

Starter conversation questions-

- Do you buy plastic carrier bags when you go shopping?
- Why do you think shops charge 5p for a plastic bag?
- What do you think 'bag for life' means?
- Do you think shops should charge 5p for plastic bags?
- What do you think happens to the money made from the sale of plastic bags?

Activities-

- Use the text below to formulate your own questions.
- Ask learners to write their own questions for each other after reading the text.
- Ask learners to read the text and think of a suitable title.
- Change all of the proper nouns to lower case and ask students to capitalise.
- Delete key words or figures and create a listening activity.

Plastic bag sales down 90% since introduction of 5p charge



Sales of plastic bags by the seven biggest retailers in England have fallen by 90% since the 5p charge was introduced in 2015.

Asda, Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, The Co-operative Group, Tesco and Waitrose sold 490 million fewer single-use plastic bags in 2018/19.

The average person in England now buys just 10 bags a year from the main supermarket retailers, compared with 140 bags in 2014 before the charge was introduced.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers said:

Our work to reduce plastic waste and leave our environment in a better condition continues to deliver results, with our 5p charge reducing plastic bag sales by 90% in the big supermarkets. No one wants to see the devastating impact plastic waste is having on our precious wildlife.

The total single-use carrier bag sales reported by all large retailers in 2018/2019 fell 37% to 1.11 billion compared with the previous year.

Government scientists believe plastic in the sea is set to treble in a decade unless marine litter is tackled. One million birds and over 100,000 sea mammals die every year from eating and getting tangled in plastic waste.

Today's figures reveal 5p plastic bag sales have also contributed around £169 million toward charities and other good causes since the charge was introduced on 5 October 2015, with more than £22 million raised in 2018/19 alone.

