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**Level 6 – 12th June, 2019**

## **Drones used to battle tortoise-killing ravens**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

High-tech drones are flying to the defence of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The desert tortoises in the western Mojave are under threat of being wiped out by ravens. The raven is a larger version of the crow. Its population in the Mojave has increased by more than 700 per cent in the past 25 years and this is having a catastrophic impact on the desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a local conservationist, observed that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". Ms Fedrick noted that if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would be completely wiped out. Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology is coming to the rescue of the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come up with a strategy to reduce the raven population. They are using drones and the use of the method of "egg oiling". This involves flying drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with a film of corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of the embryo inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten, they are likely to eat them and nest someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that...addresses all other factors".

Sources: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/drones-ravens-baby-tortoises-california\\_n\\_5cfd2b5e4b0aab91c081d60](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/drones-ravens-baby-tortoises-california_n_5cfd2b5e4b0aab91c081d60)  
<https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-raven-killing-drone-protects-desert-tortoises-20190609-story.html>  
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/california-biologists-deploy-drones-to-battle-raven-population-explosion-threatening-desert-tortoises>

# WARM-UPS

**1. TORTOISES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about tortoises. 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?

high-tech / drones / desert / tortoise / raven / catastrophic / conservationist / help / technology / biologist / strategy / nests / corn oil / embryo / eggs / comprehensive

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

**3. SPECIES CONTROL:** Students A **strongly** believe controlling the numbers of one species to help the survival of another is essential; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite - all species should be left alone. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. CATASTROPHIC IMPACT:** How can we reverse the catastrophic impact done to creatures from these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Damage Done	How To Reverse This
Plastic		
Logging		
Invasive species		
Hunting		
Fur trade		
Overfishing		

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

**6. HELPING ANIMALS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to help animals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Don't eat meat
- Sign an anti-fur petition
- Feed bees
- Become an animal rescuer
- Avoid plastics
- Use cruelty-free cosmetics
- Donate to the WWF
- Adopt a shelter animal

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. defence         | a. Eliminated or killed something completely.   |
| 2. threat          | b. A means of protecting something from attack.                                       |
| 3. wiped out       | c. A particular form of something differing in certain respects from another form.    |
| 4. version         | d. Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.                             |
| 5. catastrophic    | e. A person or thing likely to cause damage or danger.                                |
| 6. conservationist | f. Fell or dropped straight down at high speed; decreased rapidly in value or amount. |
| 7. plummeted       | g. A person who protects and preserves the environment and wildlife.                  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8. rescue      | h. An expert in or student of the branch of science concerning living organisms. |
| 9. biologists  | i. A thin layer covering a surface.  |
| 10. fertilized | j. Save someone from a dangerous or distressing situation.                       |
| 11. coating    | k. Caused an egg, female animal, or plant to develop a new life form.            |
| 12. film       | l. An unborn or unhatched offspring in the process of development into a baby.   |
| 13. embryo     | m. A thin layer or covering of something.  |
| 14. addresses  | n. Thinks about and begin to deal with an issue or problem.                      |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

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

- a. High-tech drones are flying tortoises away from ravens in the desert. **T / F**
- b. The tortoise population in the Mojave Desert had increased by 700%. **T / F**
- c. In one place, raven numbers increased from 10 to 15,000. **T / F**
- d. Tortoise numbers in the western Mojave dropped by 10% since 1990. **T / F**
- e. Botanists and drone operators came up with a strategy. **T / F**
- f. Conservationists are covering raven eggs in oil. **T / F**
- g. Ravens are likely to eat their own eggs if they become rotten. **T / F**
- h. If eggs are rotten, ravens are likely to nest elsewhere. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>1. under threat</b>   | a. plunged       |
| <b>2. wiped out</b>      | b. noted         |
| <b>3. catastrophic</b>   | c. all-inclusive |
| <b>4. observed</b>       | d. in danger     |
| <b>5. plummeted</b>      | e. covering      |
| <b>6. strategy</b>       | f. comprehend    |
| <b>7. use</b>            | g. policy        |
| <b>8. coating</b>        | h. eradicated    |
| <b>9. figure out</b>     | i. application   |
| <b>10. comprehensive</b> | j. disastrous    |

