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## **Level 4**

# **EU votes for universal phone charger**

**18th March, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger-4.html>

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**Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger-4.html>

Have you ever thought why phone chargers are all different? European lawmakers have thought about the same thing. Consumers should be happy with a new common-sense plan. The EU decided that smartphone companies must make the plug that connects to the electricity supply the same. However, the connector to the phone itself doesn't have to be the same. This will puzzle many people who wanted a standardized connector too.

The variety of adaptors is bad for the environment. People buy a new phone, throw away their old charger and buy a new one with their new phone. The new law will reduce this electronic waste, which is currently 51,000 tons a year. A politician said the incompatibility of chargers for electronic devices was "a nightmare and a real inconvenience for consumers". Manufacturers must follow the new law by 2017.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-24726077>  
<http://www.siliconrepublic.com/enterprise/item/36152-smartphone-companies-to/>  
<http://www.euractiv.com/innovation-enterprise/meps-vote-harmonise-mobile-phone-news-534138>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Have you ever thought  | a. sense plan                |
| 2. Consumers should       | b. the phone                 |
| 3. a new common-          | c. be happy                  |
| 4. the plug that connects | d. many people               |
| 5. the connector to       | e. why                       |
| 6. This will puzzle       | f. to the electricity supply |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The variety            | a. tons a year            |
| 2. bad                    | b. away their old charger |
| 3. throw                  | c. inconvenience          |
| 4. reduce this electronic | d. of adaptors            |
| 5. currently 51,000       | e. waste                  |
| 6. a nightmare and a real | f. for the environment    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger-4.html>

Have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ phone chargers are all different? European lawmakers have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ thing. Consumers should be happy with a new (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The EU decided that smartphone companies must make (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to the electricity (5) \_\_\_\_\_. However, the connector to the phone itself doesn't have to be the same. This will puzzle many people who wanted a (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ bad for the environment. People buy a new phone, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ charger and buy a new one with their new phone. The new law will (9) \_\_\_\_\_ waste, which is currently 51,000 tons a year. A politician (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of chargers for electronic devices (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and a real inconvenience for consumers". Manufacturers must (12) \_\_\_\_\_ by 2017.

# PHONE CHARGERS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about phone chargers 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

