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Level 6 – 25th March 2024

UN warns of environmental e-waste catastrophe

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

The United Nations has issued a stark warning to consumers worldwide. The volume of electronics we are throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing of record amounts of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics as anything with a plug or a battery, and often contains toxic chemicals and substances, such as lead and mercury. E-waste includes discarded cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world generated a mind-blowing 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this waste could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could...wrap around the Equator".

Most e-waste comes from developed countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer countries for recycling. However, these countries lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that minimizes environmental damage. The sheer volume of waste is creating a plethora of health problems. Dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year. Some of this enters the food chain. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of duty of care" by failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more difficult to dispose of them".

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/20/climate/electronic-waste-recycling-climate-un/index.html>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/20/un-says-e-waste-is-piling-up-worldwide-as-recycling-rates-remain-low>
<https://www.foxnews.com/world/un-warns-mounting-e-waste-crisis-trashed-electric-devices>

WARM-UPS

1. E-WASTE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about e-waste. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

United Nations / warning / consumers / electronics / e-waste / toxic chemicals / plug / developed countries / environmental damage / health problems / food chain / duty

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. DISPOSAL FEE: Students A **strongly** believe we should pay to dispose of each items of electronics we throw away; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. THINGS WE THROW AWAY: What harm do these things do when we throw them away? How can we dispose of them so they cause no damage or problems? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Harm	Better Disposal
Electronics		
Plastic bottles		
Glass		
Engine oil		
Bicycles		
Furniture		

5. WARNING: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "warning". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. ELECTRONICS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most harmful to the environment at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- TVs
- Fridges
- Computers
- E-cigarettes
- Smartphones
- Air conditioners
- Microwave ovens
- Printers

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. stark | a. Different kinds of materials or matter; things that are made up of atoms and molecules. |
| 2. volume | b. Very plain or clear, often in a way that is shocking or harsh. |
| 3. toxic | c. Harmful or poisonous; able to cause illness or death. |
| 4. substances | d. A machine or appliance that keeps food and drinks cold. |
| 5. mercury | e. Extremely surprising or impressive; causing great astonishment or wonder. |
| 6. refrigerator | f. The amount of space that something takes up. |
| 7. mind-blowing | g. A heavy, silvery-white metal that is liquid at room temperature. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. dispose | h. Thrown away or discarded carelessly; disposed of in a disorderly manner. |
| 9. sheer | i. Something that you must do because it is morally or legally right; a responsibility or obligation. |
| 10. plethora | j. Held responsible for something bad that happened; accused of wrongdoing. |
| 11. dumped | k. A very large amount or number of something; an excessive quantity. |
| 12. disturbing | l. Causing upset or worry; troubling or distressing. |
| 13. blamed | m. To get rid of something; to throw away or discard. |
| 14. duty | n. Complete and total; nothing except. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The UN has issued its highest warning regarding the disposal of e-waste. **T / F**
2. The UN said there are too many records in the e-waste. **T / F**
3. The UN said electronics was anything with a plug or a battery. **T / F**
4. The UN said the amount of e-waste we produce could fill the Equator. **T / F**
5. Poorer countries are responsible for most of the world's e-waste. **T / F**
6. The e-waste we are creating is causing many health problems. **T / F**
7. The UN said 58 tons of mercury enters the food chain every year. **T / F**
8. The UN blamed customers and manufacturers for the e-waste. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. stark | a. amenities |
| 2. volume | b. tossed out |
| 3. toxic | c. keeps down |
| 4. discarded | d. amount |
| 5. placed | e. considerably |
| 6. resources | f. positioned |
| 7. minimizes | g. miserable |
| 8. plethora | h. worrying |
| 9. disturbing | i. poisonous |
| 10. far | j. abundance |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. issued a stark warning | a. bumper-to-bumper |
| 2. anything with a plug | b. of care |
| 3. substances, such as lead and | c. mind-blowing 62 million tons |
| 4. the world generated a | d. the technology |
| 5. if placed | e. consumers |
| 6. sent to poorer countries | f. to consumers worldwide |
| 7. these countries lack | g. for recycling |
| 8. creating a plethora | h. or a battery |
| 9. showing a lack of duty | i. of health problems |
| 10. It also blamed | j. mercury |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