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

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. tortoises in the western Mojave are under  | a. are rotten                |
| 2. The raven is a larger version              | b. more than 90 per cent     |
| 3. Its population in the Mojave has increased | c. conservationist           |
| 4. a local                                    | d. else                      |
| 5. Their numbers have plummeted by            | e. of the crow               |
| 6. Technology is coming to the                | f. approach                  |
| 7. ending the life of the                     | g. threat of being wiped out |
| 8. If ravens figure out that their eggs       | h. embryo inside             |
| 9. nest someplace                             | i. rescue of the tortoises   |
| 10. part of a comprehensive                   | j. by more than 700%         |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

High-tech drones are flying to the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The desert tortoises in the western Mojave are under (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of being wiped out by ravens. The raven is a larger (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the crow. Its population in the Mojave has increased by more than 700 per cent in the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 25 years and this is having a catastrophic (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on the desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ conservationist, observed that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". Ms Fedrick (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would be completely (8) \_\_\_\_\_ out. Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 per cent since 1990.

*version*

*impact*

*noted*

*defence*

*wiped*

*past*

*threat*

*local*

Technology is coming to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come up with a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce the raven population. They are using drones and the use of the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of "egg oiling". This involves flying drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ them with a film of corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens (14) \_\_\_\_\_ out that their eggs are (15) \_\_\_\_\_, they are likely to eat them and nest someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that... (16) \_\_\_\_\_ all other factors".

*figure*

*coating*

*strategy*

*addresses*

*rescue*

*rotten*

*embryo*

*method*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

- 1) High-tech drones are flying to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. difference of tortoises
  - b. differences of tortoises
  - c. defence of tortoises
  - d. deference of tortoises
- 2) The desert tortoises in the western Mojave \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are under threat
  - b. are over threat
  - c. are nearly threat
  - d. are ending threat
- 3) more than 700 per cent in the past 25 years and this is having a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. catastrophe impact
  - b. catastrophically impact
  - c. catastrophic impact
  - d. catastrophic impacted
- 4) if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would be completely \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. whipped out
  - b. wiped out
  - c. swiped out
  - d. wipe it out
- 5) Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 per cent \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. stance 1990
  - b. since 1990
  - c. sins 1990
  - d. stinks 1990
- 6) A team of biologists and drone operators has \_\_\_\_\_ a strategy
  - a. come up with
  - b. come up within
  - c. comeuppance with
  - d. come upper with
- 7) up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with \_\_\_\_\_ corn oil
  - a. a films of
  - b. a firm of
  - c. affirm of
  - d. a film of
- 8) blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the embryo inside
  - b. the imbroglio inside
  - c. the embargo inside
  - d. the lumbago inside
- 9) If ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten, they are \_\_\_\_\_ them
  - a. likely to eat
  - b. lichen to eat
  - c. likelihood to eat
  - d. lively to eat
- 10) justified as part of a comprehensive approach that \_\_\_\_\_ factors
  - a. address is all other
  - b. add dresses all other
  - c. add dress is all other
  - d. addresses all other

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

High-tech drones (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the defence of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The desert tortoises in the western Mojave are under threat of being (2) \_\_\_\_\_ ravens. The raven is a larger version of the crow. Its population in the Mojave (3) \_\_\_\_\_ more than 700 per cent in the past 25 years and this is having a catastrophic (4) \_\_\_\_\_ desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a local conservationist, observed that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". Ms Fedrick noted that if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would (5) \_\_\_\_\_ out. Their numbers have (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology is coming to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come up with a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the raven population. They are using drones and the use of the method of "egg oiling". (9) \_\_\_\_\_ drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with a film of corn oil, and then replacing them. The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of the embryo inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens (11) \_\_\_\_\_ their eggs are rotten, they are likely to eat them and nest someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that... (12) \_\_\_\_\_ factors".



