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Level 3

Worries about microplastics in our seafood

26th January, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

People who eat seafood may be also eating tiny pieces of plastic. The small pieces of plastic are called microplastics. They are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste and garbage that are in the seas and oceans. They are usually less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming more and more common in seafood such as oysters and mussels as well as other kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are being added every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at the sea surface or in the water...and many of those encounters are harmful if not fatal."

Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium conducted a study into microplastics and marine life. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food each year. The researchers said that only around 60 of these pieces stay in our body and the rest will disappear down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will build up over time. They could eventually be bad for our health. Things are likely to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the century, seafood eaters could consume as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That is likely to cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and find alternatives to plastic.

Sources: <http://news.sky.com/story/microplastics-in-seafood-could-be-a-health-risk-experts-fear-10739835>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/why-recycle-plastic-rubbish-oceans-8-million-tonnes-pollution-microplastics-a7541476.html>
<http://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/study-shows-wider-impact-of-microplastics/>

WARM-UPS

1. SEAFOOD: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about seafood. 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?

seafood / plastic / waste / garbage / oceans / oysters / scientists / marine / biologist / study / researchers / health / disappear / century / problems / recycle / alternatives

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

3. OCEANS & SEAS: Students A **strongly** believe we should heavily fine nations whose seas are full of plastic waste; Students B **strongly** believe this would not work. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ALTERNATIVES: What could we use for these things instead of plastic? How much better would the alternatives be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Alternatives	How much better
Pens		
Shopping bags		
Drink bottles		
Plates		
Containers		
Car dashboards		

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

6. RECYCLE: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to recycle at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- plastic bottles
- books
- computers
- furniture
- cars
- clothes
- mobile phones
- cups and plates

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

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

- a. The article says shellfish love eating tiny pieces of plastic. **T / F**
- b. Microplastics are all less than 0.1mm wide. **T / F**
- c. Microplastics are becoming more common in oysters and mussels. **T / F**
- d. A marine biologist said microplastics do not harm or kill sea life. **T / F**
- e. The research was conducted by a university in Malaysia. **T / F**
- f. Researchers say people eat up to 11,000 pieces of microplastic a year. **T / F**
- g. By 2099, seafood eaters could be eating 780,000 bits of plastic a year. **T / F**
- h. Scientists say we need to find alternatives to plastic. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. tiny | a. remainder |
| 2. pieces | b. trash |
| 3. garbage | c. eat |
| 4. such as | d. come across |
| 5. encounter | e. minute |
| 6. conducted | f. substitutes |
| 7. rest | g. did |
| 8. eventually | h. bits |
| 9. consume | i. in the end |
| 10. alternatives | j. like |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. waste and | a. of the century |
| 2. more and more common in seafood | b. if not fatal |
| 3. More and more are being | c. to get worse |
| 4. at the sea surface or | d. to plastic |
| 5. many of those encounters are harmful | e. garbage |
| 6. the rest will disappear down | f. added every day |
| 7. Things are likely | g. many health problems |
| 8. by the end | h. in the water |
| 9. likely to cause | i. the toilet |
| 10. recycle more and find alternatives | j. such as oysters |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

People who eat seafood (1) _____ be also eating tiny pieces of plastic. The small pieces of plastic are (2) _____ microplastics. They are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste and garbage that are in the seas and (3) _____. They are usually less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming more and more (4) _____ in seafood such as oysters and mussels as well as other kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five (5) _____ pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are being (6) _____ every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a (7) _____ biologist at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at the sea surface or in the water...and many of those encounters are harmful if not (8) _____."

common
may
added
oceans
fatal
called
trillion
marine

Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium (9) _____ a study into microplastics and marine life. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food (10) _____ year. The researchers said that only (11) _____ 60 of these pieces stay in our body and the (12) _____ will disappear down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will build up over time. They could (13) _____ be bad for our health. Things are likely to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the (14) _____, seafood eaters could consume as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That is (15) _____ to cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and find (16) _____ to plastic.

eventually
each
rest
alternatives
conducted
likely
around
century

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

- 1) People who eat seafood may be also eating _____ plastic
 - a. tinny pieces of
 - b. tiny pieces of
 - c. tiny piece is of
 - d. tinny piece is of
- 2) They are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste _____
 - a. end garbage
 - b. ant garbage
 - c. add garbage
 - d. and garbage
- 3) more common in seafood such as oysters and mussels as well as other _____
 - a. kinds of shelled fish
 - b. kinds off shellfish
 - c. kinds of shellfish
 - d. kins off shellfish
- 4) Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic _____"
 - a. in the sea surface
 - b. to the sea surface
 - c. at the sea surface
 - d. not the sea surface
- 5) many of those encounters are harmful _____
 - a. if not fatal
 - b. if not vital
 - c. if not ate all
 - d. if not natal
- 6) Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium _____ study
 - a. constructed a
 - b. conducted a
 - c. con duct it a
 - d. con ducked a
- 7) people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food _____
 - a. each years
 - b. each yearly
 - c. each ear
 - d. each year
- 8) around 60 of these pieces stay in our body and _____ disappear
 - a. the rest will
 - b. the rests will
 - c. the rested will
 - d. the restive will
- 9) Sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will _____ time
 - a. build up overly
 - b. build up overs
 - c. build up over
 - d. build up and over
- 10) Scientists say we need to recycle more and find _____ plastic
 - a. alternative at
 - b. alternatives to
 - c. alternatively to
 - d. alternatives at

