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Level 6

EU votes for universal phone charger

18th March, 2014

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

Contents

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|--|----|
| The Article | 2 | Discussion (Student-Created Qs) | 14 |
| Warm-Ups | 3 | Language Work (Cloze) | 15 |
| Before Reading / Listening | 4 | Spelling | 16 |
| While Reading / Listening | 5 | Put The Text Back Together | 17 |
| Match The Sentences And Listen | 6 | Put The Words In The Right Order | 18 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 7 | Circle The Correct Word | 19 |
| Comprehension Questions | 8 | Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u) | 20 |
| Multiple Choice - Quiz | 9 | Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals | 21 |
| Role Play | 10 | Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are | 22 |
| After Reading / Listening | 11 | Free Writing | 23 |
| Student Survey | 12 | Academic Writing | 24 |
| Discussion (20 Questions) | 13 | Homework | 25 |
| | | Answers | 26 |

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

Have you ever wondered why every smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone that is different from the rest? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been pondering the same mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, common-sense initiative voted for by European politicians. The EU has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug adaptor that connects to the electricity supply the same. They did not vote on making the other end of the cable, the part that connects to the phone itself, the same. This will leave many consumers feeling somewhat perplexed. They may well view the upcoming law as a half measure. There were calls to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone.

The dizzying variety in designs of current adaptors is detrimental to the environment. Every time someone buys a new phone, they usually end up throwing away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new device. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment by cutting down on electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will put an end to charger clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste annually." She added: "The current incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a nightmare and a real inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 to comply with the new directive.

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>

WARM-UPS

1. PHONE CHARGERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about phone chargers. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

wondered / smartphone / mystery / initiative / cable / perplexed / consumers / variety / throwing away / device / electronic waste / nightmare / inconvenience

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

3. DEVICES: How can they be better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | Smartphone | Tablet | Game console |
|--------------|------------|--------|--------------|
| Charger | | | |
| Screen | | | |
| Battery | | | |
| Keys | | | |
| Power button | | | |
| Size | | | |

4. WIRELESS: Students A **strongly** believe all chargers and connectors should be the same; Students B **strongly** believe they shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. NIGHTMARE: Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest nightmare at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- phone down the toilet
- e-mail password hacked
- all computer files corrupted
- no wi-fi for a week
- log-in password forgotten
- banned from Facebook
- serious computer virus
- cyber-bully

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. EU lawmakers have been pandering over smartphone chargers. | T / F |
| b. The article describes a new law as being one of common sense. | T / F |
| c. The connector to the actual smartphone is to be standardized. | T / F |
| d. Many consumers won't understand the decision made by the EU. | T / F |
| e. The constant replacement of old chargers is bad for the environment. | T / F |
| f. Over 50,000 tons of chargers are thrown away each year. | T / F |
| g. A politician said phone chargers give people bad dreams. | T / F |
| h. Smartphone makers have 5 years to change their chargers. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. wondered | a. mismatch |
| 2. pondering | b. look at |
| 3. initiative | c. diversity |
| 4. connects | d. strategy |
| 5. view | e. speculated about |
| 6. variety | f. reducing |
| 7. fits | g. adhere to |
| 8. cutting down on | h. considering |
| 9. incompatibility | i. matches |
| 10. comply with | j. joins |

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. a new, common- | a. supply |
| 2. connects to the electricity | b. for consumers |
| 3. the part that | c. measure |
| 4. view the upcoming law as a half | d. variety in designs |
| 5. There were calls to also standardize | e. on electronic waste |
| 6. The dizzying | f. sense initiative |
| 7. detrimental | g. the connector |
| 8. cutting down | h. to the environment |
| 9. a real inconvenience | i. the new directive |
| 10. comply with | j. connects to the phone |

GAP FILL

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

Have you ever (1) _____ why every smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone that is different from the (2) _____? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been pondering the same mystery. Consumers should (3) _____ a new, common-sense (4) _____ voted for by European politicians. The EU has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug adaptor that connects to the electricity (5) _____ the same. They did not vote on making the other (6) _____ of the cable, the part that connects to the phone itself, the same. This will leave many consumers feeling somewhat (7) _____. They may well view the upcoming law as a half (8) _____. There were calls to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone.