The United Nations has issued a (1) _____ warning to consumers worldwide. The (2) _____ of electronics we are throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing of (3) _____ amounts of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics as anything with a (4) _____ or a battery, and often contains toxic chemicals and substances, such as lead and (5) _____. E-waste includes (6) _____ cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world generated a (7) _____ -blowing 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this waste could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could...(8) _____ around the Equator".

mercury
mind
record
stark
discarded
wrap
volume
plug

Most e-waste comes from (9) _____ countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer countries for recycling. However, these countries lack the technology and (10) _____ to dispose of it in a way that minimizes environmental damage. The (11) _____ volume of waste is creating a (12) _____ of health problems. Dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year. Some of this enters the food (13) _____. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a (14) _____ of duty of care" by failing to (15) _____ responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more difficult to (16) _____ of them".

plethora
developed
resources
lack
sheer
dispose
accept
chain

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

- 1) The United Nations has issued a stark warning _____
 - a. to customers worldwide
 - b. to consumers worldwide
 - c. to consumes worldwide
 - d. to con summers worldwide
- 2) The UN defines electronics as anything with a plug _____
 - a. or a battery
 - b. or a bartering
 - c. or a bat tally
 - d. or a batter
- 3) and often contains toxic chemicals and substances, such as _____
 - a. lead and mercury
 - b. read and mercury
 - c. led and mercury
 - d. leaden mercury
- 4) reported that in 2022, the world generated a mind-_____
 - a. blow in 62 million tons
 - b. blown 62 million tons
 - c. blowing 62 million tons
 - d. blow wing 62 million tons
- 5) 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could...wrap _____
 - a. around the Equate or
 - b. around the Equation
 - c. around the Equatorial
 - d. around the Equator
- 6) e-waste comes from developed countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer _____
 - a. countries fore recycling
 - b. countries for recycling
 - c. countries four recycling
 - d. countries foray cycling
- 7) lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that _____
 - a. minimizes environmental damage
 - b. mini mazes environmental damage
 - c. mini maize is environmental damage
 - d. minimal is environmental damage
- 8) Some of this enters _____
 - a. the food train
 - b. the food chair
 - c. the food chime
 - d. the food chain
- 9) The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of _____"
 - a. duly of care
 - b. duty of care
 - c. due tea of care
 - d. duty off care
- 10) "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's _____"
 - a. afar more difficult
 - b. fare more difficult
 - c. far more difficult
 - d. farer more difficult

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

The United Nations has (1) _____ warning to consumers worldwide. The volume of electronics we are throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing (2) _____ of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics as anything (3) _____ or a battery, and often contains toxic chemicals and substances, such as lead and mercury. E-(4) _____ cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world (5) _____ 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this waste could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, (6) _____-to-bumper, could...wrap around the Equator".

Most e-waste (7) _____ countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer countries for recycling. However, these countries lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that minimizes environmental damage. The sheer volume of waste is creating (8) _____ health problems. Dumped electronics (9) _____ and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year. Some of this enters (10) _____. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of duty of care" by (11) _____ responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more (12) _____ of them".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

1. What kind of warning did the United Nations issue?
2. What two things did the UN say needed to be an item of electronics?
3. What two chemicals were mentioned as being toxic?
4. How much e-waste did the world create in 2022?
5. What could 1.5 million 40-ton trucks be wrapped around?
6. Where does most e-waste come from?
7. What do poorer countries lack regarding the recycling of e-waste?
8. How much mercury entered the environment last year?
9. Who did the UN blame for failing to accept responsibility?
10. What things did the UN say are needed to buy electronics?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

