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Level 3

Robo-caller fined for 96 million phone calls

14th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they say placed nearly 100 million robocalls. A robocall is a telephone call that is made by a computer programme. The software can make thousands of calls at a time. The FCC fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he posed a threat to public safety. The FCC says the man's calls were illegal because many of them were made to "critical emergency phone lines". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and residential telephones without the person being called wanting that call. This means the call was a nuisance call - a bit like spam e-mail, which is also unwanted and annoying.

The FCC said the man committed a serious crime and carried out, "one of the largest and most dangerous illegal robocalling campaigns that the Commission has ever investigated". The man made 96 million robocalls during a three-month period in 2016 as a part of a "telemarketing scheme". He used a technique called "neighbor spoofing" to get people to answer the calls. This technique tricks people into thinking the calls are from a local telephone number. The man also tricked people into believing that the calls were from well-known airlines, hotels and travel companies. Callers were instead passed on to call centres that tried to sell them property. The man said he has done nothing wrong.

Sources: <http://money.cnn.com/2018/05/11/news/fcc-robocall-fine/index.html>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2018/05/11/robocaller-fined-120-million-fcc-nearly-100-million-spoofed-calls/601287002/>
<http://fortune.com/2018/05/11/robocall-lawsuit-settlement-fcc/>

WARM-UPS

1. NUISANCE CALLS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about nuisance calls. 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?

robocall / computer / programme / record / threat / public safety / residential / spam
serious crime / dangerous / campaign / period / technique / telephone number / hotel

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

3. COLD CALLS: Students A **strongly** believe cold calls should be made illegal; Students B **strongly** believe they shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. NUISANCES: What can we do about these nuisances? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why are they annoying?	What can we do?
Cold calls		
Pop-ups		
Spam		
Printer ink prices		
Short battery life		
Passwords		

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

6. TECH CRIME: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- cyber-bullying
- identity theft
- phishing
- illegal downloading
- nuisance calls
- sexting
- malware
- hacking

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. commission | a. Causing people to get angry. |
| 2. posed | b. A group of people officially given with a special job to do for the public. |
| 3. threat | c. About a situation or problem that could become disastrous or very dangerous; at a point of crisis. |
| 4. public | d. Was; presented (a danger or problem). |
| 5. critical | e. All of the people in a country, city, town... |
| 6. residential | f. A person or thing likely to cause damage or danger. |
| 7. annoying | g. About private homes. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. committed | h. Did; carried out. |
| 9. crime | i. A building or building sand the land belonging to it or them. |
| 10. investigated | j. An action that is against the law. |
| 11. period | k. Playing a trick or a joke on someone. |
| 12. telemarketing | l. Looked into something carefully to find out the facts of (an incident, crime, etc.). |
| 13. spoofing | m. A length of time. |
| 14. property | n. Trying to get people to buy things over the phone. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

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

- a. America's Contraptions Commission fined a man for robocalls. **T / F**
- b. The man was fined \$120 million. **T / F**
- c. A commission decided the man was a danger to the public. **T / F**
- d. The article likened nuisance calls to spam mail. **T / F**
- e. The commission said the robocalls were the most serious they had seen. **T / F**
- f. The man made 96 million robocalls in just one month. **T / F**
- g. The robocaller used a technique called neighbor spooking. **T / F**
- h. The man has admitted that he is guilty. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. nearly | a. unwelcome |
| 2. posed | b. irritating |
| 3. critical | c. houses |
| 4. unwanted | d. looked into |
| 5. annoying | e. almost |
| 6. committed | f. famous |
| 7. investigated | g. carried out |
| 8. tricked | h. presented |
| 9. well-known | i. fooled |
| 10. property | j. serious |

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. software can make thousands of calls | a. on to call centres |
| 2. he posed a threat to | b. serious crime |
| 3. residential | c. and annoying |
| 4. the call was a nuisance call - a bit | d. scheme |
| 5. which is also unwanted | e. at a time |
| 6. the man committed a | f. telephones |
| 7. a telemarketing | g. number |
| 8. This technique tricks | h. like spam e-mail |
| 9. a local telephone | i. people |
| 10. Callers were instead passed | j. public safety |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they say (1) _____ nearly 100 million robocalls. A robocall is a telephone call that is made by a computer programme. The software can make thousands of calls at a (2) _____. The FCC fined the man a (3) _____ \$120 million because they say he posed a threat to public (4) _____. The FCC says the man's calls were illegal because many of them were made to "critical (5) _____ phone lines". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and residential telephones (6) _____ the person being called wanting that call. This (7) _____ the call was a nuisance call - a bit like (8) _____ e-mail, which is also unwanted and annoying.

