

**„Every little bit helps!”**

*English  
with A*

**VIDEO:**

**Answer these questions while watching.**

1. What does the name Green Bag Lady mean?
2. How did it start?
3. Why is she doing it? What is the reason?
4. How did she start her blog?
5. What happened after a video about her was broadcast nationwide on TV?
6. How often do they meet/ for how long/ how many bags do they make per week?
7. Does her dad like this idea?
8. What about her mum?
9. What do they do with the scraps not to waste them

**Complete missing information. Then watch the video to check your answers. If it's too difficult, watch the video while completing the gaps.**

Green Bag Lady is \_\_\_\_\_ art project that started in \_\_\_\_\_ and we make bags out of \_\_\_\_\_ recycled and upcycled fabric and we give them away for free in exchange for a promise to use them instead of paper or plastic.

One reason that I'm targeting bags is that I think it is such an easy way for us to \_\_\_\_\_ something, if you're walking into the \_\_\_\_\_ you have another choice you can choose \_\_\_\_\_ bags. So I started to think about it and I thought... well... I have \_\_\_\_\_ and I have lots of fabric and I can probably make some bags.

I went to one of my classes and all the students said: oh this is \_\_\_\_\_.

They actually \_\_\_\_\_ the blog for me and called me Green Bag Lady.

One Tennessee artist is taking her \_\_\_\_\_ to save the earth step further.

We started basically a green bag lady group and after 3 years we still meet every Sunday for a couple hours and we make somewhere between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ bags per week.

My father is a \_\_\_\_\_ **proponent** of this project.

When first I told him what I was doing he got so excited...

He is a \_\_\_\_\_ electrical engineer, he said how about I help with the \_\_\_\_\_ and with the mailing and he single-handedly foots the \_\_\_\_\_ for all of the postage and the mailing which is fantastic.

The project is \_\_\_\_\_ to my mum. She was an **avid** recycler, reuser, upcycler.

She encouraged that in my life and in the lives of her grandchildren and I think watching and seeing how much she reused things that was a good \_\_\_\_\_ for me and for this \_\_\_\_\_ project.

### VOCABULARY:

#### Match the words with their definitions:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. to reuse        | a) to leave your job and stop working, especially because you have reached a particular age |
| 2. to donate       | b) very enthusiastic about something  |
| 3. reusable        | c) that can be used again   |
| 4. to retire       | d) to give a lot of your time and effort to a particular activity                           |
| 5. entire          | e) a shop that sells food and other things used in the home                                 |
| 6. to dedicate     | f) a person who supports an idea  |
| 7. a grocery store | g) including everything, everyone or every part   |
| 8. a proponent     | h) to give money, food, clothes to sb or sth (e.g charity)                                  |
| 9. avid            | i) to use something again   |

Complete the sentences using the words from the previous exercise in the correct forms:

1. He is \_\_\_\_\_ next year after 30 years with the company.
2. She has taken an \_\_\_\_\_ interest in the project.
3. The film is perfect for the \_\_\_\_\_ family.
4. I have never in my \_\_\_\_\_ life heard such nonsense!
5. I couldn't find my favorite type of tea in the local \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ his life to helping the poor.
7. He \_\_\_\_\_ thousands of pounds to charity.
8. We can \_\_\_\_\_ these packages, don't throw them away, please!
9. My dad was a huge \_\_\_\_\_ of this project.

**READING:**

Read the text about Green Bag Lady and complete the gaps using the words from the table.

*earth / sewists / busy / website / useful / recycling / fistfuls / eco-friendly / passionate / free / interview / useless / garbage / guest / receive / caring / Baby / example / solar*

**Teresa VanHatten-Granath** from Denver, Colorado. This **remarkable** artist and former university professor is now actively involved an \_\_\_\_\_ art initiative called the Green Bag Lady project. In this \_\_\_\_\_, you will learn how easily you can become green, and how fashionable eco-bags can be.

**EM:** What does it mean for you to be green?

**Teresa:** Being green for me is \_\_\_\_\_, reducing waste in my home, eating organic foods, reusing, upcycling, hopefully getting \_\_\_\_\_ power in the future and so on.

**EM:** What is upcycling? What can be upcycled?

**Teresa:** Upcycling is using something that is \_\_\_\_\_ or considered **trash** and transforming it into something \_\_\_\_\_ or beautiful. I really enjoy art that is made out of what many would consider **trash** or \_\_\_\_\_.

**EM:** When and how did you become the Green Bag Lady?

**Teresa:** The project started in 2008. My husband came home with \_\_\_\_\_ of plastic bags. I wondered why he didn't use our fabric ones. I started **sewing**. Now, my team of \_\_\_\_\_ and I make fabric shopping bags from recycled, donated or unwanted fabric and give them away for \_\_\_\_\_.

