

**1. Discuss the questions.**

- How often do you replace your mobile phone? What is the most common reason for replacing it?
- What do you usually do with the electronics you don't need anymore?
- What do you know about e-waste recycling?

**2. Complete the sets of sentences with the words provided. One sentence in each set can take both words.**

## a) component / element

- 1) This is the key ..... of a successful recycling process.
- 2) The primary ..... in this compound is carbon.
- 3) The company manufactures electrical ..... for cars, like batteries and alternators.

## b) a magnet / adhesive

- 1) You can collect waste iron using .....
- 2) The components are fixed in position by .....
- 3) Apply ..... immediately to both surfaces and press together.

## c) precious / raw

- 1) ..... materials like clay or gravel are used in construction.
- 2) ..... metals should be recovered from e-waste.
- 3) ..... metals require extensive mining.

**3. Read the sentences and replace the words and phrases in bold with the words in the box.**

degraded    depleted    discarded    disassembled    shredded    sifted

- a) The furniture didn't fit so it was **taken apart** and transported back to the store.
- b) The quality of these raw materials is **reduced** over time.
- c) Leaves are **cut into small pieces** to decompose faster.
- d) Stones were **examined and sorted** in order to separate the bigger pieces which would be used to make arrowheads.

## E-waste recycling

- e) Some toys were **removed** from the inventory as they contained toxic adhesive.
- f) We won't be able to manufacture some items because certain elements are being **used up**, e.g. matches can't be produced without phosphorus.

**4. Discuss what steps each of the processes might involve. Use the words in the box.**

adhesive      degrade      deplete      discard      disassemble  
                  element      magnet      precious      shred      sift

- recycling old cars
- disposal of documents
- recycling furniture
- any other recycling or disposal process you're familiar with

**5. You are going to watch a video about mobile phone recycling. What do you think the process might look like?**

**6. Watch the [video](https://youtu.be/mFc80PhnU7w) [https://youtu.be/mFc80PhnU7w] and take some notes on the following.**

a) traditional methods of recycling phones

.....  
.....  
.....

b) how Apple's robot Daisy recycles phones

.....  
.....  
.....

c) why it is important to recycle phones

.....  
.....  
.....

**7. Discuss the questions.**

- Did anything in the video surprise you?
- In your opinion, how sustainable is the process of recycling phones used by Apple?
- The video mentions “circular supply chain”. What does this mean?
- Do you think developments like Daisy will end our reliance on mining? Why/Why not?
- What other ideas for reducing e-waste have you heard of?

**8. Look at some ideas for solving the e-waste problem and discuss how feasible they are. Then, decide which one would contribute most to reducing e-waste.**

- Introducing regulatory measures for electronics so that they are designed for durability and repairability, for instance by obligating manufacturers to extend warranties to five years.
- Ensuring availability of spare parts and access to repair.
- Improving the treatment of e-waste by forcing manufacturers to research and develop methods of material recycling and reusing.
- Funding the development of solutions for high-quality sorting and removing contaminants from waste.
- Introducing universal phone chargers.