record
placed
without
spam
time
emergency
means
safety

The FCC said the man (9) _____ a serious crime and carried out, "one of the largest and most dangerous illegal robocalling (10) _____ that the Commission has ever investigated". The man made 96 million robocalls during a three-month (11) _____ in 2016 as a part of a "telemarketing (12) _____ ". He used a technique called "neighbor spoofing" to get people to answer the calls. This technique (13) _____ people into thinking the calls are from a local telephone number. The man also tricked people into (14) _____ that the calls were from well-known airlines, hotels and travel companies. Callers were (15) _____ passed on to call centres that tried to sell them (16) _____. The man said he has done nothing wrong.

scheme
committed
instead
tricks
period
property
campaigns
believing

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

- 1) the FCC has fined a man who they say _____ 100 million robocalls
 - a. placed it nearly
 - b. praised nearly
 - c. placed nearly
 - d. pasted nearly
- 2) The software can make thousands of calls _____
 - a. at the time
 - b. a tat time
 - c. a ta time
 - d. at a time
- 3) fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he _____
 - a. posted a threat
 - b. poised a threat
 - c. posed a threat
 - d. posit a threat
- 4) illegal because many of them were made to "critical _____ lines"
 - a. emergency phone
 - b. emergent sea phone
 - c. emergent city phone
 - d. emergencies phone
- 5) a bit like spam e-mail, which is also unwanted _____
 - a. and annoy in
 - b. and annoyed ing
 - c. and annoying
 - d. and annoyance
- 6) most dangerous illegal robocalling campaigns that the Commission _____ investigated
 - a. has never
 - b. has ever
 - c. has even
 - d. has every
- 7) 96 million robocalls during a three-month period in 2016 as a part of a " _____ "
 - a. tell a marketing scheme
 - b. tell a market in scheme
 - c. tell a market tin scheme
 - d. telemarketing scheme
- 8) This technique tricks people into thinking the calls are _____ telephone number
 - a. from a local
 - b. from a locally
 - c. former local
 - d. farmer local
- 9) The man also tricked people into believing that the calls were from _____ airlines
 - a. well-knowing
 - b. well-noun
 - c. well-none
 - d. well-known
- 10) Callers were instead passed on to call centres that tried to _____
 - a. sell them probity
 - b. sell them probably
 - c. sell them property
 - d. sell them properly

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they (1) _____ 100 million robocalls. A robocall is a telephone call that is made by a computer programme. The software can make thousands of calls (2) _____. The FCC fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he (3) _____ to public safety. The FCC says the man's calls were illegal because many of them were made (4) _____ phone lines". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and residential telephones without the person being called wanting that call. This (5) _____ was a nuisance call - a bit like spam e-mail, which is also (6) _____.

The FCC said the man committed (7) _____ and carried out, "one of the largest and (8) _____ robocalling campaigns that the Commission has ever investigated". The man made 96 million robocalls during a three-month period in 2016 (9) _____ of a "telemarketing scheme". He used a technique called "neighbor spoofing" to get people to (10) _____. This technique tricks people into thinking the calls are (11) _____ telephone number. The man also tricked people into believing that the calls were from well-known airlines, hotels and travel companies. Callers were instead passed on to call centres that tried to sell them property. The man said he has (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

1. What makes a robocall?
2. What kind of fine did the man get?
3. What did the FCC say the man was a threat to?
4. Where did calls go besides emergency phone lines and mobile phones?
5. What did the article say nuisance calls were like?
6. What kind of crime did the FCC say the man had committed?
7. How long did it take the man to make 96 million calls?
8. What kind of scheme were the calls part of?
9. Where did the man trick people into thinking the calls were coming from?
10. What did the man say he had done?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

- 1) What makes a robocall?
 - a) a laptop
 - b) an FCC robot
 - c) a computer programme
 - d) the Internet
- 2) What kind of fine did the man get?
 - a) \$120 million
 - b) \$96 million
 - c) \$100 million
 - d) \$82 million
- 3) What did the FCC say the man was a threat to?
 - a) public safety
 - b) the Internet
 - c) himself
 - d) communications
- 4) Where did calls go besides emergency phone lines and mobile phones?
 - a) 23 Acacia Avenue
 - b) residential homes
 - c) the International Space Station
 - d) the White House
- 5) What did the article say nuisance calls were like?
 - a) spying
 - b) constipation
 - c) a toothache
 - d) spam e-mail
- 6) What kind of crime did the FCC say the man had committed?
 - a) a heinous crime
 - b) a serious crime
 - c) a cybercrime
 - d) a lesser crime
- 7) How long did it take the man to make 96 million calls?
 - a) 3 months
 - b) 6 months
 - c) a year
 - d) 18 months
- 8) What kind of scheme were the calls part of?
 - a) a tricky scheme
 - b) a neighborhood scheme
 - c) a telemarketing scheme
 - d) a spoofing scheme
- 9) Where did the man trick people into thinking the calls were coming from?
 - a) their friend
 - b) another country
 - c) their ISP
 - d) a local number
- 10) What did the man say he had done?
 - a) nothing wrong
 - b) damage
 - c) many bad things
 - d) a trick

