

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 1 IELTS exam text about plastic packaging.]

T6. Matching Features

Is it time to halt the rising tide of plastic packaging?

A. Concern over plastic packaging has produced a range of conflicting initiatives from retailers, manufacturers, and local authorities. It's a debate that dies down and then blows up again from one month to the next. 'It is being left to the individuals and supermarkets to make the correct decisions,' says Tim Lang, a professor specializing in food policy. 'It's a mess.'

Dick Scarle of the Packaging Federation points out that societies without modern packaging lose a lot of their food before it reaches consumers, whereas, in the UK waste in supply chains is only about 3 per cent. In India, it is more than 50 per cent. Packagers agree that cardboard, metals, and glass all have their good points, but there's nothing quite like plastic. With more than 20 families of polymers to choose from and then sometimes blend, packaging designers and manufacturers have a limitless variety of qualities to play with.

B. One store commissioned a comparison study to find which had a less environmental impact: selling apples loose or ready-wrapped. Helene Roberts, head of packaging, explains that interestingly, they found that four apples on a tray covered by plastic film needed 27 per cent less packaging in transportation than those sold loose.

Steve Kelsey, a packaging designer, finds the debate frustrating. He argues that the desire to do something quickly is diverting effort away from more complicated questions about how you truly alter supply chains. Rather than further reducing the weight of a plastic bottle, more thought should be given to how packaging can be recycled.

Questions 1-4

Look at the following statements (Questions 1-4) and the list of people below.

Match each statement to the correct person A-D.

Write the correct letter, A-D in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

1. A comparison of two approaches to packaging revealed an interesting result.
2. People are expected to do the right thing.
3. Most packaged foods reach UK shops in good condition.
4. Complex issues are ignored in the search for speedy solutions.

People

- A. Tim Lang
- B. Dick Scarle
- C. Helene Roberts
- D. Steve Kelsey