

M4U2 Using Language

Chemical or Organic Farming?

桐乡市高级中学 俞莺婕

Lead in

Which kind of cucumbers would you choose?

organic cucumber

ordinary cucumber

higher price

lower price

Why?

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Lead in

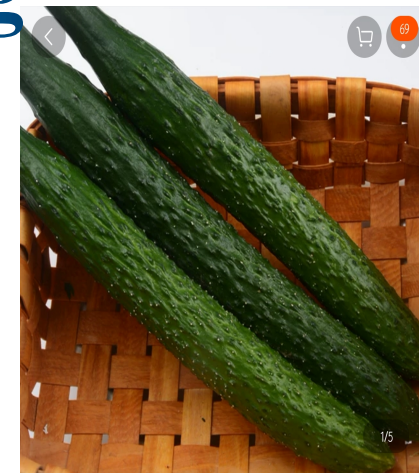
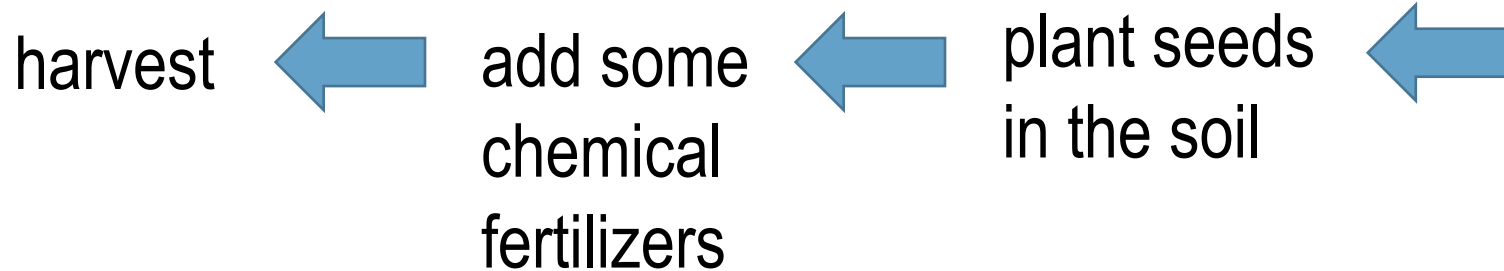
How were they planted?



organic
farming



chemical
farming



Reading

Para 1. Show a problem

1. What did farmers use when performing farming in the past?
2. What are the results of using it?

Over the past half century, using chemical fertilizers has become very common in farming. Many farmers welcomed them as a great way to stop crop disease and increase production. Recently, however, scientists have been finding that long-term use of these fertilizers can cause damage to the land and, even more dangerous, to people's health.

benefit

★ problem

major information

What do you expect to read
in the next paragraph?



Reading

Para 2. Analyse the cause

What are the problems caused by chemical fertilizers?

topic
sentence

conjunction

What are some of the problems caused by chemical fertilizers? **First,** they damage the land by killing the helpful bacteria and pests as well as the harmful ones. Chemicals **also** stay in the ground and underground water for a long time. This affects crops and, therefore, **animals and humans**, since chemicals get inside the crops and cannot just be washed off. These chemicals in the food supply build up in people's bodies over time. Many of these chemicals can **lead to** cancer or other illnesses. **In addition,** fruit, vegetables and other food grown with chemical fertilizers usually grow too fast to be full of much nutrition. They may look beautiful, but inside there is usually more water than vitamins and minerals.



Reading

Para 3-4. Find a solution

1. **What** way did some farmers and many customers turn to?
2. **Why** did they choose this way?
3. **How** did the farmers carry out this way?

With these discoveries, some farmers and many customers are beginning to turn to **organic farming**.

benefits

1. focus on keeping the soil rich and out of disease
2. prefer using natural waste as fertilizer to make the soil richer in minerals and so more fertile
3. keeps the environment free from chemicals



3. **How** did the farmers carry out this way?

Organic farmers also use many other methods to keep the soil fertile. They *often change the kind of crop in each field every few years*, for example, growing corn or wheat and then the next year peas or soybeans. Crops such as peas or soybeans *put their roots back into the soil*, making it ready for crops such as wheat or corn that need rich and fertile soil. Organic farmers also *plant crops to use different levels of soil*, for example, planting peanuts that use the ground's surface followed by vegetables that put down deep roots. Some organic farmers prefer planting grass between crops to prevent wind or water from carrying away the soil, and then leaving it in the ground to become a natural fertilizer for the next year's crop. These many different organic farming methods have the same goal: to grow good food and avoid damaging the environment or people's health.

practice



Mind map

Summary

Para 1 Show a problem

51 term use of chemical fertilizers can cause damage to the land and, even more dangerous, to people's health

Para 2 Analyse the cause

1. damage the land, killing the helpful bacteria and pests
2. Chemicals also stay in the water for a long time, affecting crops, animals and humans,
3. food grown with chemical fertilizers usually grow too fast to be full of much nutrition.