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

Role A – Cyber-bullying

You think cyber-bullying is the worst tech crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what should be done about their crimes. Also, tell the others which is the hardest of these to prevent of these (and why): malware, hacking or illegal downloading.

Role B – Malware

You think malware is the worst tech crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what should be done about their crimes. Also, tell the others which is the hardest of these to prevent of these (and why): cyber-bullying, hacking or illegal downloading.

Role C – Hacking

You think hacking is the worst tech crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what should be done about their crimes. Also, tell the others which is the hardest of these to prevent of these (and why): malware, cyber-bullying or illegal downloading.

Role D – Illegal Downloading

You think illegal downloading is the worst tech crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what should be done about their crimes. Also, tell the others which is the hardest of these to prevent of these (and why): malware, hacking or cyber-bullying.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

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

phone	call

- 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">• placed• time• threat• lines• without• spam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• serious• three• scheme• local• hotels• nothing
---	---

NUISANCE CALLS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

Write five GOOD questions about nuisance calls 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.

NUISANCE CALLS 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 'phone'?
3. How important is the phone to you?
4. What do you think of one person making 96 million calls?
5. What do you think of nuisance calls?
6. What other phone nuisances are there?
7. What do you think of the \$120 million fine?
8. Should cold calls be banned?
9. What do you do when a caller tries to sell you something?
10. How often do you make phone calls?

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NUISANCE CALLS 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 'fine'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What would you do without a phone?
15. Do you prefer to call or text?
16. What do you think of telemarketing?
17. Has someone used technology to trick you?
18. What punishment would you give the man?
19. How can the man think he did nothing wrong?
20. What questions would you like to ask the FCC?

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/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they say (1) _____ nearly 100 million robocalls. A robocall is a telephone call that is (2) _____ by a computer programme. The software can make thousands of calls (3) _____ a time. The FCC fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he posed a threat to public (4) _____. The FCC says the man's calls were illegal because many of them were made to "critical emergency phone (5) _____". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and residential telephones without the person being called wanting that call. This means the call was a nuisance call - a bit like spam e-mail, which is also unwanted and (6) _____.

The FCC said the man (7) _____ a serious crime and carried out, "one of the largest and most dangerous (8) _____ robocalling campaigns that the Commission has ever investigated". The man made 96 million robocalls (9) _____ a three-month period in 2016 as a part of a "telemarketing scheme". He used a technique called "neighbor spoofing" to get people to answer the calls. This technique tricks people (10) _____ thinking the calls are from a local telephone number. The man also tricked people into believing that the calls were from well-known airlines, hotels and travel companies. Callers were (11) _____ passed on to call centres that tried to sell them (12) _____. The man said he has done nothing wrong.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) played | (b) laced | (c) placed | (d) placated |
| 2. | (a) made | (b) written | (c) talked | (d) rung |
| 3. | (a) at | (b) that | (c) what | (d) in |
| 4. | (a) safety | (b) safe | (c) safer | (d) safest |
| 5. | (a) flats | (b) edges | (c) borders | (d) lines |
| 6. | (a) annoys | (b) annoy | (c) annoyance | (d) annoying |
| 7. | (a) committed | (b) computed | (c) composed | (d) composted |
| 8. | (a) illegality | (b) illegally | (c) illegals | (d) illegal |
| 9. | (a) during | (b) dune | (c) doing | (d) dawning |
| 10. | (a) unto | (b) into | (c) onto | (d) as to |
| 11. | (a) steady | (b) instead | (c) stead | (d) steadied |
| 12. | (a) property | (b) properly | (c) prosperity | (d) propellers |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

Paragraph 1

1. adothsuns of calls
2. he posed a tather to public safety
3. the man's calls were alilegl
4. gerenemcy phone lines
5. ielridatens telephones
6. unwanted and gnnnoyai

Paragraph 2

7. the man committed a rssuoie crime
8. robocalling gasipmcna
9. a telemarketing cmeseh
10. This nceuietqh tricks people
11. Callers were itsndae passed on
12. sell them rtyporpe