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

People who eat seafood may (1) _____ tiny pieces of plastic. The small pieces of plastic are called microplastics. They are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste and garbage (2) _____ seas and oceans. They are usually less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming (3) _____ common in seafood such as oysters and mussels as (4) _____ kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are (5) _____ day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at the sea surface (6) _____...and many of those encounters are harmful if not fatal."

Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium conducted a study into microplastics (7) _____. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food each year. The researchers said that only around (8) _____ pieces stay in our body and the rest will disappear down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic (9) _____ lot but it will build up over time. They could eventually (10) _____ health. Things are likely to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the century, seafood eaters could consume as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. (11) _____ cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and find (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

1. Who may be eating tiny pieces of plastic?
2. How wide are microplastics?
3. What two kinds of seafood did the article mention?
4. How many pieces of microplastics are in the oceans?
5. What is Richard Thompson's job?
6. How much microplastic do people eat every year?
7. How many pieces of microplastics stay in our body each year?
8. Where do most microplastics that we eat end up?
9. When might we eat as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year?
10. What did scientists say we need to find an alternative to?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

- 1) Who may be eating tiny pieces of plastic?
 - a) seafood eaters
 - b) seafood
 - c) fish
 - d) everyone
- 2) How wide are microplastics?
 - a) 1 cm
 - b) between 1-2 mm
 - c) less than a millimeter
 - d) 0.01 mm
- 3) What two kinds of seafood did the article mention?
 - a) crabs and squid
 - b) mussels and oysters
 - c) prawns and lobsters
 - d) tuna and sardines
- 4) How many pieces of microplastics are in the oceans?
 - a) five million
 - b) five quadrillion
 - c) five billion
 - d) five trillion
- 5) What is Richard Thompson's job?
 - a) marine biologist
 - b) sushi chef
 - c) fisherman
 - d) writer
- 6) How much microplastic do people eat every year?
 - a) 11,824 pieces
 - b) exactly 11,000 pieces
 - c) just over 11,000 pieces
 - d) up to 11,000 pieces
- 7) How many pieces of microplastics stay in our body each year?
 - a) less than 60
 - b) around 60
 - c) 65
 - d) exactly 60
- 8) Where do most microplastics that we eat end up?
 - a) in our blood
 - b) on a dinner plate
 - c) in seafood
 - d) down the toilet
- 9) When might we eat as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year?
 - a) when there are more fish
 - b) if climate change stops
 - c) by 2099
 - d) next year
- 10) What did scientists say we need to find an alternative to?
 - a) recycling
 - b) plastic
 - c) shellfish
 - d) oceans

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

Role A – Plastic Bottles

You think plastic bottles are the most important things to recycle. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with recycling their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to recycle (and why): computers, clothes or cars.

Role B – Computers

You think computers are the most important things to recycle. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with recycling their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to recycle (and why): plastic bottles, clothes or cars.

Role C – Clothes

You think clothes are the most important things to recycle. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with recycling their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to recycle (and why): computers, plastic bottles or cars.

Role D – Cars

You think cars are the most important things to recycle. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what problems there are with recycling their things. Also, tell the others which of these is the least important to recycle (and why): computers, clothes or plastic bottles.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

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

micro	plastic
--------------	----------------

- 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">• eating• waste• usually• well• added• harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• study• 11,000• 60• lot• worse• find
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SEAFOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

Write five GOOD questions about seafood 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.

SEAFOOD 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 'plastic'?
3. What do you think about what you read?
4. What seafood is the best, and why?
5. How can we clean all plastic from the oceans?
6. What can we use instead of plastic?
7. What do you think of seafood?
8. Do you worry about what you eat?
9. Should shops stop selling seafood if it has microplastics?
10. What do you do to recycle plastic?