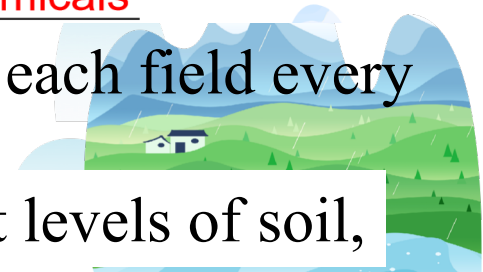
Para 3-4 Find a solution

benefits

1. focus on keeping the soil rich and out of disease
2. prefer using natural waste as fertilizer to make the soil richer in minerals and so more fertile
3. keeps the environment free from chemicals

practice

1. change the kind of crop in each field every few years
2. plant crops to use different levels of soil,



Summary

Word level

paraphrase

Sentence level

rebuild

Text level

use conjunctions



Summary

Para 1 Show a problem

constant/prolonged

use chemical fertilizers
for an extended time

do harm to/
be harmful to/
harm

long-term use of chemical fertilizers can cause damage to the
land and, even more dangerous, to people's health.

either... or/
not only but also

Word level

paraphrase

Sentence level

rebuild

Text level

use conjunctions

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Summary

destroy/ harm/ruin

the cause

useful/beneficial

1. damage the land, killing the helpful bacteria and pests as well as the harmful ones.

bad/damaging

either... or/ both... and

2. Chemicals also stay in the water for a long time, affecting crops, animals and humans

Extended/Prolonged existence of chemicals in the water affects crops, animals and humans

chemical fertilized food

quickly/rapidly

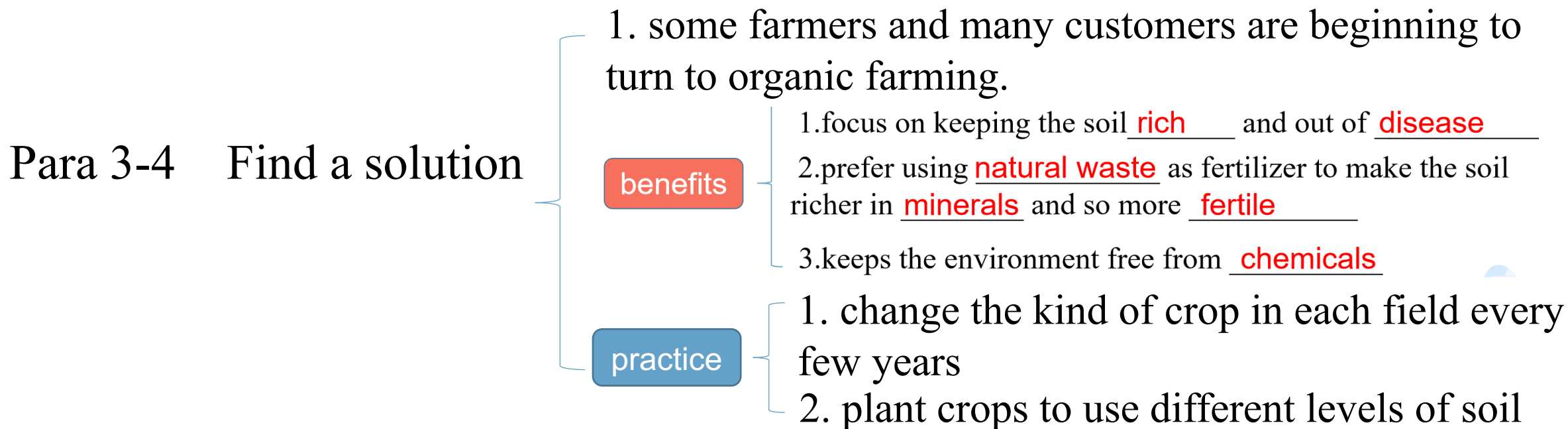
3. food grown with chemical fertilizers usually grow too fast to be full of much nutrition.

in short of nutrition/ low in nutrients/ undernourished



Summary

Work in groups and figure out the summary for para 3-4.



Summary

A sample version:

Constant use of chemical fertilizers can harm the land and people's health, **since** chemicals harm the land, killing both useful bacteria and damaging ones. **Moreover**, its extended existence in the water affects crops, animals and humans. **Additionally**, chemical fertilized food grow quickly but are undernourished. **Thus**, people choose organic farming **which** use natural waste to fertilize the soil and keep out diseases and pollution. They grow crops using various levels of soil and change the kind regularly. (77 words)

