

Trash to Treasure

An activity of "Setting sail on an important mission"

Read **"Setting sail on an important mission"** (page 14–15, *What's Up* June 2020). In the article, one of the volunteers, Katharina Elleke, shares, "By showing what plastic waste can actually be as well, (we are) making them realise why single-use plastic doesn't make sense at all."

You may have come across the terms "recycling" and "upcycling" and wondered if there is a difference between them. Yes, there is! The main difference is that, when recycling, the collected waste material is broken down (e.g. crushed, melted, often using machinery) and reformed into raw material for making new products. In the process of upcycling, however, the original waste material is directly used to create new products of higher quality. In the article, there are examples of both processes:

<p>Recycling: The plastic waste collected was washed and dried. Then, it was melted to the consistency of candle wax and poured into moulds the shape of planks. The plastic planks formed the skeleton of the dhow.</p>	<p>Upcycling: About 200,000 flip-flops were cut and arranged to form patterns. Volunteers heated the edges of the flip-flops to melt and glue them together. Sheets of flip-flops covered the body of the 18-metre dhow.</p>
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In many ways, upcycling is better as much less energy is used and it can be done in our homes. Check out some examples in the links below:

- *How to Upcycle Everything Around You* — <https://youtu.be/HhMUrdavT94>
- *20 Incredible Ideas with Toilet Rolls* — <https://youtu.be/2hrSYiYPUM>

- 1) Share an example you really like. Explain why you like it.

- 2) Collect some unwanted materials from your homes and create your own upcycling project. You can also make something based on what you have viewed.
- 3) On page 2, describe your project. Then, use this checklist to make sure you have written about the process in the best way possible.

CHECKLIST FOR INSTRUCTIONAL WRITING <i>Tick each item when your project description meets its standard.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	My project description has a clear title.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a list of required materials.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steps are numbered in the correct order.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transition words like "firstly", "next", "then", "finally", etc. are used.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have used imperative phrases (a "commander" tone) e.g. "gather the threads", "cut them".
<input type="checkbox"/>	My sentences are short, simple, clear, and to the point
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have written in the Simple Present Tense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have at least one diagram to illustrate a step.
<input type="checkbox"/>	My conclusion includes tips and safety warnings.