perplexed
welcome
measure
supply
wondered
initiative
rest
end

The dizzying (9) _____ in designs of current adaptors is detrimental to the environment. Every time someone buys a new phone, they usually (10) _____ up throwing away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new (11) _____. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment by cutting (12) _____ on electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will put an end to charger (13) _____ and 51,000 tons of electronic waste annually." She added: "The (14) _____ incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a (15) _____ and a real inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 to comply with the new (16) _____.

current
down
end
directive
variety
clutter
nightmare
device

Level 6

EU votes for universal phone charger – 18th March, 2014

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LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) a charger for its phone that is different _____
 - a. from the best
 - b. from the lest
 - c. from the rest
 - d. from the crest
- 2) Lawmakers at the European Union have also been pondering _____
 - a. the same mysteries
 - b. the same historical
 - c. the same mystery
 - d. the same history
- 3) Consumers should welcome a new, _____
 - a. commons-sense initiative
 - b. common-sense initiative
 - c. community-sense initiative
 - d. come-on-sense initiative
- 4) the plug adaptor that connects to _____
 - a. the electrical supply
 - b. the electricity supply
 - c. the electric city supply
 - d. the electronics supply
- 5) They may well view the upcoming law _____
 - a. as a half measure
 - b. as a half measured
 - c. as a half measuring
 - d. as a half measures
- 6) The dizzying variety in designs of current adaptors _____
 - a. is petro mental
 - b. is retro mental
 - c. is detrimental
 - d. is occidental
- 7) paying for another one that fits _____
 - a. there new device
 - b. their new device
 - c. they're new device
 - d. the new device
- 8) help the environment by cutting down _____
 - a. on electronic waste
 - b. in electronic waste
 - c. an electronic waste
 - d. un-electronic waste
- 9) a nightmare and a real inconvenience _____
 - a. four consumers
 - b. for consumers
 - c. form consumers
 - d. fore consumers
- 10) Manufacturers have until 2017 to comply _____
 - a. with the new directive
 - b. with the new direction
 - c. with the new director
 - d. with the new direction

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Have you (1) _____ smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone that is different from the rest? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been (2) _____ mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, (3) _____ voted for by European politicians. The EU has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug (4) _____ to the electricity supply the same. They did not vote on making the other end of the cable, the part that connects (5) _____, the same. This will leave many consumers (6) _____. They may well view the upcoming law as a half measure. There were calls to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone.

The dizzying (7) _____ current adaptors is detrimental to the environment. Every time someone buys a new phone, they usually (8) _____ away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new device. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment (9) _____ electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will (10) _____ clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste annually." She added: "The (11) _____ chargers for mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a nightmare and a real inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 (12) _____ directive.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who at the EU has been thinking about a mystery?

2. How did the article describe the new initiative?

3. What will the new, universal adaptor be plugged into?

4. How might many people view the EU's upcoming law?

5. What were there calls for to standardize?

6. What is detrimental to the environment?

7. How will the new charger help the environment?

8. How much electronic waste is there each year?

9. What two things did a politician say charger incompatibility was?

10. When is the limit for manufacturers to comply with the new law?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. Who at the EU has been thinking about a mystery?
 - a) the EU Minister of Detectives
 - b) the boss
 - c) lawmakers
 - d) the security guards
2. How did the article describe the new initiative?
 - a) as being one of common sense
 - b) as being foolish
 - c) as being too wordy
 - d) as being full of intrigue and mystery
3. What will the new, universal adaptor be plugged into?
 - a) the 21st century
 - b) the electricity supply
 - c) technology
 - d) the floor
4. How might many people view the EU's upcoming law?
 - a) half-heartedly
 - b) the cup is half empty
 - c) at half-time
 - d) as a half measure
5. What were there calls for to standardize?
 - a) Apple and Samsung
 - b) laws
 - c) the connector to the phone
 - d) phone call rates
6. What is detrimental to the environment?
 - a) making phone calls
 - b) the variety of adaptors
 - c) dizziness
 - d) politicians
7. How will the new charger help the environment?
 - a) it is biodegradable
 - b) it will convert CO2 into oxygen
 - c) electronic signals attack pollution
 - d) it will reduce waste
8. How much electronic waste is there each year?
 - a) 51 million kilograms
 - b) 51,000 tons
 - c) 5 million tons
 - d) 50 million kg
9. What two things did a politician say charger incompatibility was?
 - a) a bad dream and incontinence
 - b) a nightmare and an inconvenience
 - c) a dark horse and a spot of bother
 - d) misery and headaches
10. When is the limit for manufacturers to comply with the new law?
 - a) 2017
 - b) 2022
 - c) 2027
 - d) 2032

