



# Solar Energy

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Solar energy is energy that comes from the sun. The sun produces a huge amount of light and heat every day. People have found ways to capture this energy and use it to power homes, schools, and even cars. Solar energy is a type of **renewable** energy, which means it will never run out.

Solar **panels** are the most common tool used to collect solar energy. Panels are usually made of special **materials** that turn sunlight into **electricity**. You may have seen solar panels on rooftops, in fields, or on top of street lights. They work best on sunny days, but they can also collect some energy on cloudy days.

One big **advantage** of solar energy is that it does not create **pollution**. Most electricity today comes from burning coal, oil, or gas. When these fuels burn, they release harmful gases into the air. Solar energy does not produce these gases. It is a clean and safe way to make electricity.

Solar energy can also help people save **money**. After the cost of buying and installing solar panels, the electricity they produce is free. Many families and businesses have found that solar panels reduce their electricity bills significantly. In some places, people can even sell extra electricity back to the power company.

Solar energy is becoming more popular around the world. Countries like China, the United States, and Germany have large solar **farms** with thousands of solar panels. As the technology improves and the cost falls, more people will be able to use solar energy. A future powered by the sun could be clean, **affordable**, and **sustainable** for everyone.

## A. Vocabulary

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. renewable ____   | a. a form of energy used to power lights, appliances, and machines       |
| 2. materials ____   | b. able to continue without damaging the environment                     |
| 3. pollution ____   | c. something that makes a situation better or easier                     |
| 4. money ____       | d. the substances used to make something                                 |
| 5. farms ____       | e. harmful substances that damage the air, water, or land                |
| 6. electricity ____ | f. coins and notes used to pay for things                                |
| 7. panels ____      | g. large areas where many solar panels are set up to produce electricity |
| 8. sustainable ____ | h. flat devices made of special material that capture sunlight           |
| 9. affordable ____  | i. cheap enough for most people to buy                                   |
| 10. advantage ____  | j. able to be replaced naturally and never runs out                      |

## B. True or False

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Solar energy comes from the wind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Renewable energy will never run out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Solar panels only work when the sun is shining brightly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Burning coal and oil does not create air pollution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Solar energy is a clean way to make electricity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Solar panels always increase electricity bills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Some families can sell extra solar electricity back to the power company.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. China, the United States, and Germany have large solar farms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The cost of solar energy technology is increasing every year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Solar energy could help create a cleaner future for the planet.

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** renewable, materials, pollution, money, farms, electricity, panels, sustainable

- 1. Solar energy is \_\_\_\_\_ because the sun will always shine.
- 2. Solar \_\_\_\_\_ are installed on rooftops to capture sunlight.
- 3. Burning coal creates air \_\_\_\_\_ that harms the environment.
- 4. Solar \_\_\_\_\_ are large areas filled with thousands of solar panels.
- 5. A future powered by the sun could be affordable and \_\_\_\_\_ for all.



## D. Comprehension Questions

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- 1. What is solar energy and why is it considered renewable?
- 2. How can solar panels help families save money?
- 3. Why is solar energy better for the environment than burning coal or oil?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- 1. Would you want solar panels on your home? What would be the advantages and disadvantages?
- 2. Why do you think not everyone is using solar energy yet?

# Answer Key

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Source: U.S. Department of Energy, [energy.gov/solar/solar-energy-basics](https://energy.gov/solar/solar-energy-basics)

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-j, 2-d, 3-e, 4-f, 5-g, 6-a, 7-h, 8-b, 9-i, 10-c

**B. True/False:** 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-renewable, 2-panels, 3-pollution, 4-farms, 5-sustainable

**D. Comprehension:**

1. Solar energy comes from the sun. It is renewable because the sun will keep producing energy.
2. After the initial cost, the electricity from the panels is free, so bills can go down.
3. Solar energy does not release harmful gases, unlike burning coal or oil.

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