Vocabulary: plants 词汇：植物

There's no place like home. It's the place where we're surrounded by our possessions and **creature comforts**. We purchase things to give our homes a **personal touch** and create a certain **ambience**. And one thing we're buying more of is **houseplants**. But are these 'living' additions to our homes good for us and the environment?

Houseplants, also known as **pot plants**, have Instagram-friendly appeal; add a **natural touch** and they have the ability to **brighten up** a room on a budget. The Royal Horticultural Society found that nearly 72% of adults in the UK had a houseplant in their home, with this figure rising to 80% of 16-24 year olds. A fifth of owners also said they use plants in the home to boost their health and **well-being**. And average sales last year were up on the previous year.

It seems millennials are driving the growth in the sales of houseplants. According to research by The Economist, more young people are living in flats without a garden. 24 year-old Daisy Hale told the BBC "being able to care for something but not having too much commitment - I guess that's a classic millennial line - is ideal for my lifestyle."

From **hanging baskets**, to **cacti** and succulent **ferns**, the choice of **vegetation** is endless. They are easy to care for, and there have been unproven claims that they improve the **air quality** in our home. But whatever their benefits, there are now concerns that they might not be so good for the environment. Some are bought online and shipped from overseas. Fay Kenworthy, co-founder of PlantSwap, a community initiative that encourages people to trade plants locally, told the BBC "this could rack up 'plant miles'".

But **botanist** and BBC presenter James Wong argues that home delivery has less of an environmental impact than multiple trips to the **garden centre** in a car. Although he's not too concerned about the environmental impact, others are worried about the plastic pots they are in and the type of **peat** that some of them are grown in. However, a **sustainable** approach to buying them may be the best way forward if we want to introduce some natural **greenery** into our homes.

词汇表

creature comforts	物质享受
personal touch	个性化色彩
ambience	氛围，情调
houseplant	室内盆栽植物
pot plants	室内盆栽植物
natural touch	自然美
brighten up	使……亮起来
well-being	安康，幸福
hanging basket	植物吊篮
cacti	仙人掌
fern	蕨类植物
vegetation	植物，植被
air quality	空气质量
botanist	植物学家
garden centre	园艺中心，花卉商店
peat	泥炭
sustainable	能长期维持的
greenery	绿色植物，青枝绿叶

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is the benefit of a houseplant if you don't have much money to decorate your home?

2. According to The Royal Horticultural Society, which generation seem to be buying the most houseplants?

3. How did the sales of houseplants change last year?

4. According to Daisy Hale, how easy is it to keep a houseplant at home?

5. True or false? *Making many trips to the garden centre could be possibly worse for the environment than buying houseplants online and getting them delivered.*

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I like the _____ the airline offers, such as giving me a hot towel as soon as I board the aircraft.

| personal touches | touches | commitment | sustainable |

2. I've made a _____ to helping the planet by reusing my coffee cup.

| commitments | committed | commitment | committing |

3. We've tried to _____ the office by painting the walls yellow and having fresh flowers on the desks every day.

| sustainable | greenery | brighten up | fern |

4. With low lighting and romantic music playing, the restaurant had the right _____ for proposing to my girlfriend.

| natural touches | ambience | well-being | cacti |

5. What a smart hotel! It has all the _____ I need – it's just like being at home!

| comfortable | creature comforts | creatures | comforts creatures |

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is the benefit of a houseplant if you don't have much money to decorate your home?

A houseplant can brighten up a room on a budget.

2. According to The Royal Horticultural Society, which generation seems to be buying the most houseplants?

The Royal Horticultural Society found 80% of 16-24 year olds - millennials – had a houseplant in their home.

3. How did the sales of houseplants change last year?

Average sales last year (in the UK) were up on the previous year – so they increased.

4. According to Daisy Hale, how easy is it to keep a houseplant at home?

Very easy. She said she is "able to care for something but not having too much commitment."

5. True or false? *Making many trips to the garden centre could be possibly worse for the environment than buying houseplants online and getting them delivered.*

True. Botanist and BBC presenter James Wong, argues that home delivery has less of an environmental impact than multiple trips to the garden centre in a car.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I like the **personal touches** the airline offers, such as giving me a hot towel as soon as I board the aircraft.

2. I've made a **commitment** to helping the planet by reusing my coffee cup.

3. We've tried to **brighten up** the office by painting the walls yellow and having fresh flowers on the desks every day.

4. With low lighting and romantic music playing, the restaurant had the right **ambience** for proposing to my girlfriend.

5. What a smart hotel! It has all the **creature comforts** I need – it's just like being at home!