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Phone down the toilet

You think a phone down the toilet is the biggest nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to fix (and why): no wi-fi for a week, your e-mail password being hacked or being banned from Facebook.

Role B – No wi-fi for a week

You think no wi-fi for a week is the biggest nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to fix (and why): a phone down the toilet, your e-mail password being hacked or being banned from Facebook.

Role C – E-mail password hacked

You think your e-mail password being hacked is the biggest nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to fix (and why): no wi-fi for a week, a phone down the toilet or being banned from Facebook.

Role D – Banned from Facebook

You think being banned from Facebook is the biggest nightmare. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad with their problems. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to fix (and why): no wi-fi for a week, your e-mail password being hacked or a phone down the toilet.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| smart | phone |
|--------------|--------------|

- 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">• rest• mystery• common• supply• cable• calls | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• designs• away• help• put• digital• real |
|--|--|

PHONE CHARGERS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger.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.

PHONE CHARGERS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'charger'?
- c) Why do companies make different chargers?
- d) What do you think of the new EU law?
- e) Is the new law a half measure?
- f) Why aren't plugs and connectors the same all over the world?
- g) Isn't it better for the end that goes into the phone to be the same?
- h) What leaves you feeling perplexed about electronics?
- i) How would wireless chargers change your life?
- j) How would never-ending batteries change your life?

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PHONE CHARGERS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you do with your old cables, chargers, adaptors, etc.?
- c) Do you think phones will be cheaper if you don't need a new charger every time?
- d) What else can electronics companies do to reduce waste?
- e) What do you do when your phone is dead and you cannot find your charger?
- f) Should houses have device chargers already in the walls?
- g) What is the biggest nightmare about electronics?
- h) Are electronics always a convenience?
- i) When will smartphones disappear and what will replace them?
- j) What would you like to ask an electronics company boss?

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

Have you ever (1) _____ why every smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone that is different from the rest? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been (2) _____ the same mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, (3) _____-sense initiative voted for by European politicians. The EU has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug adaptor that connects to the electricity (4) _____ the same. They did not vote on making the other end of the cable, the part that connects to the phone (5) _____, the same. This will leave many consumers feeling somewhat perplexed. They may well view the upcoming law as a half measure. There were calls to also standardize the connector that (6) _____ into the phone.

The dizzying (7) _____ in designs of current adaptors is detrimental to the environment. Every time someone buys a new phone, they usually end (8) _____ throwing away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new device. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment by cutting down (9) _____ electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will put an end to charger clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste (10) _____." She added: "The current incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a (11) _____ and a real inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 to comply (12) _____ the new directive.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) warned | (b) worried | (c) wandered | (d) wondered |
| 2. | (a) pounding | (b) pandering | (c) panting | (d) pondering |
| 3. | (a) unique | (b) common | (c) original | (d) ubiquitous |
| 4. | (a) demand | (b) merchant | (c) supply | (d) market |
| 5. | (a) call | (b) electricity | (c) itself | (d) power |
| 6. | (a) fits | (b) calls | (c) answers | (d) annexes |
| 7. | (a) assorted | (b) variety | (c) mixing | (d) compendia |
| 8. | (a) up | (b) in | (c) on | (d) down |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) of | (d) from |
| 10. | (a) minutely | (b) universally | (c) annually | (d) provincially |
| 11. | (a) nightcap | (b) nightfall | (c) nightmare | (d) night shift |
| 12. | (a) as | (b) to | (c) on | (d) with |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. smartphone ruumfceatanr
2. pondering the same yrsemty
3. a new, common-sense iieaiitntv
4. connects to the electricity uypslp
5. leave many consumers feeling somewhat relpdeexp
6. view the upcoming law as a half asurmee