- 1) What kind of warning did the United Nations issue?
 - a) a fair warning
 - b) a stark warning
 - c) a first warning
 - d) a second warning
- 2) What two things did the UN say needed to be an item of electronics?
 - a) a power switch and a dial
 - b) a screen and keyboard
 - c) a microchip and transistor
 - d) a plug and a battery
- 3) What two chemicals were mentioned as being toxic?
 - a) lead and mercury
 - b) silver and lithium
 - c) mercury and silver
 - d) gold and lead
- 4) How much e-waste did the world create in 2022?
 - a) 64 million tons
 - b) 63 million tons
 - c) 62 million tons
 - d) 61 million tons
- 5) What could 1.5 million 40-ton trucks be wrapped around?
 - a) Antarctica
 - b) the Equator
 - c) the tropics
 - d) the North Pole
- 6) Where does most e-waste come from?
 - a) developed countries
 - b) poorer countries
 - c) countries in the Global North
 - d) countries in the Global South
- 7) What do poorer countries lack regarding the recycling of e-waste?
 - a) recycling plants
 - b) minerals and chemicals
 - c) technology and resources
 - d) skilled labour
- 8) How much mercury entered the environment last year?
 - a) 58 tons
 - b) 57 tons
 - c) 56 tons
 - d) 55 tons
- 9) Who did the UN blame for failing to accept responsibility?
 - a) manufacturers
 - b) consumers
 - c) recycle shops
 - d) suppliers
- 10) What things did the UN say are needed to buy electronics?
 - a) information and reviews
 - b) a wallet and credit card
 - c) a will and a desire
 - d) clicks

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

Role A – TVs

You think TVs cause the most damage to the environment when discarded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fridges, smartphones or printers.

Role B – Fridges

You think fridges cause the most damage to the environment when discarded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): TVs, smartphones or printers.

Role C – Smartphones

You think smartphones cause the most damage to the environment when discarded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fridges, TVs or printers.

Role D – Printers

You think printers cause the most damage to the environment when discarded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fridges, smartphones or TVs.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'electronic' and 'waste'.

electronic	waste
-------------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stark• record• defines• includes• mind• placed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sent• resources• sheer• 58• care• far
---	--

E-WASTE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

Write five GOOD questions about e-waste in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

E-WASTE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'waste'?
3. How do you get rid of the electronics you throw away?
4. How bad are refrigerators for the environment?
5. What electronics do we really, really need?
6. How can we make electronics less harmful to the environment?
7. Should we all buy used or reconditioned electronics?
8. What happens when the landfills are full of waste?
9. How do you feel when you see discarded electronics in the countryside?
10. What's the best way to discard electronics?

UN warns of environmental e-waste catastrophe – 25th March 2024
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E-WASTE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'catastrophe'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What kind of catastrophe might the UN be talking about?
15. Should developed countries recycle their own discarded electronics?
16. What health problems do discarded electronics cause?
17. How harmful is mercury?
18. How can we reverse our consumerism?
19. What responsibility do manufacturers have in electronics disposal?
20. What questions would you like to ask the UN?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

The United Nations has issued a (1) _____ warning to consumers worldwide. The volume of electronics we are throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing (2) _____ record amounts of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics as anything with a plug or a battery, and often contains (3) _____ chemicals and substances, such as lead and mercury. E-waste includes discarded cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world generated a (4) _____ -blowing 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this waste could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed (5) _____-to-bumper, could...(6) _____ around the Equator".

Most e-waste comes from developed countries. A lot of it is (7) _____ to poorer countries for recycling. However, these countries lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that (8) _____ environmental damage. The sheer volume of waste is creating a (9) _____ of health problems. Dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year. Some of this enters the food (10) _____. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of duty of care" by failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their (11) _____. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's (12) _____ more difficult to dispose of them".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) stork | (b) stark | (c) strike | (d) stake |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) on | (d) the |
| 3. | (a) tragic | (b) exerted | (c) laxative | (d) toxic |
| 4. | (a) brain | (b) mind | (c) soul | (d) heart |
| 5. | (a) bumper | (b) bumper | (c) bumble | (d) bump off |
| 6. | (a) warp | (b) wipe | (c) wrap | (d) wrapt |
| 7. | (a) dispatched | (b) consigned | (c) sent | (d) conveyed |
| 8. | (a) smalls | (b) lesser | (c) minimizes | (d) belittles |
| 9. | (a) veracity | (b) groundless | (c) consignment | (d) plethora |
| 10. | (a) bonds | (b) series | (c) padlock | (d) chain |
| 11. | (a) products | (b) produce | (c) prods | (d) productive |
| 12. | (a) faraway | (b) afar | (c) far | (d) farer |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

