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Level 3

House dust could make us fat

15th July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.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/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Scientists say house dust could make us fat. They say that people should keep their house clean if they want to avoid putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some research on how dust affects mice. The researchers collected dust samples from 11 different houses and put them in the cells of mice. Dust from nine of the houses made the mice fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that create fat in their body. The scientists said that we breathe in and swallow small amounts of dust. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of dust as low as three micrograms...caused measurable effects."

The dust particles contained chemicals called EDCs. These can change or copy the body's hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire resistant. They are also added to some plastics, to make them bend more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household cleaning products. The researchers said EDCs are everywhere in most houses. They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children are at a higher risk. EDCs also cause other health risks including creating learning disabilities in children. Studies have also shown that EDCs can raise the risk of cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" to assess things we make that can make us unhealthy.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/07/12/household-dust-makes-people-fat-groundbreaking-research-indicates/>
<http://www.genengnews.com/gen-news-highlights/obesity-may-arise-in-part-from-household-dust/81254642>
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/318379.php>

WARM-UPS

1. HOUSE DUST: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about house dust. 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?

dust / fat / putting on weight / scientists / samples / hormones / breathe / swallow / chemicals / hormones / plastics / cosmetics / packaging / health risks / unhealthy

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

3. NATURAL: Students A **strongly** believe we should only use things made from natural materials in our house; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CLEAN: What is the best way to clean the house and keep it free from dust? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	The best way	Problems with this way
Carpets		
Walls		
Sofas		
Kitchen sinks		
Beds		
Toilets		

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

6. UNHEALTHY HOUSE: Rank these with your partner. Put the most unhealthy things in the house at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- dust
- electrical wiring
- air conditioning
- bathroom cleaners
- damp
- bacteria
- bugs
- asbestos

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

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

- a. The article says dust helps keep the house clean. **T / F**
- b. Researchers did tests on 11 different mice. **T / F**
- c. Dust changed hormones in the mice and that made them fatter. **T / F**
- d. A researcher said even 3 micrograms of dust called create effects. **T / F**
- e. Dust particles contain chemicals called DECc. **T / F**
- f. The article says older people are at greater risk from chemicals in dust. **T / F**
- g. The chemicals in dust can help with fertility. **T / F**
- h. The researchers said there was no need to assess chemicals in dust. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. avoid | a. influences |
| 2. research | b. disorders |
| 3. affects | c. quantities |
| 4. create | d. makeup |
| 5. amounts | e. produce |
| 6. contained | f. keep away from |
| 7. cosmetics | g. evaluate |
| 8. disabilities | h. increase |
| 9. raise | i. tests |
| 10. assess | j. included |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. people should keep their | a. how dust affects mice |
| 2. avoid putting | b. risk |
| 3. They did some research on | c. samples |
| 4. researchers collected dust | d. chemicals called EDCs |
| 5. we breathe in and swallow | e. packaging |
| 6. The dust particles contained | f. house clean |
| 7. make them fire | g. of cancer |
| 8. food | h. small amounts |
| 9. children are at a higher | i. on weight |
| 10. EDCs can raise the risk | j. resistant |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Scientists say house dust could make us fat. They say that people should (1) _____ their house clean if they want to (2) _____ putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some research on how dust (3) _____ mice. The researchers collected dust (4) _____ from 11 different houses and put them in the (5) _____ of mice. Dust from nine of the houses made the mice fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the (6) _____ in the mice that create fat in their body. The scientists said that we (7) _____ in and swallow small amounts of dust. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of dust as (8) _____ as three micrograms...caused measurable effects."

samples
hormones
avoid
low
keep
breathe
cells
affects

The dust particles contained (9) _____ called EDCs. These can change or (10) _____ the body's hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire resistant. They are also added to some plastics, to make them (11) _____ more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household cleaning products. The researchers said EDCs are (12) _____ in most houses. They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children are at a (13) _____ risk. EDCs also cause other health risks including creating (14) _____ disabilities in children. Studies have also shown that EDCs can raise the (15) _____ of cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" to assess things we make that can make us (16) _____.