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

1. In which part of the Mojave Desert are tortoises in danger?
2. What is the raven a larger version of?
3. Over how long a period did the raven population increase by 700%?
4. What did a raven population increase to in one place from ten?
5. By how much have tortoise numbers decreased since 1990?
6. What did the article say is coming to the rescue of the tortoises?
7. Who teamed up with drone operators to help the tortoises?
8. What are conservationists coating raven eggs with?
9. What might ravens do if they find their eggs are rotten?
10. What did a conservationist say egg oiling was justified as part of?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

- 1) In which part of the Mojave Desert are tortoises in danger?
  - a) the western part
  - b) the middle
  - c) the outer edges
  - d) the hottest part
- 2) What is the raven a larger version of?
  - a) a blackbird
  - b) a starling
  - c) a crow
  - d) a pigeon
- 3) Over how long a period did the raven population increase by 700%?
  - a) 10 years
  - b) 15 years
  - c) 20 years
  - d) 25 years
- 4) What did a raven population increase to in one place from ten?
  - a) 12,500
  - b) 15,000
  - c) 17,500
  - d) 20,000
- 5) By how much have tortoise numbers decreased since 1990?
  - a) 90%
  - b) 80%
  - c) 70%
  - d) 50%
- 6) What did the article say is coming to the rescue of the tortoises?
  - a) a small bug
  - b) more sand
  - c) the weather
  - d) technology
- 7) Who teamed up with drone operators to help the tortoises?
  - a) desert experts
  - b) a university
  - c) biologists
  - d) raven lovers
- 8) What are conservationists coating raven eggs with?
  - a) paint
  - b) a film of corn oil
  - c) sensors
  - d) tortoise shell
- 9) What might ravens do if they find their eggs are rotten?
  - a) steal tortoise eggs
  - b) attack more turtles
  - c) eat them and nest elsewhere
  - d) lay more eggs
- 10) What did a conservationist say egg oiling was justified as part of?
  - a) cooking
  - b) a comprehensive approach
  - c) life
  - d) the desert eco-system

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

## **Role A – Avoid Plastic**

You think avoiding plastic is the best way to help animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective way of these (and why): feeding bees, not eating meat or donating to the WWF.

## **Role B – Feeding Bees**

You think feeding bees is the best way to help animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective way of these (and why): avoiding plastic, not eating meat or donating to the WWF.

## **Role C – Not Eating Meat**

You think not eating meat is the best way to help animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective way of these (and why): feeding bees, avoiding plastic or donating to the WWF.

## **Role D – Donating To The WWF**

You think donating to the WWF is the best way to help animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective way of these (and why): feeding bees, not eating meat or avoiding plastic.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

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

tortoise	raven

- 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"><li>• defence</li><li>• threat</li><li>• 700</li><li>• impact</li><li>• 10</li><li>• 90</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rescue</li><li>• strategy</li><li>• coating</li><li>• oxygen</li><li>• likely</li><li>• part</li></ul>
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# TORTOISES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tortoises 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.

# TORTOISES 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 'tortoise'?
3. What do you know about tortoises?
4. How can drones help tortoises?
5. Should we do all we can to help animals in danger?
6. Should we kill members of one species to help another?
7. How sad would it be if the Mohave desert tortoises disappeared?
8. Why are raven numbers increasing?
9. How else can we stop ravens killing tortoises?
10. What work would you do as a conservationist?

*Drones used to battle tortoise-killing ravens – 12th June, 2019*  
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# TORTOISES 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 'drone'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about ravens?
15. What do you think of the method of egg-oiling?
16. Should people get in the way of nature?
17. What three adjectives best describe this story?
18. Which do you like better - tortoises or ravens?
19. Which species will survive the longest - tortoises or ravens?
20. What questions would you like to ask the conservationists?