Paragraph 1

1. issued a raskt warning
2. luovem of electronics
3. ixtoc chemicals
4. lead and recrymu
5. fsoraertgerir and e-cigarettes
6. wrap around the routEaq

Paragraph 2

7. sent to poorer countries for Inricgeyc
8. mmiisneiz environmental damage
9. a raolhept of health problems
10. electronics are nsigpinoo rivers
11. The UN blamed uturamcerfans
12. failing to accept irlsieityobsnp

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () recycling. However, these countries lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that
- () problems. Dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the
- () mind-blowing 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this waste could, "fill more than
- () and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world generated a
- () 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could...wrap around the Equator".
- (**1**) The United Nations has issued a stark warning to consumers worldwide. The volume of electronics we are
- () duty of care" by failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed
- () consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more difficult to dispose of them".
- () Most e-waste comes from developed countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer countries for
- () throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing of record
- () amounts of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics as anything with a plug or a battery, and often contains toxic
- () environment last year. Some of this enters the food chain. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of
- () minimizes environmental damage. The sheer volume of waste is creating a plethora of health
- () chemicals and substances, such as lead and mercury. E-waste includes discarded cellphones, refrigerators

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

1. a The to UN stark warning consumers . issued
2. are throwing volume electronics away . The we of
3. We amounts of disposing are of record e-waste .
4. with anything a as electronics plug . defines It
5. of We generated tons mind-blowing a e-waste . 62 million
6. to countries . is poorer it sent of Lots
7. a problems . E-waste health plethora creating of is
8. enters food Some chain . of this the waste
9. a just to clicks electronics . It's buy few
10. to difficult them . It's far more of dispose

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

The United Nations has issued a *stork / stark* warning to consumers worldwide. The *volume / voluminous* of electronics we are throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing *on / of* record amounts of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics *as / has* anything with a plug or a battery, and often contains *toxic / toxify* chemicals and substances, such as lead and mercury. E-waste includes *discarded / regarded* cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world generated a *brain-blowing / mind-blowing* 62 million *tins / tons* of e-waste. CNN said this waste could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if *placed / bumped* bumper-to-bumper, could...wrap around the *Equator / tropic*".

Most e-waste comes from *redeveloped / developed* countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer countries *for / on* recycling. However, these countries *lack / slack* the technology and resources to dispose *for / of* it in a way that minimizes environmental damage. The *sheer / shear* volume of waste is creating a *plethora / diaspora* of health problems. Dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the *environment / environs* last year. Some of this enters the food chain. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of *duty / beauty* of care" by failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their *produce / products*. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's *fair / far* more difficult to dispose of them".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

Th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns h_s _ss__d _ st_rk w_rn_ng t_ c_ns_m_rs w_rldw_d_. Th_ v_l_m_ _f _l_ctr_n_cs w_ _r_ thr_w_ng _w_y _s cr__t_ng _n "nv_r_nm_nt_l c_t_str_ph". W_ _r_ d_sp_s_ng _f r_c_rd _m__nts _f "-w_st_". Th_ _N d_f_n_s _l_ctr_n_cs _s _nyth_ng w_th _ pl_g _r _ b_tt_ry, _nd _ft_n c_nt__ns t_x_c ch_m_c_ls _nd s_bst_nc_s, s_ch _s l__d _nd m_rc_ry. _-w_st_ _ncl_d_s d_sc_rd_d c_llph_n_s, r_fr_g_r_t_rs _nd _-c_g_r_tt_s. Th_ _N Gl_b_l _-w_st_ M_n_t_r h_s r_p_rtd th_t _n 2022, th_ w_rld g_n_r_t_d _ m_nd-bl_w_ng 62 m_ll__n t_ns _f _-w_st_. CNN s__d th_s w_st_ c__ld, "f_ll m_r_ th_n 1.5 m_ll__n 40-t_n tr_cks wh_ch, _f pl_c_d b_m_p_r-t_-b_m_p_r, c__ld...wr_p _r__nd th_ _q__t_r".

