Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1. Do you read any international magazines or watch foreign television shows or films? Why / Why not?
2. Do you like fashion or music from other countries? Why / Why not?
3. What international restaurants are there in your country? What foods do they serve?
4. Do you buy any foods from other countries at the supermarket? If so, what foods do you buy?
You are going to watch a video about how food travels around the world. Before you watch, read the text and match the words in bold (1–8) to the definitions below (a–h).

**Agriculture** is essential to everyday life, producing food, fuel and other materials that we couldn’t live without. We eat **agricultural** products every day. Ice cream, for example, is made from cows’ milk; its sugar comes from sugar cane and its flavourings come from plants like cocoa and vanilla.

As most people don’t live on farms, it means that the food farmers grow usually has to be transported long distances to **consumers**. **Crops** like rice are grown in **paddies** in China and India and **exported** internationally. These two countries are some of the biggest agricultural **providers** in the world.

**Definitions:**

- **a** farming or related to farming
- **b** to make something or bring it into existence
- **c** to send something to another country for sale
- **d** plants that are grown for food
- **e** farming
- **f** people who buy products or services for their own use
- **g** fields of water where rice is grown
- **h** someone who provides something
2 Work with a partner and answer the questions below.

1. What foods are grown in your country?
2. Are the fresh foods sold in supermarkets in your country mostly grown locally, or imported from abroad?
3. Why do most countries import some foods?

WHILE WATCHING

3 Watch the video. Which sentence best describes the topic?

1. The international food supply chain is wrong because it creates pollution.
2. The international food supply chain offers consumers a wider choice of food.
3. The international food supply chain destroys local economies and farmers’ livelihoods.

4 Watch again. Answer the questions below.

1. Which factors are having a major impact on the international trade system in the 21st century?
2. How long have farmers worked in the rice paddies in Longsheng, China?
3. How many countries in the world export more agricultural products than France?
4. What percentage of its agricultural produce does Australia export?
5. How much money does Australia earn annually by selling agricultural produce abroad?
6. Where are the Mexican farmers’ prickly pears sold?
7. What positive effects has selling prickly pears internationally had on the community in the video?

DISCUSSION

5 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

1. Does your country export agricultural products? What does it export?
2. Which countries does it export to?
LISTENING 1

PREPARING TO LISTEN

Predicting content
Predicting the content of listening material before you listen to it can help you to connect a topic to what you already know. This will make it easier to understand key information when you listen the first time.

1 You are going to listen to the first part of a radio programme called the 49,000km fruit salad. Before you listen, work with a partner. Look at the photograph and programme name and choose the topics (1–8) that you think will be included.

1 Supermarkets 5 Specialist food shops
2 Environmental pollution 6 Locally grown fruit and vegetables
3 The creation of jobs 7 Shipping food by aeroplane
4 Multinational corporations 8 International meat and dairy transport
WHILE LISTENING

2 List to the radio programme and check your answers to Exercise 1.

3 Listen to the radio programme again. Write true (T) or false (F) next to the statements below.

1 The radio programme is investigating the types of food people buy.
2 Most of the food David is buying is imported.
3 David usually tries to eat foods that are grown locally.
4 The global food industry limits the types of fruit and vegetables people eat.
5 Altogether, the fruit David is buying has travelled 47,000 kilometres.
6 Locally grown food is always environmentally friendly.

POST-LISTENING

4 Choose the statement (a–c) that best matches the radio programme reporter’s opinion.

1 ‘Cheap food comes at a price.’
   a Cheap food can have hidden negative effects.
   b Cheap food costs less for consumers.
   c Cheap food is better for the environment.

2 ‘The 49,000 kilometre fruit salad.’
   a Shipping fruit by air is a good thing.
   b Shipping fruit by air is not environmentally friendly.
   c Shipping fruit by air is cheap and easy.

3 ‘What’s the true environmental cost of David’s healthy lunch?’
   a Shipping fruit around the world might cause global warming.
   b The price of fruit at the supermarket is too high.
   c If we don’t eat enough fruit, we won’t be healthy.
Consonant clusters

Mixtures of consonant sounds (consonant clusters) can cause problems with note-taking as it is possible to write the wrong word because you misheard the speaker. Consonant clusters can be heard at the start of words, like *grow*, *fly* and *cross* or at the end of words like *cost*, *passed* and *find*.

5 Listen to the consonant clusters in these sentences and underline the word the speaker says.

1. These agricultural products are already *growing* / *going* abroad.
2. We grow many kinds of *tea* / *tree* on this plantation.
3. The police regularly *fine* / *find* illegal imports.
4. The company *sold* / *sewed* more clothes overseas last year.
5. The bananas are *tied* / *timed* so that they ripen together.
6. *Flying* / *Frying* the crops causes air pollution.
7. The products *pass* / *passed* through customs easily.
8. I want to know why these routes *cost* / *crossed* more.

