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Level 5 – 29th January 2024

Closing toilet-seat lids may not stop spread of germs

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids-5.html>

Putting the toilet-seat lid down may not prevent the spread of germs and viruses. A recent study dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the USA conducted research on the aerial activity of particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists said there was little difference in how germs spread, regardless of whether the lid was up or down. Dr Charles Gerba has studied pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush contaminates nearby areas.

Researchers tested the spread of a virus in two bathrooms. The virus was not able to harm humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they swabbed the surfaces in the toilet. They found no significant differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They said the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing" to cut the spread of germs.

Sources: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2024/01/25/does-it-matter-if-you-flush-with-toilet-lid-up-or-down-not-really/72321820007/>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-13011553/Does-flushing-toilet-lid-really-stop-germs-spewing-bathroom-study-says-no.html>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2024/01/26/closing-toilet-lids-before-flushing-may-not-prevent-spread-of-viruses>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Putting the toilet-seat lid | a. nearly five decades |
| 2. A recent study dispels this | b. in the toilet bowl |
| 3. the aerial activity of | c. supposition |
| 4. regardless of whether the | d. nearby areas |
| 5. studied pathogens for | e. goes somewhere |
| 6. All that air when you flush | f. particles |
| 7. viruses that are | g. lid was up or down |
| 8. a flush contaminates | h. down |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The virus was not able | a. all restroom surfaces |
| 2. They flushed one bowl | b. differences |
| 3. they swabbed | c. with the lid up |
| 4. They found no significant | d. spread of germs |
| 5. closing the toilet lid prior | e. the surfaces |
| 6. flushing does not mitigate | f. to harm humans |
| 7. disinfection of | g. the risk |
| 8. cut the | h. to flushing |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids-5.html>

Putting the toilet-seat lid down (1) _____ the spread of germs and viruses. A recent (2) _____ supposition. A team of microbiologists from the USA conducted research on the (3) _____ particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists said there was little difference in how germs spread, (4) _____ the lid was up or down. Dr Charles Gerba has studied pathogens for (5) _____. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the (6) _____ of it." He said a flush contaminates nearby areas.

Researchers (7) _____ of a virus in two bathrooms. The virus was not able to harm humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a (8) _____ the surfaces in the toilet. They (9) _____ differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They said the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet (10) _____ flushing does not (11) _____ of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after (12) _____ the spread of germs.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids-5.html>

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TOILET LIDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about toilet lids 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) _____