Worries about microplastics in our seafood – 26th January, 2017
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SEAFOOD 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 'seafood'?
13. What does a marine biologist do every day?
14. What are microplastics?
15. Is eating seafood riskier than eating meat?
16. What do you think of oysters?
17. Whose responsibility is it to protect our oceans?
18. How can we keep our food safe?
19. What health problems do you think microplastics could cause?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

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/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

People who eat seafood may be (1) _____ eating tiny pieces of plastic. The small pieces of plastic are called microplastics. They are tiny pieces of plastic from the (2) _____ and garbage that are in the seas and oceans. They are usually less than a millimeter (3) _____. They are becoming more and more common in seafood such as oysters and mussels as well as other (4) _____ of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are (5) _____ added every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at the sea surface or in the water...and many of those encounters are harmful if not (6) _____."

Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium conducted a study into microplastics and marine life. They believe people eat (7) _____ to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food each year. The researchers said that only around 60 of (8) _____ pieces stay in our body and the rest will disappear down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will build (9) _____ over time. They could eventually be bad for our health. Things are (10) _____ to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the century, seafood eaters could (11) _____ as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That is likely to cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and find (12) _____ to plastic.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. | (a) addition | (b) also | (c) plus | (d) extra |
| 2. | (a) paste | (b) waste | (c) baste | (d) caste |
| 3. | (a) wider | (b) widen | (c) width | (d) wide |
| 4. | (a) type | (b) kinds | (c) sort | (d) means |
| 5. | (a) are | (b) is | (c) been | (d) being |
| 6. | (a) fatally | (b) fatalistic | (c) fatal | (d) fatale |
| 7. | (a) up | (b) along | (c) down | (d) over |
| 8. | (a) they | (b) them | (c) these | (d) that |
| 9. | (a) to | (b) over | (c) in | (d) up |
| 10. | (a) likely | (b) likelihood | (c) liking | (d) liken |
| 11. | (a) consume | (b) resume | (c) presume | (d) assume |
| 12. | (a) alternatives | (b) alternates | (c) alternators | (d) alters |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

Paragraph 1

1. tiny eiespc of plastic
2. from the waste and aebagrg
3. becoming more and more mconom
4. in our eaonsc
5. a mnraei biologist
6. harmful if not lataf

Paragraph 2

7. cdtnuocde a study
8. adpiserap down the toilet
9. They could nyetlvlaeu be bad
10. by the end of the cetyrun
11. we need to ereccyl more
12. find naraetvetlis to plastic

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () the sea surface or in the water...and many of those encounters are harmful if not fatal."
- (**1**) People who eat seafood may be also eating tiny pieces of plastic. The small pieces of plastic are called
- () bad for our health. Things are likely to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the
- () trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are being added every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine
- () biologist at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at
- () as oysters and mussels as well as other kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five
- () year. The researchers said that only around 60 of these pieces stay in our body and the rest will disappear
- () cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and find alternatives to plastic.
- () century, seafood eaters could consume as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That is likely to
- () life. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food each
- () Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium conducted a study into microplastics and marine
- () down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will build up over time. They could eventually be
- () oceans. They are usually less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming more and more common in seafood such
- () microplastics. They are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste and garbage that are in the seas and

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

1. are plastic of pieces small The microplastics called .
2. of They plastic are from tiny the pieces waste .
3. More seafood and such more as common oysters in .
4. of than microplastic five There trillion are pieces more .
5. are encounters those of Many harmful .
6. They plastic of pieces 11,000 to up eat people believe .
7. of stay body 60 pieces our around these in Only .
8. be eventually could They health our for bad .
9. many cause to likely is That problems health .
10. plastic more find to Recycle and alternatives .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

People who eat seafood may *be / been* also eating tiny pieces of plastic. The small pieces of plastic are called microplastics. They are *tinny / tiny* pieces of plastic from the *waste / wastage* and garbage that are in the seas and oceans. They are usually less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming more and *many / more* common in seafood such as oysters and mussels as well as *other / another* kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are *been / being* added every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine *biology / biologist* at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms *encounter / counter* plastic at the sea surface or in the water...and many of those encounters are *harmed / harmful* if not *fatal / fatally*."

Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium conducted a *studying / study* into microplastics and marine life. They *belief / believe* people eat up to 11,000 pieces *of / off* plastic in their food each year. The researchers said that only around 60 of these pieces stay *in / on* our body and the rest will disappear *up / down* the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic may not *seem / seems* a lot but it will build up over time. They could *eventual / eventually* be bad for our health. Things are *likely / liken* to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the century, seafood eaters could *resume / consume* as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That is likely to cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to *recycle / cycle* more and find alternatives to plastic.

