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**Level 5 – 28th November, 2022**

**'Hated' Australian bird dealing with invasive species**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-5.html>

A bird that is reviled by many in Australia has undergone an image change. That's because it is helping to get rid of a huge nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. Many Australians view the ibis as a pest because it scavenges for food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food from people's hands. People nickname it the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. People are now seeing the ibises in a positive light. The birds have learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad.

Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Farmers thought they would eradicate a beetle that was eating their crops. However, the toads ate some insects and small animals to the point of extinction. They quickly spread across the country. Their poison is strong enough to kill most animals that eat toads. They had no natural predators until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "flick them about". The stress of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash them in water and eat them.

Sources: <https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/ibis-birds-eating-poisonous-cane-toads/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-63699884>  
<https://junkee.com/ibis-eating-cane-toads/345141>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A bird that is reviled by | a. to Australia           |
| 2. an image                  | b. it the "bin chicken"   |
| 3. helping to get rid of a   | c. cane toad              |
| 4. the invasive              | d. change                 |
| 5. indigenous                | e. food from garbage bags |
| 6. it scavenges for          | f. a positive light       |
| 7. People nickname           | g. many in Australia      |
| 8. seeing the ibises in      | h. huge nuisance          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. eradicate a beetle that was | a. them about               |
| 2. to the point                | b. predators                |
| 3. They had no natural         | c. them in water            |
| 4. They had no natural         | d. eating their crops       |
| 5. rid them of their           | e. release all their poison |
| 6. pick the toads up and flick | f. predators                |
| 7. the toads                   | g. of extinction            |
| 8. The ibises then wash        | h. venom                    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-5.html>

A bird that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ many in Australia has undergone (2) \_\_\_\_\_. That's because it is helping to get rid of a huge nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Australia. Many Australians view the ibis as a pest because it scavenges for food from garbage bags and trash cans. It (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from people's hands. People nickname it the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. People are now seeing the ibises in (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The birds have learnt how to eat the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ cane toad.

Cane toads (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Australia in the 1930s. Farmers thought they would (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that was eating their crops. However, the toads ate some insects and small animals to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They quickly spread across the country. Their poison is strong enough to kill most animals that eat toads. They had (10) \_\_\_\_\_ until the white ibis learnt to rid them (11) \_\_\_\_\_. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "flick them about". The stress of this makes the toads (12) \_\_\_\_\_ poison. The ibises then wash them in water and eat them.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-5.html>

A bird that is reviled by many in Australia has undergone an image change. That's because it is helping to get rid of a huge nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. Many Australians view the ibis as a pest because it scavenges for food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food from people's hands. People nickname it the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. People are now seeing the ibis in a positive light. The bird has learned how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Farmers thought they would eradicate a beetle that was eating their crops. However, the toads ate some insects and small animals to the point of extinction. They quickly spread across the country. Their poison is strong enough to kill most animals that eat toads. They had no natural predators until the white ibis learned to eat them of their venom. An Australian journalist said the ibis picks the toad up and "flicks them about". The stress of this makes the toad release all their poison. The ibis then washes them in water and eats them.

# INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about invasive species 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*'Hated' Australian bird dealing with invasive species – 28th November, 2022*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

