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Level 4 – 28th November, 2022

'Hated' Australian bird dealing with invasive species

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

A bird that many Australians dislike has had an image change. The white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia, is helping to get rid of the invasive cane toad. Many Australians view the ibis as a pest because it scavenges for food from the trash. It even steals food from people's hands. People nickname it the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian English for trash can. People now like the ibis because it has learnt how to eat the poisonous cane toad.

Cane toads came to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers wanted them to eat a beetle that was eating their crops. However, the toads ate many insects and small animals to the point of extinction. They spread all across the country. They had no predators until the ibis learnt to kill them. The ibises pick the toads up and shake them. The stress from this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash the toads in water and eat them.

Sources: <https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/ibis-birds-eating-poisonous-cane-toads/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-63699884>
<https://junkee.com/ibis-eating-cane-toads/345141>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A bird that many | a. the invasive cane toad |
| 2. an image | b. the "bin chicken" |
| 3. indigenous to | c. change |
| 4. get rid of | d. food from the trash |
| 5. Australians view the ibis | e. cane toad |
| 6. it scavenges for | f. as a pest |
| 7. People nickname it | g. Australians dislike |
| 8. how to eat the poisonous | h. Australia |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a beetle that was eating | a. toads in water |
| 2. to the point | b. across the country |
| 3. They spread all | c. and shake them |
| 4. the ibis learnt to | d. their crops |
| 5. The ibises pick the toads up | e. all their poison |
| 6. The stress | f. of extinction |
| 7. the toads release | g. from this |
| 8. The ibises then wash the | h. kill them |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

A bird that many Australians dislike has had (1) _____.

The white ibis, which (2) _____ Australia, is helping to

(3) _____ the invasive cane toad. Many Australians

view the ibis as a pest because it (4) _____ from the

trash. It even steals food from people's hands. People

(5) _____ "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian

English for trash can. People now like the ibis because it has learnt how to

(6) _____ cane toad.

Cane toads came to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar

(7) _____ to eat a beetle that was eating their crops.

However, the toads ate (8) _____ small animals to

(9) _____ extinction. They spread all across the

country. They had (10) _____ until the ibis learnt to kill

them. The ibises pick the toads up and shake them. The stress from this

makes the toads release (11) _____.

(12) _____ toads in water and eat them.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

A bird that many Australians dislike has had an image change. The white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia, is helping to get rid of the invasive cane toad. Many Australians view the ibis as a pest because it scavenges for food from the trash. It even steals food from people's hands. People nickname it the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian English for trash can. People now like the ibis because it has learnt how to eat the poisonous cane toad. Cane toads came to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers wanted them to eat a beetle that was eating their crops. However, the toads ate many insects and small animals to the point of extinction. They spread all across the country. They had no predators until the ibis learnt to kill them. The ibis picks the toads up and shakes them. The stress from this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibis then washes the toad in water and eats them.

INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about invasive species 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) _____