**EM:** What do you write about on your blog?

**Teresa:** I write about making the bags, giving the bags away, green products, cities that have been **banned** plastic bags, recycling, composting, and so on. **Once in a while**, I will share some recipes and \_\_\_\_\_ posts.

**EM:** What kind of feedback do you receive from your readers:

**Teresa:** I have gotten a lot of really nice feedback from readers and even made many friends across the globe because of the project. I just LOVE that! I love connecting with people all over the world who are just as \_\_\_\_\_ about the **environment** as I am.

**EM:** How many people are involved in the project?

**Teresa:** Let's see, the two main people are my father and I. My father ships all the bags and pays for the shipping, he also helps to **maintain** the \_\_\_\_\_, keeps track of all the bag numbers and where they are globally. He is amazing! I guess that it about 27-30 people. However, the pattern and *How to make a bag video* are free so many people all over the world are making bags.

**EM:** How can a person from Poland or Germany \_\_\_\_\_ one of your bag?

**Teresa:** Anyone, anywhere in the world is more than welcome to enter one of the online **freebies**. These are **approximately** twice monthly. We usually give out between 10-20 bags during each **freebie**.

**EM:** Do you have any other eco- initiatives on your mind?

**Teresa:** This one keeps me pretty \_\_\_\_\_. I'm really trying to expand the Green Bag Lady locations to include several throughout the world. This would give people many locations in which to donate fabric as well as get bags without shipping them.

**EM:** What would you like to teach your children about ecology?

**Teresa:** I teach my children by \_\_\_\_\_. If I am \_\_\_\_\_ for the **environment**, they see that and learn about the importance of clean air and water. The earth would be perfectly fine without us on it, but we can't live without the \_\_\_\_\_.

**EM:** What would you like to say to all Europeans to encourage them to be green?

**Teresa:** \_\_\_\_\_ steps are important. You don't have to do everything all at once. Just start by doing SOMETHING... using fabric bags **for instance!**

(source: English Matters 9/2014 Wydanie specjalne)

**Match the words with the definitions and write the translation to each word. All the words are underlined in the text.**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a) a sewist        | i) to maintain     |
| b) fistful of sth  | j) approximately   |
| c) passionate      | k) freebie         |
| d) garbage / trash | l) Once in a while |
| e) to receive      | m) environment     |
| f) caring          | n) feedback        |
| g) remarkable      | o) to sew          |
| h) for instance    | p) to ban          |

1. the natural world in which people live
2. = a sewer, a kind of dressmaker
3. a number or an amount of something that can be held in a fist
4. = kind, helpful
5. something that is given to somebody without payment
6. to decide or say officially that sth is not allowed
7. to use a needle and thread to make stitches in cloth
8. used to show that something is almost, but not completely, accurate or correct
9. to make sth continue at the same level, standard, etc.
10. waste food, paper, etc. that you throw away
11. = for example
12. = occasionally
13. = unusual or surprising
14. advice, criticism or information about how good or useful sth or sb's work is
15. = to get sth
16. having or showing strong feelings of enthusiasm for sth

**Translations to help you :-)** szwaczka / zakazywać / szyć /  
raz na jaki czas / informacja zwrotna / otrzymać / na przykład /  
wybitny, niezwykły / środowisko / darmowy upominek – gratis /  
troskliwy / w przybliżeniu, około / gorliwy, pełen pasji / śmieci / garść czegoś /  
utrzymywać, podtrzymywać /

**Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the words:**

1. We need both positive and negative \_\_\_\_\_ from our customers.
2. My mother taught me how to \_\_\_\_\_
3. She is \_\_\_\_\_ about her work.
4. Winning the cup was a \_\_\_\_\_ achievement.
5. Everybody makes a mistake \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The area is \_\_\_\_\_ for its scenery.
7. I was delighted to \_\_\_\_\_ your letter.
8. He was described as 'a good man, a \_\_\_\_\_ father and a considerate neighbour'.
9. The journey took \_\_\_\_\_ seven hours.
10. The two buildings were \_\_\_\_\_ equal in size.
11. The teacher will give you \_\_\_\_\_ on the test.
12. If you want to \_\_\_\_\_, you need a sewing machine.
13. An unhappy home \_\_\_\_\_ can affect a child's behaviour.
14. Smoking in public places is \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Building and \_\_\_\_\_ good relationships is an important part of our life.
16. Let's offer our customers a \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage them to buy our products.
17. The baby threw a \_\_\_\_\_ of beans across the table.
18. You must \_\_\_\_\_ a steady temperature to bake this cake properly.
19. The mother was too needy to \_\_\_\_\_ all of her seven children.