Paragraph 2

7. The dizzying tervyai in designs
8. enmrdeliatt to the environment
9. EU nioctiapl Barbara Weiler said...
10. 51,000 tons of electronic waste ulylaann
11. The current ocptbmailitinyi of chargers
12. a real ecieivocnennn for consumers

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, common-sense initiative voted for by European
- () connects to the phone itself, the same. This will leave many consumers feeling somewhat perplexed. They may well
- () politicians. The EU has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug adaptor that connects
- () The dizzying variety in designs of current adaptors is detrimental to the environment. Every time someone buys
- () smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a nightmare and a real
- () to the electricity supply the same. They did not vote on making the other end of the cable, the part that
- () inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 to comply with the new directive.
- () device. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment by cutting down on electronic
- () annually." She added: "The current incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones,
- () that is different from the rest? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been pondering the same
- () view the upcoming law as a half measure. There were calls to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone.
- () a new phone, they usually end up throwing away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new
- (**1**) Have you ever wondered why every smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone
- () waste. She told reporters: "It will put an end to charger clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. charger A rest the from different is that phone its for.

2. supply plug connects electricity The that the adaptor to.

3. part phone that itself connects to The the.

4. well may They measure half a as law upcoming the view.

5. fits Standardize into the the connector phone that.

6. away charger usually throwing old They up their end.

7. for that new Paying one their another fits device.

8. by on environment down waste the cutting electronic Help.

9. phones of chargers The for current mobile incompatibility.

10. comply Manufacturers until to have 2017.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Have you ever wondered *why / what* every smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone that is different from the *restive / rest*? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been *pondering / pandering* the same mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, common-sense *initiative / initial* voted for by European politicians. The EU has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug *adaptation / adaptor* that connects to the electricity *supply / demand* the same. They did not vote on making the other end of the *cabal / cable*, the part that connects to the phone itself, the same. This will leave many consumers feeling *something / somewhat* perplexed. They may well *view / gave* the upcoming law as a half measure. There were *calls / callings* to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone.

The *dizzying / dizzied* variety in designs of current adaptors is *detriment / detrimental* to the environment. Every time someone buys a new phone, they usually *end / send* up throwing away their old charger and *paying / payment* for another one that fits their new *device / devil*. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment *by / from* cutting down on electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will put an *entry / end* to charger clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste *year / annually*." She added: "The current incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a *dream / nightmare* and a real inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 to *comply / imply* with the new directive.

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

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

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

H_v_ y__ _v_r w_nd_r_d why _v_ry sm_rtph_n_ m_n_f_ct_r_r m_k_s _ ch_rg_r f_r_ts ph_n_ th_t_s d_ff_r_nt fr_m th_r_st? L_wm_k_rs _t th_ _r_p__n _n__n h_v_ _ls_ b__n p_nd_r_ng th_ s_m_ myst_ry. C_ns_m_rs sh__ld w_lc_m_ _ n_w, c_mm_n-s_ns_ _n_t_t_v_ v_t_d_f_r by __r_p__n p_l_t_c__ns. Th_ __h_s d_c_d_d th_t _ll sm_rtph_n_ c_mp_n__s w_ll s__n h_v_ t_ m_k_ th_ pl_g _d_pt_r th_t c_nn_cts t_ th_ _l_ctr_c_ty s_pply th_ s_m_. Th_y d_d n_t v_t_ _n m_k_ng th_ _th_r _nd _f th_ c_bl_, th_ p_rt th_t c_nn_cts t_ th_ ph_n_ _ts_lf, th_ s_m_. Th_s w_ll l__v_ m_ny c_ns_m_rs f__l_ng s_m_ wh_t p_rpl_x_d. Th_y m_y w_ll v__w th_ _pc_m_ng l_w _s_ h_lf m__s_r_. Th_r_ w_r_ c_lls t_ _ls_ st_nd_rd_z_ th_ c_nn_ct_r th_t f_ts _nt_ th_ ph_n_.

