

Dictogloss

(learners are not supposed to have access to read the text, just to listen to it)

Text

The solar energy fixed by green plants in photosynthesis is, of course, the energetic basis of the productivity of all heterotrophic organisms that can only feed upon living or dead biomass, such as animals and microorganisms. Some of the biomass of plants is consumed as food by animals in the next trophic level, that of herbivores. However, herbivores cannot convert all of the energy of the vegetation that they eat into their own biomass. Depending on the digestibility of the food being consumed, the efficiency of this process is about 1-20%. The rest of the fixed energy of the plant foods is not assimilated by herbivores, or is converted into heat. Similarly, when carnivores eat other animals, only some of the fixed energy of the prey is converted into biomass of the predator.

Keywords and phrases

fixed by green plants	photosynthesis	productivity	heterotrophic organisms
living or dead biomass	biomass of plants	food	trophic level
cannot convert all of	biomass	efficiency	is about 1-20%
herbivores	heat	when carnivores eat	prey

Working in groups of four:

- 1 - Read the list of words and sentences in the box and try to understand them. If necessary you can use the dictionary.
- 2 - Copy them in different slips.
- 3 - While the teacher reads out the text you must place the keywords in the order in which you hear them. In case you hear some word twice you have to place the card just the first time.
- 4 - Send a "spy" to the other groups to compare their order.
- 5 - Try to write the text from memory.
- 6 - Listen to the text again.
- 7 - Edit the text
- 8 - Read the original text and compare it with your text.