CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

COP31 in Antalya Admits 1.5 Degree Limit Will Be Breached

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 9



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 For the first time at a climate summit, delegates at COP31 in Antalya acknowledged that global temperatures are set to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The gathering, co-chaired by Australia and Türkiye, now centres on a voluntary pledge to electrify 35 percent of world energy use by 2035. Türkiye launched this so-called 35x35 target in September, driven partly by its heavy import reliance: 95 percent of natural gas, 83 percent of crude oil, and 60 percent of coal come from abroad.

2 Yet both host nations face pointed criticism. Australia is under fire from Pacific island states for expanding coal mining and extending the North West Shelf gas project. Meanwhile, Türkiye's own climate plan still permits rising emissions until 2038, and its national energy strategy points toward electrifying only around 25 percent of consumption by 2035 — well short of the 35 percent goal it promotes. Officials reportedly say the summit will focus on implementing past agreements and boosting finance for poorer nations rather than setting bolder new targets.

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2 Key words

under fire /ˌʌndər ˈfaɪər/ *idiom*

receiving strong criticism or attacks, especially in public or political contexts

The new CEO is under fire from shareholders for cutting research budgets without consulting the board.

voluntary pledge /ˌvɒlənˈteəri pledʒ/ *noun*

a commitment made freely, without any legal obligation forcing countries or organisations to comply

The voluntary pledge to reduce plastic waste was welcomed by environmental groups but criticised for lacking enforcement mechanisms.

acknowledge /əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/ *verb*

to accept or admit that something is true or exists, often reluctantly or after denial

The company finally acknowledged the defect after weeks of internal reports had been ignored.

implement /ˈɪmplɪment/ *verb*

to put a plan, agreement, or decision into effect; to carry out what has been agreed upon

The government has promised to implement the reforms by the end of the financial year.

so-called /ˌsəʊ ˈkəʊld/ *adjective*

used to refer to a name or label that has been given to something, sometimes with a hint of doubt or irony about its appropriateness

The so-called peace agreement broke down within weeks, revealing how fragile the compromise really was.

centres on /ˈsentəz ɒn/ *verb*

to focus mainly on a particular subject, idea, or priority; to have something as its central point

The debate centres on whether economic growth can continue without accelerating habitat destruction.

3 Grammar focus

Hedging and distancing

reportedly / is thought to / appears to / is expected to + verb

Hedging language (reportedly, is thought to, appears to) lets a writer report information without vouching for it. It marks the difference between established fact and claim or expectation.

1. Officials reportedly say the summit will focus on implementing past agreements and boosting finance for poorer nations rather than setting bolder new targets.

What does the writer avoid stating as a certain fact?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Extracting Key Details

Answer each question in a short phrase or sentence, using only information from the text.

1 Which two countries co-chair the COP31 summit?

2 What percentage of Türkiye's natural gas is imported?

3 Until what year does Türkiye's climate plan permit rising emissions?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Hedging and Passive Constructions in Reporting

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb given in parentheses. Pay attention to tense, voice, and hedging language used in journalistic reporting.

1 Delegates at COP31 ___ that global temperatures are set to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius. _____ (acknowledge)

2 The 35x35 target ___ by Türkiye in September, driven partly by import reliance. _____ (launch)

3 Officials reportedly say the summit will focus on ___ past agreements rather than setting bolder new targets. _____ (implement)

4 Türkiye's national energy strategy points toward ___ only around 25 percent of consumption by 2035. _____ (electrify)

EXERCISE 3 **Match Terms to Definitions** 5 points

Match each vocabulary term from the lesson to its correct definition.

1 under fire _____
2 voluntary pledge _____
3 acknowledge _____
4 implement _____
5 so-called _____

A referring to a label given to something, sometimes with a hint of doubt about its accuracy
B receiving strong public criticism or opposition
C a commitment made freely without any legal obligation to comply
D to accept or admit that something is true, often reluctantly
E to put a plan or agreement into practical effect

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 4 **A Balanced Summary of COP31**

Write a summary of the passage in 120–180 words. Your summary must include a balanced view: present both the summit's stated goal and the criticism directed at the host nations. Use at least three of the following keywords: 'acknowledged', 'voluntary pledge', 'so-called', 'under fire', 'implementing'. Write in a neutral, reportorial tone. Write 120 to 180 words.

7 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 5 **Speaking**

1 The text notes that this is the 'first time' delegates acknowledged the 1.5 degree breach at a climate summit. Why might a simple acknowledgement be considered a significant step, even if no new targets are set?

2 Türkiye launched the 35x35 target while its own strategy points toward only around 25 percent electrification. Do you think a host nation promoting an ambition it has not yet matched undermines or strengthens the pledge? Why?

3 Officials reportedly say the summit will focus on implementing past agreements rather than setting bolder new targets. In your view, is prioritising implementation over ambition a realistic or disappointing approach for addressing climate change?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Extracting Key Details

1. The summit is co-chaired by Australia and Türkiye. The text explicitly states 'co-chaired by Australia and Türkiye.'
2. Ninety-five percent of Türkiye's natural gas comes from abroad. The text states '95 percent of natural gas ... come from abroad.'
3. Türkiye's climate plan still permits rising emissions until 2038. The text states 'Türkiye's own climate plan still permits rising emissions until 2038.'

Exercise 2 Hedging and Passive Constructions in Reporting

1. acknowledged The past simple is used here because the acknowledgement was a specific completed act at the summit, reported retrospectively.
2. was launched The passive voice is used because the focus is on the target rather than on Türkiye as the agent. Past simple passive fits a completed past action.
3. implementing After the preposition 'on,' the verb must take the gerund (-ing) form. This is a common structure in formal reporting.
4. electrifying The preposition 'toward' requires a gerund form of the following verb. The -ing form functions as a noun here.

Exercise 3 Match Terms to Definitions

1. B. receiving strong public criticism or opposition
2. C. a commitment made freely without any legal obligation to comply
3. D. to accept or admit that something is true, often reluctantly
4. E. to put a plan or agreement into practical effect
5. A. referring to a label given to something, sometimes with a hint of doubt about its accuracy

Exercise 4 A Balanced Summary of COP31

At COP31 in Antalya, delegates acknowledged for the first time that global temperatures are set to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The summit, co-chaired by Australia and Türkiye, now centres on a voluntary pledge to electrify 35 percent of world energy use by 2035. This so-called 35x35 target was launched by Türkiye in September, partly motivated by its heavy reliance on imported fuels. However, both host nations face pointed criticism. Australia is under fire from Pacific island states for expanding coal mining, while Türkiye's own energy strategy aims to electrify only around 25 percent of consumption by 2035 — well short of the 35 percent goal it promotes. Officials say the summit will focus on implementing past agreements and boosting finance for poorer nations rather than setting bolder new targets. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.