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () spoofing" to get people to answer the calls. This technique tricks people into thinking the calls
- () residential telephones without the person being called wanting that call. This means the call
- () was a nuisance call - a bit like spam e-mail, which is also unwanted and annoying.
- (**1**) America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they say placed nearly 100
- () million robocalls. A robocall is a telephone call that is made by a computer programme. The software can make thousands
- () dangerous illegal robocalling campaigns that the Commission has ever investigated". The man made 96 million robocalls during
- () from well-known airlines, hotels and travel companies. Callers were instead passed on to call
- () centres that tried to sell them property. The man said he has done nothing wrong.
- () of calls at a time. The FCC fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he posed a threat to public
- () safety. The FCC says the man's calls were illegal because many of them were made to "critical
- () a three-month period in 2016 as a part of a "telemarketing scheme". He used a technique called "neighbor
- () are from a local telephone number. The man also tricked people into believing that the calls were
- () emergency phone lines". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and
- () The FCC said the man committed a serious crime and carried out, "one of the largest and most

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

1. a computer by call telephone made A programme .
2. thousands Software make at of a calls can time .
3. lines . Many to were phone critical emergency made
4. being call . Without wanting called that person the
5. means the This a call . call was nuisance
6. committed the said serious It a crime . man
7. a spoofing" . He technique used "neighbor called
8. the calls local . into people Tricks are thinking
9. passed instead Callers centres . on to were call
10. has said man done The wrong . he nothing

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they say *laced / placed* nearly 100 million robocalls. A robocall is a telephone call that is made *at / by* a computer programme. The software can make thousands of calls *at / that* a time. The FCC fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he *supposed / posed* a threat to public safety. The FCC says the man's calls were *illegally / illegal* because many of them were made to "critical emergency phone *line / lines*". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and *residing / residential* telephones without the person *being / been* called wanting that call. This means the call was a nuisance call - a *bit / bite* like spam e-mail, which is also unwanted and *annoying / annoy*.

The FCC said the man committed a *seriously / serious* crime and carried out, "one of the *largest / large* and most dangerous illegal robocalling campaigns that the Commission has *never / ever* investigated". The man made 96 million robocalls *doing / during* a three-month period in 2016 as a part of a "telemarketing scheme". He used a *technical / technique* called "neighbor spoofing" to get people to answer the calls. This technique *trick / tricks* people into thinking the calls are from a *local / locally* telephone number. The man also tricked people *into / onto* believing that the calls were from well-known airlines, hotels and *traveling / travel* companies. Callers were instead passed on to call centres that tried to sell them property. The man said he has *done / doing* nothing wrong.

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/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

A m_r_c_'s F_d_r_l C_m m_n_c_t__ n s C_m m_s s__ n
, th_ FCC, h_s f_n_d _ m_n wh_ th_y s_y p
l_c_d n__ rly 1 0 0 m_ll__ n r_b_c_ll s. A
r_b_c_ll _s _ t_l_p h_n_ c_ll th_t _s m_d_ b_y _
c_m p_t_r p_r_g_r_m m_. Th_ s_f_t_w_r_ c_n m_k_ t
h__ s_n_d_s _f c_ll_s t_ _ t_m_. Th_ FCC f_n_d t
h_ m_n _ r_c_r_d \$ 1 2 0 m_ll__ n b_c__ s_ th_y
s_y h_ p_s_d _ th_r__ t_ p_b_l_c s_f_t_y. Th_ F
C C s_y_s th_ m_n's c_ll_s w_r_ _l_l_g_l b_c__ s_
m_n_y _f th_m w_r_ m_d_ t_ "c_r_t_c_l _m_r_g_n_c_y
p_h_n_ l_n_s". Th_ FCC s__ d m_n_y _th_r c_ll
s w_n_t t_ m_b_l_ p_h_n_s _n_d r_s_d_n_t__ l t_l_p
h_n_s w_t h__ t th_ p_r_s_n b__ n_g c_ll_d w_n
t_n_g th_t c_ll. Th_s m__ n_s th_ c_ll w_s _
n__ s_n_c_ c_ll - _ b_t l_k_ s_p_m _- m__ l, wh_c
h _s _l_s _n w_n_t_d _n_d _n_n_y_n_g.