## **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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

High-tech drones are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to the defence of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The desert tortoises in the western Mojave are under (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of being wiped out by ravens. The raven is a larger (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the crow. Its population in the Mojave has increased by more than 700 per cent in the past 25 years and this is having a catastrophic (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on the desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a local conservationist, observed that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". Ms Fedrick noted that if nothing was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to help the tortoises, they would be completely wiped out. Their (6) \_\_\_\_\_ have plummeted by more than 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology is coming to the rescue of the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with a strategy to reduce the raven population. They are using drones and the use of the method of "egg oiling". This (8) \_\_\_\_\_ flying drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are (11) \_\_\_\_\_, they are likely to eat them and nest someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that...addresses all other factors".

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

- |     |              |              |               |               |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) flying   | (b) flown    | (c) flied     | (d) flier     |
| 2.  | (a) treat    | (b) threaten | (c) threat    | (d) treatise  |
| 3.  | (a) vision   | (b) verse    | (c) version   | (d) versus    |
| 4.  | (a) packed   | (b) pact     | (c) compact   | (d) impact    |
| 5.  | (a) doing    | (b) did      | (c) done      | (d) doer      |
| 6.  | (a) letters  | (b) numbers  | (c) figures   | (d) digits    |
| 7.  | (a) at       | (b) up       | (c) on        | (d) to        |
| 8.  | (a) revolves | (b) involves | (c) solves    | (d) absolves  |
| 9.  | (a) picture  | (b) shoot    | (c) film      | (d) haze      |
| 10. | (a) emblem   | (b) embezzle | (c) embargo   | (d) embryo    |
| 11. | (a) ruttled  | (b) rattled  | (c) written   | (d) rotten    |
| 12. | (a) houses   | (b) lectures | (c) envelopes | (d) addresses |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. flying to the nceeed of tortoises
2. under tharet of being wiped out
3. The raven is a larger rsoevin of the crow
4. having a chiptcaasrto impact
5. a local oivocnnsrstaiet
6. edlpmtuem by more than 90 per cent

## Paragraph 2

7. drone rotsoprae
8. come up with a sragetty
9. removing teiefzilrd eggs
10. ending the life of the bymreo inside
11. part of a comprehensive oaphpacr
12. that dressdeas all other factors

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that...addresses all other factors".
- ( **1** ) High-tech drones are flying to the defence of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The desert tortoises in
- ( ) the life of the embryo inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are
- ( ) version of the crow. Its population in the Mojave has increased by more than 700 per cent in the past
- ( ) conservationist, observed that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now
- ( ) 15,000". Ms Fedrick noted that if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would be completely
- ( ) wiped out. Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 per cent since 1990.
- ( ) of corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending
- ( ) of "egg oiling". This involves flying drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with a film
- ( ) Technology is coming to the rescue of the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come
- ( ) rotten, they are likely to eat them and nest someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was
- ( ) up with a strategy to reduce the raven population. They are using drones and the use of the method
- ( ) the western Mojave are under threat of being wiped out by ravens. The raven is a larger
- ( ) 25 years and this is having a catastrophic impact on the desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a local

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

1. are flying the of tortoises . drones to High-tech defence
2. being Under out ravens . of threat wiped by
3. catastrophic tortoises . impact Having desert the a on
4. local A in that places . some conservationist observed
5. plummeted have more numbers than by 90% . Their
6. to of tortoises . rescue coming Technology is the
7. with up have strategy . operators a Drone come
8. involves flying This the to nests . ravens' drones
9. inside . embryo life the ending Effectively the of
10. addresses factors . approach that all other A comprehensive

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

High-tech drones are flying to the *offence / defence* of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The *desert / dessert* tortoises in the western Mojave are under threat of being wiped *in / out* by ravens. The raven is a larger *version / verse* of the crow. Its population in the Mojave has increased *by / at* more than 700 per cent in the past 25 years and this is having a *catastrophe / catastrophic* impact on the desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a local conservationist, *reserved / observed* that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". Ms Fedrick *notation / noted* that if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would be *completely / complete* wiped out. Their numbers have *plumed / plummeted* by more than 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology is coming *to / up* the rescue of the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come up with a *strategic / strategy* to reduce the raven population. They are *usage / using* drones and the use of the method of "egg oiling". This *involves / revolves* flying drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, *roasting / coating* them with a film of corn oil, and then replacing *it / them*. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of the *embryo / embryonic* inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens *number / figure* out that their eggs are rotten, they are likely to eat them and *nest / next* someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that...*addresses / stamps* all other factors".

