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Level 2

Worries about microplastics in our seafood

26th January, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics-2.html>

Contents

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| The Reading | 2 |
| Phrase Matching | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| No Spaces | 5 |
| Survey | 6 |
| Writing and Speaking | 7 |
| Writing | 8 |

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics-2.html>

There may be pieces of plastic in seafood. They are called microplastics. These are tiny pieces of plastic from the garbage that is in oceans. They are less than a millimeter wide. They are becoming more common in seafood such as oysters and other kinds of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More are being added every day. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms [mix with] plastic...in the water...and many of those encounters are harmful if not fatal."

Researchers in Belgium conducted a study into microplastics. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic each year. Only around 60 of these pieces stay in our body - the rest disappear down the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic is not a lot but it will build up over time. They could eventually be bad for our health. Things will get worse. By the end of this century, seafood eaters could eat 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 use other things instead of 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/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. tiny pieces of plastic | a. five trillion pieces |
| 2. They are less than a millimeter | b. in seafood |
| 3. They are becoming more common | c. fatal |
| 4. oysters and other | d. from the garbage |
| 5. there are more than | e. organisms |
| 6. More are being added | f. kinds of shellfish |
| 7. Hundreds of marine | g. wide |
| 8. harmful if not | h. every day |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the rest disappear | a. to recycle more |
| 2. it will build | b. down the toilet |
| 3. be bad | c. of plastic |
| 4. Things will get | d. up over time |
| 5. By the end | e. many health problems |
| 6. That is likely to cause | f. for our health |
| 7. Scientists say we need | g. of this century |
| 8. use other things instead | h. worse |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics-2.html>

There (1) _____ of plastic in seafood. They are called microplastics. These are (2) _____ plastic from the garbage that is in oceans. They (3) _____ millimeter wide. They are becoming more common in seafood such as oysters (4) _____ of shellfish. Scientists say there are more than five trillion pieces of microplastic in our oceans. More are being (5) _____. Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist, said: "Hundreds of marine organisms [mix with] plastic...in the water...and (6) _____ encounters are harmful if not fatal."

Researchers in Belgium conducted (7) _____ microplastics. They believe people eat up to 11,000 pieces of plastic each year. Only around 60 (8) _____ stay in our body - the rest (9) _____ the toilet. Sixty pieces of microplastic is not a lot but it will build up over time. They could eventually (10) _____ health. Things will get worse. By the end of this century, seafood eaters could eat as many as 780,000 pieces of plastic a year. That (11) _____ cause many health problems. Scientists say we need to recycle more and use other (12) _____ plastic.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics-2.html>

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SEAFOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170126-microplastics-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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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) _____