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/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

P__pl_ wh_ __t s__f__d m_y b_ _ls_ __t_ng t_ny
p__c_s _f pl_st_c. Th_ sm_ll p__c_s _f pl_st_c _r_
c_ll_d m_cr_pl_st_cs. Th_y _r_ t_ny p__c_s _f pl_st_c
fr_m th_ w_st_ __nd g_rb_g_ th_t _r_ __n th_ s__s __nd
_c__ns. Th_y _r_ __s__lly l_ss th_n _ m_ll_m_t_r_w_d_.
Th_y _r_ b_c_m_ng m_r_ __nd m_r_ c_mm_n __n s__f__d
s_ch __s __yst_rs __nd m_ss_ls __s_w_ll __s __th_r k_nds _f
sh_llf_sh. Sc__nt_sts s_y th_r_ __r m_r_ th_n f_v_
tr_ll__n p__c_s _f m_cr_pl_st_c __n __r __c__ns. M_r_
__nd m_r_ __r b__ng __dd_d __v_ry d_y. Pr_f_ss_r
R_ch_rd Th_mps_n, __ m_r_n b__l_g_st __t __x_t_r
__n_v_rs_ty, s__d: "H_ndr_ds __f m_r_n __rg_n_sms
__nc__nt_r pl_st_c __t th_ s__s_rfc_ __r __n th_
w_t_r... __nd m_ny __f th_s __nc__nt_rs __r h_rmf_l __f
n_t_f_t_l."

R_s__rch_rs fr_m th_ __n_v_rs_ty __f Gh__nt __n B_lg__m
c_nd_ct_d __st_dy __nt m_cr_pl_st_cs __nd m_r_n
l_f_. Th_y b_l__v p__pl_ __t p_t 11,000 p__c_s _f
pl_st_c __n th__r f__d __ch_y__r. Th_r s__rch_rs s__d
th_t __nly __r__nd 60 __f th_s p__c_s st_y __n __r b_dy
__nd th__r st_w_ll d_s_pp__r d_wn th__t__l_t. S_xty
p__c_s _f m_cr_pl_st_c m_y_n_t_s __m __l_t b_t __t_w_ll
b__ld __p __v_r_t_m_. Th_y c__ld __v__nt__lly b__b_d_f_r
__r h__lth. Th_ngs __r l_k_ly t__g_t_w_rs_. Th_
r_s__rch_rs __dd_d th_t by th__nd __f th__c__nt_ry,
s__f__d __t_rs c__ld c__ns_m__s m_ny __s 780,000
p__c_s _f pl_st_c __y__r. Th_t s_l_k_ly t__c__s m_ny
h__lth pr_b_l_ms. Sc__nt_sts s_y w__n__d t__r_cycl_
m_r_ __nd f__nd __l_t_rn_t_v_s_t pl_st_c.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

people who eat seafood may be also eating tiny pieces of plastic the small pieces of plastic are called microplastics they are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste and garbage that are in the seas and oceans they are usually less than a millimeter wide they are becoming more and more common in seafood such as oysters and mussels as well as other kinds of shellfish scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans more and more are being added every day professor richard thompson a marine biologist at exeter university said "hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at the sea surface or in the water...and many of those encounters are harmful if not fatal"

researchers from the university of ghent in belgium conducted a study into microplastics and marine life they believe people eat up to 11000 pieces of plastic in their food each year the researchers said that only around 60 of these pieces stay in our body and the rest will disappear down the toilet sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will build up over time they could eventually be bad for our health things are likely to get worse the researchers added that by the end of the century seafood eaters could consume as many as 780000 pieces of plastic a year that is likely to cause many health problems scientists say we need to recycle more and find alternatives to plastic

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics.html>

People who eat seafood may be also eating tiny pieces of plastic. These small pieces of plastic are called microplastics. They are tiny pieces of plastic from the waste and garbage that are in the seas and oceans. They are usually less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming more and more common in seafoods such as oysters and mussels as well as other kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More and more are being added every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist at Exeter University, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms encounter plastic at the sea surface or in the water... and many of those encounters are harmful if not fatal." Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium conducted a study into microplastics and marine life. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic in their food each year. The researchers said that only around 60 of these pieces stay in our body and the rest will disappear down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic may not seem a lot but it will build up over time. They could eventually be bad for our health. Things are likely to get worse. The researchers added that by the end of the century, seafood eaters could consume as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That is likely to cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and find alternatives to plastic.

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

3. MICROPLASTICS: Make a poster about microplastics. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PLASTIC: Write a magazine article about ending the use of plastic. How would it affect our life? Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 microplastics. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we could live without using plastic. 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 F c T d F e F f T g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. tiny | a. minute |
| 2. pieces | b. bits |
| 3. garbage | c. trash |
| 4. such as | d. like |
| 5. encounter | e. come across |
| 6. conducted | f. did |
| 7. rest | g. remainder |
| 8. eventually | h. in the end |
| 9. consume | i. eat |
| 10. alternatives | j. substitutes |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. People who eat seafood
2. Less than a millimeter
3. Oysters and mussels
4. Five trillion
5. Marine biologist
6. Up to 11,000 pieces
7. Around 60
8. Down the toilet
9. By the end of the century
10. Plastic

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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