bend
copy
risk
higher
unhealthy
chemicals
everywhere
learning

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

- 1) people should keep their house clean if they want to avoid _____
 - a. putting in weight
 - b. put in on weight
 - c. put it on weight
 - d. putting on weight
- 2) researchers collected dust samples from 11 different houses and put them in _____
 - a. the sells of mice
 - b. the cells of mice
 - c. the seals of mice
 - d. the souls of mice
- 3) scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that create _____
 - a. fat in that body
 - b. fat in them body
 - c. fat in they body
 - d. fat in their body
- 4) The scientists said that we breathe in and _____
 - a. swallowed small amounts
 - b. shallow small amounts
 - c. shallot small amounts
 - d. swallow small amounts
- 5) Amounts of dust as low as three micrograms...caused _____
 - a. measure able effects
 - b. measurer able effects
 - c. measurable effect
 - d. measurable effects
- 6) These can change or copy the _____
 - a. bodies hormones
 - b. body's hormone
 - c. bodies hormone
 - d. body's hormones
- 7) EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them _____
 - a. fire resistant
 - b. fire resist ant
 - c. fires resistant
 - d. fired resistance
- 8) They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children are _____
 - a. at a higher risky
 - b. at a higher risk
 - c. at a higher risked
 - d. at a higher risqué
- 9) EDCs also cause other health risks including creating learning _____
 - a. disability in children
 - b. disabilities on children
 - c. disabilities in children's
 - d. disabilities in children
- 10) The researchers said there was a "critical need" _____
 - a. to assess things
 - b. to assess thing
 - c. two assesses things
 - d. too assess things

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Scientists say house dust (1) _____ fat. They say that people should keep their house (2) _____ want to avoid putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some (3) _____ dust affects mice. The researchers collected dust samples from 11 different houses and put (4) _____ of mice. Dust from nine of the houses made the mice fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that (5) _____ body. The scientists said that we breathe in and swallow small amounts of dust. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of (6) _____ three micrograms...caused measurable effects."

The dust particles contained chemicals called EDCs. These can (7) _____ the body's hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire resistant. They (8) _____ to some plastics, to (9) _____ more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household cleaning products. The researchers said EDCs are (10) _____ houses. They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children (11) _____ risk. EDCs also cause other health risks including creating learning disabilities in children. Studies have also shown that EDCs can raise the risk of cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" (12) _____ we make that can make us unhealthy.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

1. What did scientists say we should do to our house?
2. Which university are the scientists from?
3. From how many different houses did the scientists collect dust?
4. What did scientists say dust changed in the bodies of mice?
5. How much dust did the scientists say we breathe in?
6. What is the name of the chemicals found in the dust?
7. What do the chemicals allow plastics to do?
8. Who did the scientists say was higher at risk from the chemicals?
9. What can EDCs raise the risk of besides infertility?
10. What kind of need did researchers say there was?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

- 1) What did scientists say we should do to our house?
 - a) weigh it
 - b) wash it
 - c) collect dust
 - d) keep it clean
- 2) Which university are the scientists from?
 - a) Earl
 - b) Duke
 - c) Prince
 - d) Viscount
- 3) From how many different houses did the scientists collect dust?
 - a) 9
 - b) 10
 - c) 11
 - d) 12
- 4) What did scientists say dust changed in the bodies of mice?
 - a) hormones
 - b) the heart
 - c) the legs
 - d) the lungs
- 5) How much dust did the scientists say we breathe in?
 - a) three micrograms
 - b) a lot
 - c) small amounts
 - d) 11
- 6) What is the name of the chemicals found in the dust?
 - a) CEDs
 - b) EDCs
 - c) DECc
 - d) ECDs
- 7) What do the chemicals allow plastics to do?
 - a) become dusty
 - b) break it
 - c) cover it
 - d) bend it
- 8) Who did the scientists say was higher at risk from the chemicals?
 - a) children
 - b) older people
 - c) researchers
 - d) dust experts
- 9) What can EDCs raise the risk of besides infertility?
 - a) sleeplessness
 - b) breathe
 - c) cancer
 - d) influenza
- 10) What kind of need did researchers say there was?
 - a) a big need
 - b) a critical need
 - c) a slight need
 - d) a healthy need

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Role A – Dust

You think dust is the unhealthiest thing in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least unhealthy of these (and why): electrical wiring, damp or bacteria.

