keeping up with all the reports in the media recently?	
	No, not recently. What's happening in the news that is so overwhelming to you?
There are wars, environmental problems, issues of prejudice and discrimination... I'm not sure what we can do to help alleviate any of these problems.	
	I'm not sure how to solve these problems either. Why don't we go see a movie? It will distract you for awhile and alleviate some of your stress.
A: That sounds like an excellent idea.	

Useful Phrases for Further Conversation

What should _____ (countries, citizens)
do to _____ (prevent conflict, prevent global warming)
when _____? (human rights are violated, many deny there is a problem)