Unit 9 — Youth Protest Movements — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 10 · Niveau E

Niveau E

1. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Reading — *Two Youth Movements, Compared*

The school-strike climate movement of 2018-2020 drew millions of young people into weekly walk-outs across more than 130 countries. Its central demand — that governments listen to climate scientists — was clear, and its tactic — visible absence — was easily understood by the public. The Lisbon housing movement of 2024-2026, by contrast, used occupations of empty buildings and detailed policy papers. Its demands were narrower and harder to summarise. It is precisely the legibility of the first movement, some commentators argue, that made it useful to politicians; and precisely the specificity of the second that has produced sharper policy results.

Grammar — cleft-sentence emphasis
It is/was X that/who … structure highlights one element.

- *It is precisely the legibility of the first movement that made it useful.*
- *It was the specificity that produced sharper results.*
- *What made the difference was the specificity.*

2. Practise

Niveau E — controlled

1. Build a cleft sentence: emphasise *the legibility* in *the legibility of the first movement made it useful*.
2. T or F from text: school-strike was in 130+ countries; Lisbon housing demands were broad; specificity produced sharper results.

Niveau E — productive

3. Build 4 cleft sentences emphasising different elements of the same fact.

3. Your turn

Panel-style discussion (5 min). Groups of 4. Each speaker delivers a 60-second opening on: *what makes a youth movement effective?* Use 1 cleft + 1 hedge + 1 specific example. Other speakers ask 1 follow-up.

Sample

What makes a youth movement effective is, I would argue, the legibility of its central demand. It is precisely when a movement can summarise itself in one sentence — listen to climate scientists — that the public can stand behind it without having to do homework. However, this comes at a cost. The Lisbon housing movement of 2024 was less legible; its demands were narrower and required several pages of explanation. And yet, the available evidence suggests, it was the specificity of those demands that produced sharper policy results within two years. Both kinds of movement matter. The lesson, perhaps, is that legibility wins attention, while specificity wins the policy.

4. Further reading / listening

- BBC News — youth-movement profiles.
- The Conversation — academic-leaning analysis.

5. Teacher answer key

Controlled. 1. *It was precisely the legibility of the first movement that made it useful.*

2. T, F (narrower), T.

Productive. 3. Open.