
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Lingohack

Electrifying Africa



The story...

Electrifying Africa

Learn language related to...

Environmentalism: resources and solutions

Need-to-know language

sustainability – not damaging the environment, allowing it to continue as long as possible

convert – change something into something else

surplus – amount that is more than needed

small-scale – limited in size and output

solar system – electrical system generating power from the sun

Answer this...

What does an electric vehicle in the savannah help people see?

Watch the video online

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/lingohack/ep-190313>

Transcript

Sneaking up on a rare black rhino has never been easier. An electric car can negotiate the savannah in silence. But improving the chances of seeing the 'Big Five' is just the beginning for the Swedish start-up company that's set its sights much wider.

Filip Gardler, Opibus co-founder

Safari vehicles was a perfect entry market, more or less, to enter. They had the need of the tourists visiting having high requirements on **sustainability**.

Filip Lovstrom, Opibus co-founder

All across the world, we have 1.1 billion vehicles, so why should we replace all of those with the new electric cars when we instead, can **convert** them?

But these are the big prize. Converting Nairobi's Matatu mass-transport minibuses to electric would have a huge impact... and there's currently a **surplus** of electricity here.

But a huge number of Kenyans are not on the national grid and so are turning to **small-scale** solutions.

Leah pays a dollar a day for her **solar system** and can now charge her phone, her torch and watch TV. And having a light at night means Samuel can do his homework.

That's what Ethiopia's trying to do by building this vast dam across the Blue Nile.

And the waters of the Congo River could power Africa. There are multi-billion dollar plans to extend this Inga project, but miles from any industry it will need to build power lines too.

Erik Granskog, renewable energy consultant

So, the future of power in Africa is going to be a patchwork, between residential solar, distributed generation, mini-grids and there will be large hydroelectric dams.

Small and silent steps could be the best way to electrify Africa. And like mobile phone technology, leapfrog the need for vast power grids spanning the continent.

Did you get it?

What does an electric vehicle in the savannah help people see?

It helps them see the 'Big Five' – lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and Cape buffalo.