Role B – Electrical Wiring

You think electrical wiring is the unhealthiest thing in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least unhealthy of these (and why): dust, damp or bacteria.

Role C – Damp

You think damp is the unhealthiest thing in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least unhealthy of these (and why): electrical wiring, dust or bacteria.

Role D – Bacteria

You think bacteria is the unhealthiest thing in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least unhealthy of these (and why): electrical wiring, damp or dust.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

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

house	dust
--------------	-------------

- 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">• clean• how• 11• nine• breathe• three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• copy• fire• food• health• raise• need
---	--

HOUSE DUST SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Write five GOOD questions about house dust 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.

HOUSE DUST 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 'dust'?
3. What do you think of dust?
4. What do you do to get rid of dust in your house?
5. What do you think of dust making you fatter?
6. Where does dust come from?
7. Should we wear a mask in the house?
8. Do you worry about dust?
9. How can we avoid dust?
10. Can we develop dust-free houses?

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HOUSE DUST 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 'fat'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of doing the dusting
15. Are there any good things about dust?
16. Should we use sofas that don't create dust?
17. Do we need to change the things we use to make things?
18. Will you clean your house after reading this article?
19. What other things in the house are harmful to us?
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/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Scientists say house dust could make us fat. They say that people should (1) _____ their house clean if they want to (2) _____ putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some research on how dust (3) _____ mice. The researchers collected dust samples from 11 different houses and put them in the (4) _____ of mice. Dust from nine of the houses made the mice fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that create fat in their body. The scientists said that we (5) _____ in and swallow small amounts of dust. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of dust as low as three micrograms...(6) _____ measurable effects."

The dust particles contained chemicals called EDCs. These can change or copy the body's hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire (7) _____. They are also added to some plastics, to make them (8) _____ more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household cleaning products. The researchers said EDCs are everywhere in most houses. They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children are at a higher (9) _____. EDCs also cause other health risks including creating learning disabilities in children. Studies have also (10) _____ that EDCs can (11) _____ the risk of cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" to assess things we make that can make (12) _____ unhealthy.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) kept | (b) keep | (c) keeps | (d) keeping |
| 2. | (a) avoiding | (b) avoidance | (c) evade | (d) avoid |
| 3. | (a) reflects | (b) affects | (c) reflects | (d) effects |
| 4. | (a) cell | (b) ceiling | (c) cells | (d) cellars |
| 5. | (a) breathe | (b) breathy | (c) breath | (d) breathless |
| 6. | (a) caused | (b) cause | (c) causal | (d) cased |
| 7. | (a) reluctance | (b) resistance | (c) reticence | (d) resistant |
| 8. | (a) bend | (b) bind | (c) band | (d) bond |
| 9. | (a) brisk | (b) risk | (c) risqué | (d) risky |
| 10. | (a) showing | (b) showed | (c) shown | (d) shows |
| 11. | (a) rise | (b) arise | (c) raise | (d) risen |
| 12. | (a) they | (b) us | (c) we | (d) them |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Paragraph 1

1. if they want to vaodi putting on weight
2. research on how dust etfafsc mice
3. researchers collected dust plamses
4. dust changed the eshnmoor in the mice
5. wsoawll small amounts of dust
6. measurable ffseetc