**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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

H\_g h - t\_c h d r\_n\_s \_r\_ f l y\_n g t\_ t h\_ d\_f\_n c\_ \_f  
t\_r t\_\_ s\_s \_n C\_l\_f\_r n\_\_ 's M\_j\_v\_ d\_s\_r t. Th\_  
d\_s\_r t t\_r t\_\_ s\_s \_n t h\_ w\_s t\_r n M\_j\_v\_ \_r\_ \_n  
d\_r t h\_r\_\_ t \_f b\_\_ n g w\_p\_d \_\_ t b y r\_v\_n s. T  
h\_ r\_v\_n \_s \_ l\_r g\_r v\_r s\_\_ n \_f t h\_ c\_r\_w. I t s  
p\_p\_l\_t\_\_ n \_n t h\_ M\_j\_v\_ h\_s \_n c\_r\_\_ s\_d b y  
m\_r\_ t h\_n 7 0 0 p\_r c\_n t \_n t h\_ p\_s t 2 5 y\_\_ r  
s \_n d t h\_s \_s h\_v\_n g \_ c\_t\_s t\_r\_p h\_c \_m\_p\_c t \_n  
t h\_ d\_s\_r t t\_r t\_\_ s\_s. A l l\_s\_n F\_d\_r\_c k, \_ l\_c\_l  
c\_n s\_r v\_t\_\_ n\_s t, \_ b\_s\_r v\_d t h\_t \_n s\_m\_ p\_l\_c\_s,  
" w h\_r\_ t h\_r\_ \_s\_d t\_ b\_ 1 0 r\_v\_n s, t h\_r\_ \_r\_  
n\_w 1 5, 0 0 0 ". M\_s F\_d\_r\_c k n\_t\_d t h\_t \_f n\_t  
h\_n g w\_s d\_n\_ t\_ h\_l\_p t h\_ t\_r t\_\_ s\_s, t h\_y  
w\_\_ l\_d b\_ c\_m\_p\_l\_t\_l\_y w\_p\_d \_\_ t. Th\_\_ r\_n\_m  
b\_r s h\_v\_ p\_l\_m\_m\_t\_d b y m\_r\_ t h\_n 9 0 p\_r  
c\_n t s\_n c\_ 1 9 9 0.

T\_c h n\_l\_g y \_s c\_m\_n g t\_ t h\_ r\_s c\_\_ \_f t h\_ t\_r  
t\_\_ s\_s. A t\_\_ m \_f b\_\_ l\_g\_s t\_s \_n d d r\_n\_  
\_p\_r\_t\_r s h\_s c\_m\_ \_p w\_t h \_ s\_t\_r\_t\_g y t\_ r\_d\_c\_  
t h\_ r\_v\_n p\_p\_l\_t\_\_ n. T h\_y \_r\_ \_s\_n g d r\_n\_s \_n  
d t h\_ \_s\_ \_f t h\_ m\_t h\_d \_f "\_g g \_\_ l\_n g". T  
h\_s \_n v\_l v\_s f l y\_n g d r\_n\_s \_p t\_ t h\_ r\_v\_n s'  
n\_s t\_s, r\_m\_v\_n g f\_r t\_l\_z\_d \_g g s, c\_\_ t\_n g t  
h\_m w\_t h \_ f\_l\_m \_f c\_r\_n \_\_ l, \_n d t h\_n r\_p  
l\_c\_n g t h\_m. Th\_\_ l\_b\_l\_c k\_s \_x\_y\_g\_n f\_r\_m \_n  
t\_r\_n g t h\_ \_g g, \_f\_f\_c\_t\_v\_l\_y \_n d\_n g t h\_ l\_f\_ \_f  
t h\_ \_m\_b\_r\_y\_ \_n\_s\_d\_. B\_\_ l\_g\_s t M\_r\_c\_y V\_\_ g\_h\_n  
s\_\_ d: " I f r\_v\_n s f\_g\_r\_ \_\_ t t h\_t t h\_\_ r \_g g s  
\_r\_ r\_t\_t\_n, t h\_y \_r\_ l\_k\_l\_y t\_ \_\_ t t h\_m \_n d  
n\_s t s\_m\_p\_l\_c\_ \_l\_s\_." C\_n s\_r v\_t\_\_ n\_s t J\_h\_n G  
r\_f\_f\_n s\_\_ d \_\_ l\_n g w\_s j\_s\_t\_f\_\_ d \_s " p\_r t \_f  
\_ c\_m\_p\_r\_h\_n\_s\_v\_ \_p\_p\_r\_\_ c\_h t h\_t...\_d\_d\_r\_s\_s\_s \_l  
l \_t h\_r \_f\_c\_t\_r\_s".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

