

# Chapter 2



Stefanie Pruegel

**Assistant Public Outreach Coordinator  
with the San Francisco Recycling Program**

Stefanie grew up near Munich, Germany, where she lived close to nature. There were fields around her house and she had many pets. Her family lived a simple life. They didn't throw away things that they could use again. She learned to be happy with what she had.

Stefanie moved to California in the summer of 1997. She wanted to find work where she could help protect the environment in the United States.

"I like teaching people how to reduce waste, and how to recycle, because everybody can relate to it," said Stefanie. "Everybody buys things and throws away garbage, no matter what their income or cultural background is. Success in recycling is easy to measure."

She found a program that needed help with their recycling hotline. For six months she volunteered one day a week, without pay, at the recycling hotline. At the hotline she answered calls about curbside recycling. She also answered questions about all kinds of things people wanted to reuse or recycle.

She is now the Assistant Public Outreach Coordinator, working for the San Francisco Recycling Program. Her job is to explain all of the recycling programs as clearly as possible, and encourage people to recycle. She has some information translated into Spanish and Chinese. In California, those are the two most common languages spoken in the home, after English. She says, "We must do more than just translate a message word by word. It has to be culturally sensitive."

Stefanie talks to people from different cultures to find out what they think about protecting the environment. "I have learned that groups with different cultural backgrounds have different reasons to protect the environment. For example, in the Latino community, family is very important, so they are very interested if I connect recycling with their children's future."

"I hope that more newcomers will look for jobs that help the environment. They can act as a liaison to their immigrant community. Everybody would benefit," said Stefanie.

### **To learn more about recycling contact:**

Your local city hall, and ask about curbside recycling.

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Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance  
Education Clearinghouse  
520 Lafayette Road North, 2nd Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4100

Phone: 651-215-0232 or  
1-800-877-6300  
web site: [www.moea.state.mn.us](http://www.moea.state.mn.us)

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## Exercise 1

### Reading Comprehension

Write answers to the following questions.

1. When she was growing up, what did Stefanie learn?

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2. What kind of work did she want to do?

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3. What does she like teaching?

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4. What calls did she answer at the recycling hotline?

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5. What is her job now?

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6. Why does she have information translated into Chinese and Spanish?

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7. Why does she talk to people from different cultures?

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8. What is important in the Latino community?

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## Exercise 2

### False Sentences

Use the information in the story to edit the following sentences.

The incorrect words are crossed out. Write the correct words above them.

1. She grew up close to ~~factories~~ and had many ~~toys~~.
2. In her family they didn't ~~keep~~ things that they could ~~sell~~ again.
3. Stefanie moved to ~~Colorado~~ from ~~Georgia~~ in the summer of 1997.
4. She wanted to find ~~waste~~ where she could help ~~propose~~ the environment.
5. Everybody ~~sells~~ things and throws away garbage, no matter what their ~~incline~~ or ~~corperal~~ background is.
6. At the ~~hothouse~~, she answered calls about ~~bedside~~ recycling.
7. She has some ~~invitations~~ translated into ~~Finnish~~ and ~~Vietnamese~~.
8. She hopes that more ~~New Zealanders~~ will look for jobs that help the ~~element~~.

WHAT YOU CAN <u>RECYCLE</u>	HOW TO <u>RECYCLE</u> IT
A. cans	rinse them clean take off paper labels
B. corrugated cardboard	it must be clean <u>remove</u> staples flatten or tear down can not <u>recycle</u> pizza or pop boxes can not <u>recycle</u> plastic coated cardboard
C. glass bottles and jars	rinse out food take off caps and lids <u>remove</u> foil labels you may have to sort by color: clear, brown or green glass
D. newspapers & inserts	must be clean and dry put them in a paper grocery bag or recycling bin
E. plastic bottles- from pop, milk, juice, or water	rinse them clean take off caps or lids
F. other plastic bottles	rinse them clean take off caps or lids
G aluminum foil or trays	rinse off food
H. boxboard- cereal and other food boxes	<u>remove</u> any bags from inside flatten and put them in a paper grocery bag
I. mixed paper and junk mail - typing and computer paper, and all the paper and envelopes that come in the mail	put them in a paper grocery bag
J. magazines, catalogs and phone books	put them in a paper grocery bag

## Exercise 3

### Read the table on the previous page

Write down the name of what to recycle next to the phrase of how to recycle it.

There can be more than one correct answer.

**Example:** glass bottles and plastic bottles Take off caps and lids

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Rinse out food
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Flatten or tear down
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Put in a paper grocery bag
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Take off labels
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Take off caps and lids
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Sort by color
7. \_\_\_\_\_ No pizza boxes
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Remove any bags from inside
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Must be clean and dry
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Rinse them clean