

Water, water everywhere, but it's incredible how little of it is directly usable.

We live on the water planet. From space, the blue of the water is its dominant colour.

Nevertheless, over 97% of all water is salty.

Less than 3% is fresh, most of which is in the ice caps. The atmosphere, rivers, lakes and underground stores hold less than 1%.

Yet hundreds of millions of human beings have difficulty in getting the 5 litres a day needed for survival. In countries with piped water, consumption is much higher than in developing countries, where a 2Km walk to find water is not unusual.

In fact, as we become more “advanced”, so we use ever-increasing amounts of water.

The **absolute minimum** a person needs for domestic use is **5 litres a day**, with a more realistic figure around **20 litres**, a developed world citizen consumes well **over 100 litres**. When we add in industry, this total can jump up to **500 litres**.

We should remember that **according to the UN, everyone needs a minimum of 20 litres of water a day for healthy living, to sustain a reasonable quality of life we require about 80 litres of water per person and per day**. And that this amount can go from the 5,4 litres per day of a Madagascar citizen, to the **500 litres** per day of a US citizen, or exorbitant amount of **3.000 litres** per person a day in some other rich places.

Our lifestyles depend of the availability of fresh water.

If for whatever reason, our taps ran dry, our daily routines would collapse, our health would be at risk, factories would stop and agriculture would be in dire straits.

This is an immediate danger, increased by the constant reduction in the ice caps, as a consequence of global warming, caused by **the greenhouse effect** for an excess of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

But we can do something to maintain this valuable resource, if **we change our behaviour urgently**.

Our governments have to look for more acceptable uses of water for industry and agriculture.

But every citizen that uses more than 80 litres per day in domestic use should find a way to save those extra litres.

Let's find out if this is possible!

SUMMARISING DATA

Have you understood this text? Let's find out!

In the table, you'll find all figures included in the text.
Match **NOW** the numbers in the correct sentence.

3000	% km litres	a day of all water walk	is the water consumption of is the minimum need of water is to find water is the water we require to	salty
97				is not unusual in some developing countries
2				for a healthy living
5				for domestic use
80				fresh
20				Madagascar citizen
500				some unreasonable rich people in certain part of the world
3				a developed world citizen
100				stored in rivers, lakes and undergrounds stores
5,4				a us citizen
1				sustain a reasonable quality of life

Now, summarise the text on the previous page in your own words using at least **3 sentences from the table above**.

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Summarise the text in **only one very important sentence** for you:

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