M_st _-w_st_ c_m_s fr_m d_v_l_p_d c__ntr__s. _ l_t _f _t _s s_nt t_ p__r_r c__ntr__s fr_r_cycl_ng. H_w_v_r, th_s_ c__ntr__s l_ck th_ t_chn_l_gy _nd r_s__rc_s t_ d_sp_s_ _f _t _n _ w_y th_t m_n_m_z_s _nv_r_nm_nt_l d_m_g_. Th_ sh__r v_l_m_ _f w_st_ _s cr__t_ng _ pl_th_r_ _f h__lth pr_b_l_ms. D_m_p_d _l_ctr_n_cs _r_ p__s_n_ng r_v_rs _nd s__s. _ d_st_rb_ng 58 t_ns _f m_rc_ry _nt_r_d th_ _nv_r_nm_nt l_st y__r. S_m_ _f th_s _nt_rs th_ f__d ch__n. Th_ _N bl_m_d m_n_f_ct_r_rs fr_sh_w_ng "_ l_ck _f d_ty _f c_r_" by f__l_ng t_ _cc_pt r_sp_ns_b_l_ty fr_ wh_t h_pp_ns t_ th__r pr_d_cts. _t _ls_ bl_m_d c_ns_m_rs, s_y_ng, "_t's j_st _ f_w cl_cks" t_ b_y _l_ctr_n_cs, b_t "_t's fr_m_r_ d_ff_c_l_t t_ d_sp_s_ _f th_m".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

the united nations has issued a stark warning to consumers worldwide the volume of electronics we are throwing away is creating an environmental catastrophe we are disposing of record amounts of ewaste the un defines electronics as anything with a plug or a battery and often contains toxic chemicals and substances such as lead and mercury ewaste includes discarded cellphones refrigerators and ecigarettes the un global ewaste monitor has reported that in 2022 the world generated a mindblowing 62 million tons of ewaste cnn said this waste could fill more than 15 million 40ton trucks which if placed bumpertobumper could wrap around the equator

most ewaste comes from developed countries a lot of it is sent to poorer countries for recycling however these countries lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that minimizes environmental damage the sheer volume of waste is creating a plethora of health problems dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas a disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year some of this enters the food chain the un blamed manufacturers for showing a lack of duty of care by failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products it also blamed consumers saying its just a few clicks to buy electronics but its far more difficult to dispose of them

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe.html>

The United Nations has issued a stark warning to consumers worldwide. The volume of electronics we are throwing away is creating an "environmental catastrophe". We are disposing of record amounts of "e-waste". The UN defines electronics as anything with a plug or a battery, and often contains toxic chemicals and substances, such as lead and mercury. E-waste includes discarded cell phones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN Global E-waste Monitor has reported that in 2022, the world generated a mind-blowing 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this waste could "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could... wrap around the Equator". Most e-waste comes from developed countries. A lot of it is sent to poorer countries for recycling. However, these countries lack the technology and resources to dispose of it in a way that minimizes environmental damage. The sheer volume of waste is creating a plethora of health problems. Dumped electronics are poisoning rivers and seas. A disturbing 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year. Some of this enters the food chain. The UN blamed manufacturers for showing "a lack of duty of care" by failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more difficult to dispose of them".

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. E-WASTE: Make a poster about e-waste. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DISPOSAL FEES: Write a magazine article about charging everyone a disposal fee whenever they throw away items of e-waste. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on e-waste. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on what to do with e-waste. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. f 3. c 4. a 5. g 6. d 7. e
8. m 9. n 10. k 11. h 12. l 13. j 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. c	8. j	9. h	10. e

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A stark warning
2. A plug and a battery
3. Lead and mercury
4. 62 million tons
5. The Equator
6. Developed countries
7. Technology and resources
8. 58 tons
9. Manufacturers
10. Clicks

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The UN issued a stark warning to consumers.
2. The volume of electronics we are throwing away.
3. We are disposing of record amounts of e-waste.
4. It defines electronics as anything with a plug.
5. We generated a mind-blowing 62 million tons of e-waste.
6. Lots of it is sent to poorer countries.
7. E-waste is creating a plethora of health problems.
8. Some of this waste enters the food chain.
9. It's just a few clicks to buy electronics.
10. It's far more difficult to dispose of them.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)