1 Fuel Classifications

Get ready!

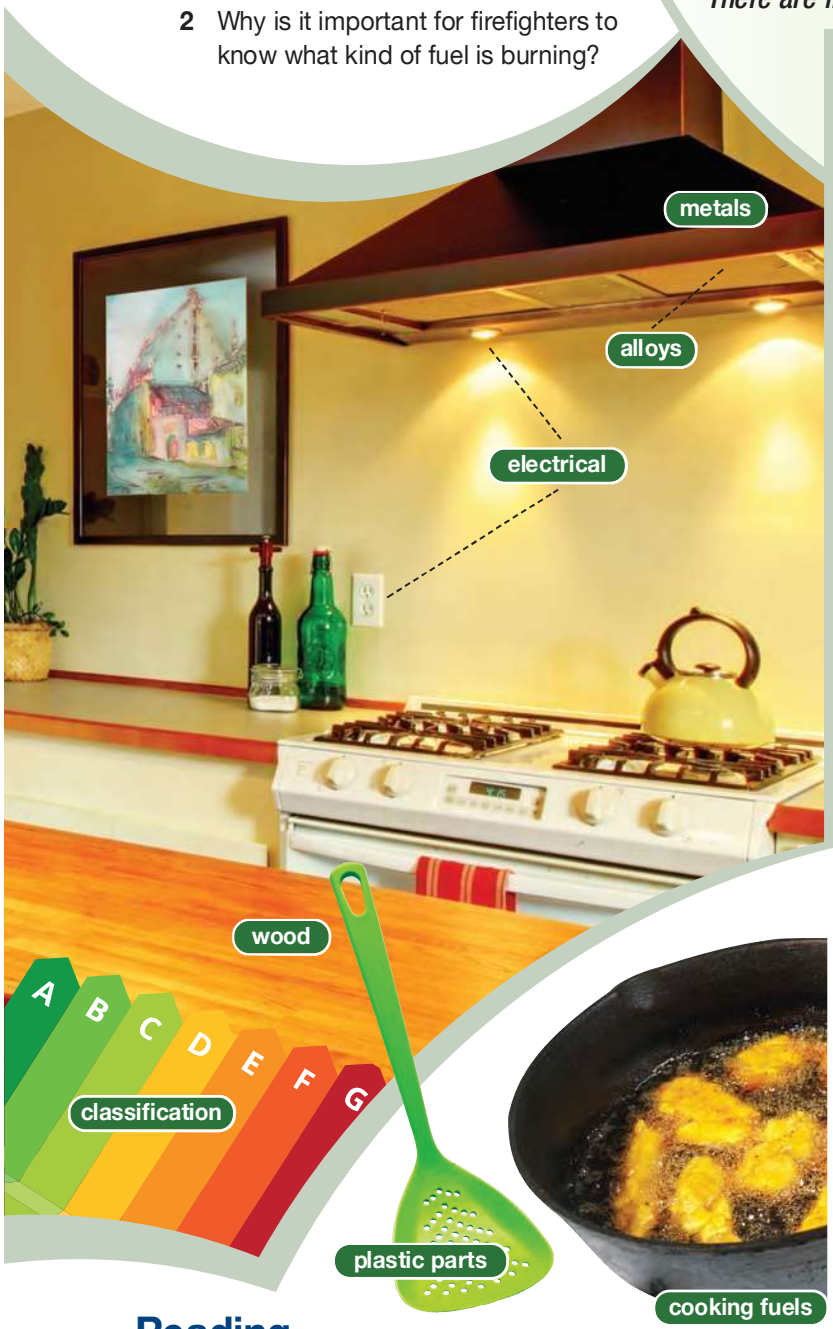
1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What are some types of fuel?

2 Why is it important for firefighters to know what kind of fuel is burning?

Know Your Fuel Classifications

Fires have different classifications based on the fuel that is burning. The classifications help determine what to use to put out a fire. Trying to put out flames with the wrong substance can make a fire worse. There are five different classifications.



Class A fire: Fuel is solid combustible materials that are not metals.
- Fuels include **wood**, **plastic**, trash, cloth, etc.

Class B fire: Fuel is flammable liquids.
- Fuels include gasoline, oil, grease, etc.

Class C fire: Fuel is energized **electrical** equipment.
- Fuels include anything that plugs into an electrical outlet

Class D fire: Fuel is combustible **metals** or **alloys**.
- Fuels include potassium, sodium, aluminum, etc.

Class K fire: Fuel is **cooking fuels**.
- Fuels include cooking oils (vegetable or animal) and fats

Vocabulary

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases from the word bank.

WORD BANK

Class B plastic electrical
cooking fuel alloy Class K

1 A damaged power cord on the television resulted in a(n) _____ fire.

2 The firefighters responded to a(n) _____ fire at a gas station.

3 Bronze is a(n) _____ which is composed of the metals tin and copper.

4 John panicked when the _____ he was using to fry fish caught on fire.

5 Firefighters determined the Class A fire was a result of burning _____ .

6 Susan had a _____ fire at her restaurant, but it was put out quickly.

Reading

2 Read the textbook excerpt. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 __ Fires are classified by the fuel that is burning.

2 __ A Class C fire contains flammable liquids.

3 __ Burning cooking fuels are classified as a Class K fire.

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words or phrases.

1 Knowing fuel **plastics / classifications** is important for firefighters.
2 Since **Class A / Class D** fires burn solids, they usually leave ash behind.
3 Forest fires spread quickly since **alloy / wood** is highly flammable.
4 Never use water to put out a **Class C / plastic** fire since it conducts electricity.
5 Large pieces of **Class B / metal**, such as iron beams, do not usually pose a fire risk.
6 A **Class D / Class K** fire is more likely to happen in a lab or industrial setting.

5 Listen and read the textbook excerpt again. What are examples of Class B fuels?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an instructor and a trainee. Choose the correct answers.

1 What is the purpose of the conversation?
A to describe the different classifications of fuel
B to explain how to remember various fire classes
C to decide the correct way to put out types of fires
D to discuss classifications of flammable liquids

2 What will most likely happen next?
A the woman will ask the man to list Class K fuels
B the man will describe the different Class B fuels
C the woman will correct the man about Class C fuels
D the man will clarify about the types of Class A fuels

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Instructor: Let's go over some **1** _____ _____ .
Tell me what type of fuel burns in a Class A fire.
Trainee: That would be solid fuels that aren't **2** _____ .
Instructor: Such as ... ?
Trainee: Things like **3** _____ , _____ , or trash.
Instructor: Right. How about fuels for **4** _____ _____ fires?
Trainee: Those are flammable liquids, such as **5** _____ _____ and fats.
Instructor: The first part is right, the second part is wrong.
Trainee: Oh, sorry! I gave examples for **6** _____ _____ fuels. I meant to say gasoline, oil, or grease.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:
Let's talk about ...
That would be ...
Now, how about ...

Student A: You are an instructor. Talk to Student B about:
- types of fuel classifications
- examples of fuels
- an incorrect answer

Student B: You are a trainee. Talk to Student A about different fuel classifications.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the trainee's notes.

Types of Fuel Classifications

A Class A: _____

B Class B: _____

C Class C: _____

D Class D: _____

K Class K: _____