Th_ d_zzy_ng v_r__ty _n d_s_gns _f c_rr_nt _d_pt_rs _s d_tr_m_nt_l t_ th_ _nv_r_nm_nt. _v_ry t_m_ s_m__n_ b_ys _ n_w ph_n_, th_y _s__lly _nd _p thr_w_ng _w_y th__r _ld ch_rg_r _nd p_y_ng f_r _n_th_r_n th_t f_ts th__r n_w d_v_c_. __ p_l_t_c__n B_rb_r_ W__l_r s__d th_ n_w l_w w__ld h_lp th_ _nv_r_nm_nt by c_tt_ng d_wn _n _l_ctr_n_c w_st_. Sh_t_ld r_p_rt_rs: "_t w_ll p_t _n _nd t_ ch_rg_r cl_tt_r _nd 51,000 t_ns _f _l_ctr_n_c w_st_ _nn__lly." Sh__dd_d: "Th_ c_rr_nt _nc_mp_t_b_l_ty _f ch_rg_rs f_r m_b_l_ ph_n_s, sm_rt ph_n_s, t_b_l_ts, d_g_t_l c_m_r_s _nd m_s_c pl_y_rs _s _n_ghtm_r_ _nd _r__l _nc_nv_n__nc_ f_r c_ns_m_rs." M_n_f_ct_r_rs h_v_ _nt_l 2017 t_ c_mply w_th th_ n_w d_r_ct_v_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

have you ever wondered why every smartphone manufacturer makes a charger for its phone that is different from the rest lawmakers at the european union have also been pondering the same mystery consumers should welcome a new common-sense initiative voted for by european politicians the eu has decided that all smartphone companies will soon have to make the plug adaptor that connects to the electricity supply the same they did not vote on making the other end of the cable the part that connects to the phone itself the same this will leave many consumers feeling somewhat perplexed they may well view the upcoming law as a half measure there were calls to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone

the dizzying variety in designs of current adaptors is detrimental to the environment every time someone buys a new phone they usually end up throwing away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new device eu politician barbara weiler said the new law would help the environment by cutting down on electronic waste she told reporters "it will put an end to charger clutter and 51000 tons of electronic waste annually" she added "the current incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones smart phones tablets digital cameras and music players is a nightmare and a real inconvenience for consumers" manufacturers have until 2017 to comply with the new directive

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Have you ever wondered why every smart phone manufacturer make a charger for its phone that is different from the rest? Lawmakers at the European Union have also been pondering the same mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, common-sense initiative voted for by European politicians. The EU has decided that all smart phone companies will soon have to make the plug adapt or that connect to the electricity supply the same. They did not vote on making the other end of the cable, the part that connects to the phone itself, the same. This will leave many consumers feeling somewhat perplexed. They may well view the upcoming law as a half measure. There were calls to also standardize the connector that fits into the phone. The dizzying variety in designs of current adaptors is detrimental to the environment. Every time someone buys a new phone, they usually end up throwing away their old charger and paying for another one that fits their new device. EU politician Barbara Weiler said the new law would help the environment by cutting down on electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will put an end to charger clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste annually." She added: "The current incompatibility of chargers for mobile phones, smartphones, tablets, digital cameras and music players is a nightmare and a real inconvenience for consumers." Manufacturers have until 2017 to comply with the new directive.

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 phone chargers. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PHONE CHARGERS: Make a poster about phone chargers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. COMPATABILITY: Write a magazine article about making everything on all devices compatible. 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 IT expert. Ask him/her three questions about phone chargers. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make them better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d T e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. wondered | a. speculated about |
| 2. pondering | b. considering |
| 3. initiative | c. strategy |
| 4. connects | d. joins |
| 5. view | e. look at |
| 6. variety | f. diversity |
| 7. fits | g. matches |
| 8. cutting down on | h. reducing |
| 9. incompatibility | i. mismatch |
| 10. comply with | j. adhere to |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Lawmakers
2. As being one of common-sense
3. The electricity supply
4. As a half measure
5. The connector to the phone
6. Having so many different adaptors
7. It will cut down on electronic waste
8. 51,000 tons
9. A nightmare and an inconvenience
10. 2017

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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