Paragraph 2

7. The dust particles contained aciemlchs called EDCs
8. make them fire anttseeri
9. household cleaning putcdsor
10. creating learning ilssbaietiid in children
11. EDCs can rseai the risk of cancer
12. a ciltrica need to assess things

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () fat in their body. The scientists said that we breathe in and swallow small amounts
- () research on how dust affects mice. The researchers collected dust samples from 11 different
- () fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that create
- () products. The researchers said EDCs are everywhere in most houses. They say the chemicals can affect
- () The dust particles contained chemicals called EDCs. These can change or copy the body's
- () of dust. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of dust as low as three micrograms...caused measurable effects."
- () our health, and that children are at a higher risk. EDCs also cause other health
- () houses and put them in the cells of mice. Dust from nine of the houses made the mice
- (**1**) Scientists say house dust could make us fat. They say that people should keep their house clean
- () if they want to avoid putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some
- () to some plastics, to make them bend more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household cleaning
- () hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire resistant. They are also added
- () cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" to assess things we make that can make us unhealthy.
- () risks including creating learning disabilities in children. Studies have also shown that EDCs can raise the risk of

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

1. that house people clean should They keep say their .
2. research mice on They how did dust some affects .
3. 11 from samples dust collected Researchers houses different .
4. house the the said changed in Scientists dust hormones mice .
5. low as dust of Amounts micrograms three as .
6. dust contained called The particles chemicals EDCs .
7. to added are They more bend them make to , plastics some .
8. The everywhere researchers in said most EDCs houses are .
9. in disabilities learning creating including risks Health children .
10. Researchers was need things there critical assess said a to .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Scientists say house dust could make us fat. They *say / saying* that people should keep their house clean if they want to *evade / avoid* putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some research in */ on* how dust affects mice. The researchers collected dust *samples / simples* from 11 different houses and put them in the *calls / cells* of mice. Dust from nine of the *house / houses* made the mice fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that *create / creative* fat in their body. The scientists said that we breathe *on / in* and swallow small amounts of *dusty / dust*. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of dust as low as three micrograms...caused *measures / measurable* effects."

The dust particles contained *chemical / chemicals* called EDCs. These can change or *copy / copying* the body's hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets *to / for* make them fire resistant. They are also added to some plastics, to make them *bend / bendy* more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household *cleaned / cleaning* products. The researchers said EDCs are everywhere in *must / most* houses. They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children are *at / on* a higher risk. EDCs also cause other health risks *including / includes* creating learning disabilities in children. Studies have also shown that EDCs can *rise / raise* the risk of cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" to *assess / recess* things we make that can make us unhealthy.

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/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Sc__nt__sts s__y h__s__d__st c__ld m__k__s f__t. Th__y s__y th__t p__pl__ sh__ld k__p th__r h__s__ cl__n__f th__y w__nt t__v__d p__tt__ng__n w__ght. Th__sc__nt__sts__r__fr__m D__k__n__v__rs__ty__n th__S__. Th__y d__d s__m__r__s__rch__n h__w d__st__ff__cts m__c__. Th__r__s__rch__rs c__ll__ct__d d__st s__mpl__s fr__m 11 d__ff__r__nt h__s__s__nd p__t th__m__n th__c__lls__f m__c__. D__st fr__m n__n__f th__h__s__s m__d__th__m__c__f__tt__r. Th__sc__nt__sts s__d h__s__d__st ch__ng__d th__h__rm__n__s__n th__m__c__th__t cr__t__f__t__n th__r b__dy. Th__sc__nt__sts s__d th__t w__br__th__n__nd sw__ll__w sm__ll__m__nts__f d__st. R__s__rch__r Dr H__th__r St__pl__t__n s__d: "m__nts__f d__st__s l__w__s thr__m__cr__gr__ms...c__s__d m__s__r__bl__ff__cts."