Th_ FCC s__ d th_ m_n c_m m_t_t_d _ s_r__ s c
r_m_ _n_d c_r_r__ d __ t, "n_ _f th_ l_r_g_s_t _n_d
m_s_t d_n_g_r__ s _l_l_g_l r_b_c_ll_n_g c_m p__ g_n_s
th_t th_ C_m m_s s__ n h_s _v_r _n_v_s_t_g_t_d".
Th_ m_n m_d_ 9 6 m_ll__ n r_b_c_ll_s d_r_n_g _ t
h_r__ - m_n_th p_r__ d _n 2 0 1 6 _s _ p_r_t _f _ "
t_l_m_r_k_t_n_g s_c_h_m_". H_ _s_d _ t_c_h_n_q__ c_l
l_d "n__ g_h_b_r s_p__ f_n_g" t_ g_t p__ p_l_ t_ _n
s_w_r th_ c_ll_s. Th_s t_c_h_n_q__ t_r_c_k_s p__ p
l__ n_t_ th_n_k_n_g th_ c_ll_s _r_ f_r_m _ l_c_l
t_l_p_h_n_ n_m_b_r. Th_ m_n _l_s_ t_r_c_k_d p__ p_l_
_n_t_ b_l__ v_n_g th_t th_ c_ll_s w_r_ f_r_m w_ll
- k_n_w_n __ r_l_n_s, h_t_l_s _n_d t_r_v_l c_m_p_n__ s
. C_ll_r_s w_r_ _n_s_t__ d p_s_s_d _n t_ c_ll c_n_t
r_s th_t t_r__ d t_ s_ll th_m p_r_p_r_t_y. Th_
m_n s__ d h_ h_s d_n_ n_th_n_g w_r_n_g.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

americas federal communications commission the fcc has fined a man who they say placed nearly 100 million robocalls a robocall is a telephone call that is made by a computer programme the software can make thousands of calls at a time the fcc fined the man a record 120 million because they say he posed a threat to public safety the fcc says the mans calls were illegal because many of them were made to critical emergency phone lines the fcc said many other calls went to mobile phones and residential telephones without the person being called wanting that call this means the call was a nuisance call a bit like spam email which is also unwanted and annoying

the fcc said the man committed a serious crime and carried out one of the largest and most dangerous illegal robocalling campaigns that the commission has ever investigated the man made 96 million robocalls during a three month period in 2016 as a part of a telemarketing scheme he used a technique called neighbor spoofing to get people to answer the calls this technique tricks people into thinking the calls are from a local telephone number the man also tricked people into believing that the calls were from well known airlines hotels and travel companies callers were instead passed on to call centres that tried to sell them property the man said he has done nothing wrong

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180514-nuisance-calls.html>

America's Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, has fined a man who they say placed nearly 100 million robo calls. A robo call is a telephone call that is made by a computer programme. The software can make thousands of calls at a time. The FCC fined the man a record \$120 million because they say he posed a threat to public safety. The FCC says the man's calls were illegal because many of them were made to "critical emergency phone lines". The FCC said many other calls went to mobile phones and residential telephones without the person being called wanting that call. This means the call was a nuisance call - a bit like spam e-mail, which is also unwanted and annoying. The FCC said the man committed a serious crime and carried out, "one of the largest and most dangerous illegal robo calling campaigns that the Commission has ever investigated". The man made 96 million robo calls during a three-month period in 2016 as a part of a "telemarketing scheme". He used a technique called "neighbors spoofing" to get people to answer the calls. This technique tricks people into thinking the calls are from a local telephone number. The man also tricked people into believing that the calls were from well-known airlines, hotels and travel companies. Callers were instead passed on to call centres that tried to sell them property. The man said he has done nothing wrong.

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. NUISANCE CALLS: Make a poster about nuisance calls. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. A CRIME: Write a magazine article about making nuisance calls a crime. 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 nuisance calls. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. 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. d 3. f 4. e 5. c 6. g 7. a
8. h 9. j 10. l 11. m 12. n 13. k 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. nearly | a. almost |
| 2. posed | b. presented |
| 3. critical | c. serious |
| 4. unwanted | d. unwelcome |
| 5. annoying | e. irritating |
| 6. committed | f. carried out |
| 7. investigated | g. looked into |
| 8. tricked | h. fooled |
| 9. well-known | i. famous |
| 10. property | j. houses |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A computer programme
2. A \$120 million
3. Public safety
4. Residential homes
5. Spam e-mail
6. A serious crime
7. Three months
8. A telemarketing scheme
9. A local telephone number
10. Nothing wrong

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. A telephone call made by a computer programme.
2. Software can make thousands of calls at a time.
3. Many were made to critical emergency phone lines.
4. Without the person being called wanting that call.
5. This means the call was a nuisance call.
6. It said the man committed a serious crime.
7. He used a technique called "neighbor spoofing".
8. Tricks people into thinking the calls are local.
9. Callers were instead passed on to call centres.
10. The man said he has done nothing wrong.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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