

Washing up yourself is good for the soul

You are in charge of the *Letters to the editor* section in a newspaper. Recently, your paper has published an article entitled *How you can do your bit in the war against climate change* in which the author suggests that using a dishwasher is not more energy efficient than hand washing. You have been asked to extract the main ideas from the readers' opinions expressed in their letters. The aim is to see how people view this issue (extent of the problem, consequences, suggested solutions...).

Read the following letters and **write down the main ideas** in the chart below. Remember that getting the main ideas doesn't mean copying complete sentences. (Around 100 words)

Letter 1

I have to disagree with Jo Steranka. Dishwashers are typically much more efficient than hand washing in terms of energy and water consumption. Research carried out by Christian Paul Richter (*Usage of dishwashers: observation of consumer habits in the domestic environment, International Journal of Consumer Studies, 2011*) on 200 households in Germany, Italy, Sweden and Britain, found that households with a dishwasher used on average 50% less water and 28% less energy per cleaned item than households that didn't own a dishwasher. Even so, a higher degree of sustainability was identified because 20% of dishwasher cycles were not fully utilised and 52% operated at a temperature that was higher than necessary.

Finally, let's put the blame where it really belongs: the fossil fuel industry, big energy companies, the City and their mates in parliament who give us warm words and sympathy whilst blocking any real progress on climate change.

Eric Banks

Huntsham, Devon

Letter 2

Colin Ferguson's defence of the dishwasher (Letters, 19 October) is misguided. Washing by hand uses less water if you use a washing-up bowl. A dishwasher only does better if one washes under a running tap. But he makes the common mistake of treating flow, not stock. A dishwasher embodies significant energy and raw materials, and needs to be disposed of and replaced. Life cycle analysis figures have been used to justify dishwashers, but these usually assume that hand washing is done under a hot tap run at full blast for a prolonged period, and completely ignore the environmental impact of the electronic and plastic components.

Clare Hay

Cambridge

Letter 3

Please can someone explain to me how washing up by hand (one bowl of hot water, dishes washed in order of cleanliness, obviously, possibly another bowl for extra dirty saucepans, after soaking) can ever use more water and energy than a dishwasher, which swishes around for an hour or so, at temperatures that make contents too hot to handle when finished? I cannot understand the comparison. But then I am a devoted hand washer-up. It's good for the soul, all that thinking and observing the back garden!

Frances Middleton

Honingham, Norfolk

(From: *The Guardian*)

Letter 1	
Letter 2	
Letter 3	

KEY

Letter 1	According to some research dishwashers use less energy and water even though some people don't use them properly. We have to blame the situation of the issue of climate change on fossil fuel and energy companies and the Government.
Letter 2	Washing by hand uses more water only when you do it under a running tap. Dishwashers create environmentally damaging waste.
Letter 3	Considering the time, energy, water and temperature used by a dishwasher, washing by hand is more environmentally friendly and emotionally comforting.

Descriptor

Mediating a text

For all the descriptors in the scales in this section, *Language A* and *Language B* may be two different languages, two varieties of the same language, two registers of the same variety, or any combination of the above. However, they may also be identical: the CEFR is clear that mediation may be in one language. Users may thus wish to specify the languages/varieties involved when adapting the descriptors to their context.

Relaying specific information in writing

No descriptors available; see B2

- Can relay in writing (in Language B) the relevant point(s) contained in propositionally complex but well-structured texts (written Language A) within his/her fields of professional, academic and personal interest.