Th__d__st p__rt__cl__s c__nt__n__d ch__m__c__ls c__ll__d__DCs. Th__s__c__n ch__ng__r__c__py th__b__dy's h__rm__n__s. __DCs__r__f__nd__n s__f__s__nd c__rp__ts t__m__k__th__m f__r__r__s__st__nt. Th__y__r__ls__dd__d t__s__m__pl__st__cs, t__m__k__th__m b__nd__m__r__,__nd__n c__sm__t__cs, f__d p__ck__g__ng,__nd h__s__h__ld cl__n__ng pr__d__cts. Th__r__s__rch__rs s__d__DCs__r__v__rywh__r__n m__st h__s__s. Th__y s__y th__ch__m__c__ls c__n__ff__ct__r h__lth,__nd th__t ch__ldr__n__r__t__h__gh__r r__sk. __DCs__ls__c__s__th__r h__lth r__sks__ncl__d__ng cr__t__ng l__rn__ng d__s__b__l__t__s__n ch__ldr__n. St__d__s h__v__ls__sh__wn th__t__DCs__c__n r__s__th__r__sk__f__c__nc__r__nd__nf__rt__l__ty. Th__r__s__rch__rs s__d th__r__w__s__"cr__t__c__l__n__d" t__ss__ss th__ngs w__m__k__th__t c__n m__k__s__nh__lth__y.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

scientists say house dust could make us fat they say that people should keep their house clean if they want to avoid putting on weight the scientists are from duke university in the usa they did some research on how dust affects mice the researchers collected dust samples from 11 different houses and put them in the cells of mice dust from nine of the houses made the mice fatter the scientists said house dust changed the hormones in the mice that create fat in their body the scientists said that we breathe in and swallow small amounts of dust researcher dr heather stapleton said "amounts of dust as low as three micrograms...caused measurable effects"

the dust particles contained chemicals called edcs these can change or copy the bodys hormones edcs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire resistant they are also added to some plastics to make them bend more and in cosmetics food packaging and household cleaning products the researchers said edcs are everywhere in most houses they say the chemicals can affect our health and that children are at a higher risk edcs also cause other health risks including creating learning disabilities in children studies have also shown that edcs can raise the risk of cancer and infertility the researchers said there was a "critical need" to assess things we make that can make us unhealthy

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170715-house-dust.html>

Scientists say house dust could make us fat. They say that people should keep their house clean if they want to avoid putting on weight. The scientists are from Duke University in the USA. They did some research on how dust affects mice. The researchers collected dust samples from 11 different houses and put them in the cells of mice. Dust from nine of the houses made the mice fatter. The scientists said house dust changed the hormones in them that create fat in their body. The scientists said that we breathe in and swallow small amounts of dust. Researcher Dr Heather Stapleton said: "Amounts of dust as low as three micrograms... caused measurable effects." The dust particles contained chemicals called EDCs. These can change or copy the body's hormones. EDCs are found in sofas and carpets to make them fire resistant. They are also added to some plastics, to make it bend more, and in cosmetics, food packaging, and household cleaning products. The researchers said EDCs are everywhere in most houses. They say the chemicals can affect our health, and that children are at a higher risk. EDCs also cause other health risks including creating learning disabilities in children. Studies have also shown that EDCs can raise the risk of cancer and infertility. The researchers said there was a "critical need" to assess things we make that can make us unhealthy.

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

3. HOUSE DUST: Make a poster about house dust. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NATURAL: Write a magazine article about house dust and where it comes from. Write about using only natural products in the house. 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 house dust. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on how to reduce dust. 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 T d T e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. avoid | a. keep away from |
| 2. research | b. tests |
| 3. affects | c. influences |
| 4. create | d. produce |
| 5. amounts | e. quantities |
| 6. contained | f. included |
| 7. cosmetics | g. makeup |
| 8. disabilities | h. disorders |
| 9. raise | i. increase |
| 10. assess | j. evaluate |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Keep it clean
2. Duke University
3. 11
4. Hormones
5. Small amounts
6. EDCs
7. Bend (more)
8. Children
9. Cancer
10. A critical need

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. a 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 ;-)