

**Podcast Lesson:** <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/758061366> – The science of Composting Humans.

**1. What is the listening's topic?**

The lesson is about a new way to “bury” people. It focuses on an environmentally friendly way of doing it as opposed to the traditional casket.

**2. Does the speaker talk about the topic at parties? Why?**

No, she doesn't. She says it's not really a topic that people find funny at parties.

**3. What is compost? Is it good or bad?**

Compost is a kind of fertilizer made of biodegradable materials such as food or in this case dead bodies.

**4. What are the disadvantages of the current method for burying people?**

By using a casket and cement, the current method of burying people is not environmentally friendly at all. Also, because each plot of land is bought by someone, we risk running out of places to bury people in the future.

**5. What is the speaker's previous experience?**

The speaker used to be in charge of creating compost out of farm animals, such as pigs and cows.

**6. How do the scientists compost the bodies?**

The scientists insert the dead bodies into a large container along with some plants and fungus. This combination breaks down the body and creates very fertile compost that can be used in farms.

**7. What's the price of this new way of composting bodies?**

It's cheaper than a traditional casket burial, but more expensive than cremation.

**8. What is the advantage of composting people?**

It's environmentally friendly!

**9. What do you think? Would you like to be buried this way? Why, why not?**