hightech drones are flying to the defence of tortoises in californias Mojave Desert the desert tortoises in the western mojave are under threat of being wiped out by ravens the raven is a larger version of the crow its population in the mojave has increased by more than 700 per cent in the past 25 years and this is having a catastrophic impact on the desert tortoises allison fedrick a local conservationist observed that in some places where there used to be 10 ravens there are now 15000 ms fedrick noted that if nothing was done to help the tortoises they would be completely wiped out their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 per cent since 1990

technology is coming to the rescue of the tortoises a team of biologists and drone operators has come up with a strategy to reduce the raven population they are using drones and the use of the method of egg oiling this involves flying drones up to the ravens nests removing fertilized eggs coating them with a film of corn oil and then replacing them the oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg effectively ending the life of the embryo inside biologist mercy vaughn said if ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten they are likely to eat them and nest someplace else conservationist john griffin said oiling was justified as part of a comprehensive approach thataddresses all other factors.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens.html>

High-tech drones are flying to the defence of tortoises in California's Mojave Desert. The desert tortoises in the western Mojave are under threat of being wiped out by ravens. The raven is a larger version of the crow. Its population in the Mojave has increased by more than 700 percent in the past 25 years and this is having a catastrophic impact on the desert tortoises. Allison Fedrick, a local conservationist, observed that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". Ms Fedrick noted that if nothing was done to help the tortoises, they would be completely wiped out. Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 percent since 1990. Technology is coming to the rescue of the tortoises. A team of biologists and drone operators has come up with a strategy to reduce the raven population. They are using drones and the use of the method of "eggoiling". This involves flying drones up to the ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with a film of corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, effectively ending the life of the embryo inside. Biologist Mercy Vaughn said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten, they are likely to eat them and nests someplace else." Conservationist John Griffin said oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach that... addresses all other factors".







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

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

**4. EGG-OILING:** Write a magazine article about egg-oiling raven eggs to save tortoises. 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 expert on tortoises. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to save tortoises. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b    2. e    3. a    4. c    5. d    6. g    7. f  
8. j    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. n

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. under threat   | a. in danger     |
| 2. wiped out      | b. eradicated    |
| 3. catastrophic   | c. disastrous    |
| 4. observed       | d. noted         |
| 5. plummeted      | e. plunged       |
| 6. strategy       | f. policy        |
| 7. use            | g. application   |
| 8. coating        | h. covering      |
| 9. figure out     | i. comprehend    |
| 10. comprehensive | j. all-inclusive |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The western part
2. A crow
3. 25 years
4. 15,000
5. 90%
6. Technology
7. Biologists
8. A film of corn oil
9. Eat them and nest elsewhere
10. A comprehensive approach

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. High-tech drones are flying to the defence of tortoises.
2. Under threat of being wiped out by ravens.
3. Having a catastrophic impact on the desert tortoises.
4. A local conservationist observed that in some places.
5. Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90%.
6. Technology is coming to the rescue of tortoises.
7. Drone operators have come up with a strategy.
8. This involves flying drones to the ravens' nests.
9. Effectively ending the life of the embryo inside.
10. A comprehensive approach that addresses all other factors.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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