6 Listen and correct the mistakes in this student’s notes.

There hasn’t been much *sport* from the government over the issue of imported agricultural crops. There are *free* issues with this. Furs, nearly a *six* of all imported fruit cannot grow in our *crime ate*. Secondly, the *estate* should help our own farmers rather than foreign growers. Finally, we should not fall into the *tap* of not going enough food. What *wood* happen if it didn’t *train* and we were left with a food shortage?

DISCUSSION

7 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

1. What fresh foods are often imported in your country?
2. Do you often buy imported fresh food? Why / Why not?
3. Why do you think people in the UK buy food that has travelled long distances? Is this also common in your country?
The active and passive voice

We use the passive voice when the result of an action is more important than who or what made it happen (the agent). If we want to use the passive voice and include the agent, we use *by*.

The passive is often used in formal spoken English, such as lectures. It is formed with the auxiliary verb *be* + the past participle.

**Active:** The UK imports bananas from Thailand.

**Passive:** Bananas are imported from Thailand.

**Passive + agent:** Bananas are imported from Thailand by many supermarkets.

1 Write active (A) or passive (P) next to the statements below.

   1. This fruit is imported from all over the world. (P)
   2. Sea transport creates lower carbon emissions than air transport. (P)
   3. David has recently decided to eat a healthier diet. (A)
   4. The blueberries were flown about 11,100 kilometres. (P)
   5. Fruit and vegetables should be labelled with information about where they have been imported from. (P)

2 Rewrite the sentences below using the passive voice.

   1. Farmers grow tomatoes in greenhouses
      **Tomatoes are grown in greenhouses.**
   2. Companies ship fruit long distances.
   3. All supermarket chains import Spanish tomatoes.
   4. Spanish farmers sell a lot of produce for export.
   5. Farmers must heat greenhouses in the UK.
   6. Supermarkets should give customers more information about where their fruit comes from.
A lot of us try to have the smallest possible (1) **carbon footprint**, to reduce our impact on the environment, but almost all food (2) **produces emissions**, mostly by lorry and aeroplane, produces (3) **carbon dioxide emissions**, putting products into tins, for example, also uses a lot of energy. How can eating at a restaurant help with this?

If you want to eat well without contributing to (5) **climate change**, try The Locavore. We serve delicious food that is less damaging to the (6) **environment**, How?

We keep our food (7) **simple**, as short as possible by (8) **transportation** our (9) **supply chain** directly from farms within 40 kilometres of the restaurant and not buying a single (10) **imported** ingredient, from locally sourced fruit and vegetables to bread we make on-site from wheat grown ten kilometres away.
PREPARING TO LISTEN

1. You are going to listen to a presentation on energy use in food production. Before you listen, discuss the questions below in pairs.
   
   1. What can farmers who live in cool climates do to raise plants from hot countries?
   2. Not including growing food, what other parts of the process of getting food to your plate do you think use energy?

WHILE LISTENING

2. Listen to the presentation. Number the statements (a–e) in the order they are discussed.

   a. Many people believe that locally grown food is more environmentally friendly.
   b. Data shows that food distribution is only a small part of the energy used in food production.
   c. More and more people are trying to eat a healthy diet.
   d. The way we produce food can harm the environment.
   e. Data shows that the largest portion of energy used in the UK food system is used in households, for storing and preparing food.
Listen to the presentation again and complete the pie chart with the words in the box.

ENERGY USE IN FOOD PRODUCTION

households  agriculture  food service
wholesale and retail  packaging  transport  processing

20%
6%
29%
4%
4%
15%
12%
14%

POST-LISTENING

4 Read the sentences from the presentation and underline the cause of the action in each sentence.

1 Due to general changes in lifestyle, people these days are increasingly eating a healthier diet.
2 You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables from all over the world. As a result, it's easier than ever to find food that's good for you at the supermarket.
3 It has been suggested that we should choose domestic foods over overseas foods, because of aeroplanes creating pollution that causes environmental problems.
4 Experts argue that foods that are the least damaging to the environment are usually the ones grown locally. Consequently, some people believe that local foods are always more environmentally friendly.
5 These greenhouses are heated, which therefore produces carbon dioxide.

5 Circle the language that indicates the cause of the action in each sentence.

6 Complete the sentences with ideas of your own.

1 Due to improvements in food processing techniques ...
2 Food travels to supermarkets by aeroplane. As a result ...
3 Locally grown foods have a smaller carbon footprint. Consequently ...
4 Producing food packaging uses a lot of energy, which therefore ...