 

**CLIL lesson about sustainability and biodiversity**

**PART A – Reading Comprehension**

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

**Organic** food is extremely popular these days. It can also be awfully expensive**.** Some organic food costs twice as much as non-organic food. Parents of young children, and even some pet owners, will pay unreasonable prices for organic food if they think it is healthier. But many others think organic food is just a**waste of money.**

There is one main difference between organic and non-organic food. Organic farms do not use **agricultural** chemicals such as **pesticides** that stop insects from damaging crops. In many countries foods that claim to be organic must have special **labels** that guarantee they are grown organically.

Some people think organic also means "locally grown", and originally this was true. But over time organic farming has become big business, with many organic foods now being grown by large agricultural companies that sell their products far from where they are grown. **Processed** food made with organic **ingredients** has also become more popular. At first, only small companies **produced** these products. But as **demand** overtook **supply**, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products. Small organic food companies found it difficult to compete with these big companies, and many did not **stay in business** much longer.

Is organic food safer and more **nutritious**? This is an important part of the **debate**. Many farmers and **consumers** believe it is. They think agricultural chemicals can cause serious illnesses like cancer, but there is not much **evidence** proving this is true. However recent studies have shown that eating organically grown **produce** reduces your chances of developing heart disease. Many doctors think it is more important to stop dangerous bacteria from **contaminating** foods. These bacteria can contaminate both organic and non-organic fruit and vegetables, and doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it. Meat, fish, and chicken can also become contaminated, so washing your hands before **managing** these foods is also especially important. Many doctors also believe we should reduce the amount of sugar in our diets, and there is a lot of evidence to support this idea. They recommend carefully checking the list of ingredients on processed food and drinks for all the words that really mean sugar, like glucose, sucrose, and fructose. And they remind us that the aim of most big food companies is to make lots of money, even if they damage our health while doing so. This means processed foods that are called "organic" can also be very unhealthy if they contain lots of sugar.

Most people agree that naturally grown food tastes better. Is tastier food worth the extra money? That is a matter of opinion. Whether organic food is healthier or not is still not clear, so more research is needed. However, consumers of organic food often say **"better safe than sorry"** when it comes to what we eat.

1. What is the main difference between organic and non-organic food?
2. What is the difficulty that small organic food companies face today?
3. What have recent studies shown about the benefits that organic food has in our health?
4. How can we stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating our food?
5. Which ingredient should we reduce consuming? Find three words in the text which describe this ingredient on food packages.
6. What is the meaning of the saying *better safe than sorry*? Is there a similar saying in your language?

**PART B – Listening and speaking**

Watch two videos about biodiversity and sustainable development. In groups of three, discuss the following questions.

1. What can we do to protect biodiversity?
2. How can we slow down and eventually stop climatic change?
3. How can we achieve fair distribution of goods?
4. How can we achieve sustainable development socially?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTC4qiXd36Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7V8oFI4GYMY&t=3s>