

At the UN Climate Action Summit, New York, 23 September 2019:



My message is that we'll be watching you. This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!

You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing

to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.

The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5°C, and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air with technologies that barely exist.

So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us — we who have to live with the consequences.

To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5°C global temperature rise – the best odds given by the (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) – the world had 420 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> left to emit back on January 1st, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.

How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual' and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO<sub>2</sub> budget will be entirely gone within less than 8 1/2 years.

There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

You are failing us. But young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.

We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.

Thank you.

**collaps** fail  
**summit** meeting  
**entire** whole  
**extinction** destruction  
**fairy tale** fantastic story  
**eternal** endless  
**urgency** importance  
**evil** wicked, mean  
**set off** activate, initiate  
**irreversible** permanent, irreparable  
**beyond** outside  
**tipping point** Thresholds that, when exceeded, can lead to large changes in the state of the system.  
**loop** circle  
**toxic** poisonous  
**pollution** litter, thrash  
**equity** fairness  
**barely** hardly  
**odds** chances  
**emit** produce  
**fail** flop  
**betrayal** treachery

### **Delete the wrong alternative:**

Greta Thunberg was born on 3 January 2003 in ~~Abu Dhabi~~ / **Stockholm**. Her mother is an opera singer. Her father, son of a director, is **an SAS pilot / an actor**.

Greta Thunberg says she first heard about climate change in 2011, when she was **eight / three** years old, and could not understand why **everybody was behaving so fussy / so little was being done** about it. Three years later she became depressed, **joyful / lethargic**, and stopped **talking / sleeping** as well as eating. What Greta said about that eight years later was: "I was diagnosed with **Asperger's syndrome / Alzheimer disease**, OCD and selective mutism. That basically means I **only / never** speak when I think it's necessary. Now is one of those moments." Today she does not view her Asperger's as an illness. Instead she calls it her **"pain in the neck" / "superpower"**.

For about two years, Greta challenged her parents to lower the family's **alcohol abuse / carbon footprint** and overall impact on the environment by becoming **vegan / religious**, and giving up flying.

She showed her family **jewels / graphs** and data, but when that didn't work, she warned her family that they were stealing her **money / future**. Giving up flying in part meant her mother had to give up her **job as a housewife / international career as an opera singer**.

Greta Thunberg first became known for her activism in August 2018 when, at the age of 15, she began spending her **holidays / school days** outside the Swedish parliament to call for **fair salaries for students / stronger action on global warming**. She used to **sing the international song / hold up a sign saying (in Swedish)** "School strike for climate". Soon, **all politicians / other students** engaged in similar protests in their own communities. Together, they organised a school climate strike movement under the name **Black Fridays for Shopping / Fridays for Future**. Every week **Beer festivals / Student strikes** took place somewhere in the world. In 2019, there were at least two **chaotic / coordinated** multi-city protests involving over one **million / hundred** students each.

Her sudden rise to **world fame / political power** has made her a leader and a target. In May 2019, Greta Thunberg was **invited by Donald Trump, who / featured on the cover of Time magazine, which** named her a "next generation leader". Some media have described her impact on the world stage as the "Greta Thunberg **syndrome" / effect**". Greta Thunberg has been named as one of the 100 most **influential people / dangerous women** of 2019 by Time magazine. In September 2019, she addressed the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.