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Level 4 – 24th March, 2019

Balloons deadliest plastic for seabirds

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-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/1903/190324-balloons-4.html>

Scientists found what plastic is most harmful to seabirds. Marine and Antarctic studies researchers discovered that balloons were deadliest. They said balloons were 32 times likelier to kill seabirds than hard plastics. Balloons and soft plastics accounted for 5 per cent of plastics ingested, but were responsible for over 40 per cent of seabird deaths. Researchers said hard plastic can pass quickly through the bird, but balloons can get blocked and kill birds.

The study looked at 1,733 dead seabirds. Over a quarter of them died because of the growing threat of plastic. A researcher said: "Marine debris ingestion is now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that [fewer] balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." There is 280,000 tons of marine debris worldwide. About half of seabirds eat plastic daily. Seabirds think balloons they look like squid.

Sources: <https://cosmosmagazine.com/biology/balloons-the-biggest-risk-to-seabirds>
<https://www.livescience.com/64918-balloons-killing-seabirds.html>
<https://m.health24.com/Lifestyle/Environmental-health/Animals/the-deadliest-plastic-for-seabirds-balloons-20190305>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. plastic is most harmful | a. were deadliest |
| 2. Marine and Antarctic | b. for 5 per cent |
| 3. researchers discovered that balloons | c. blocked |
| 4. balloons were 32 times | d. studies |
| 5. soft plastics accounted | e. likelier to kill |
| 6. over 40 per cent | f. through the bird |
| 7. pass quickly | g. to seabirds |
| 8. balloons can get | h. of seabird deaths |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Over a quarter | a. like squid |
| 2. the growing | b. mortalities |
| 3. a globally recognized | c. threat of plastic |
| 4. balloon fragments | d. plastic daily |
| 5. directly reduce seabird | e. threat |
| 6. 280,000 tons of marine | f. in the ocean |
| 7. About half of seabirds eat | g. debris |
| 8. Seabirds think balloons look | h. of them died |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-4.html>

Scientists found (1) _____ most harmful to seabirds. Marine and Antarctic studies researchers discovered (2) _____ deadliest. They said balloons were (3) _____ to kill seabirds than hard plastics. Balloons (4) _____ accounted for 5 per cent of plastics ingested, (5) _____ for over 40 per cent of seabird deaths. Researchers said hard plastic can pass quickly through the bird, but balloons (6) _____ and kill birds.

The study looked at 1,733 dead seabirds. Over (7) _____ them died because of the growing (8) _____. A researcher said: "Marine debris ingestion is (9) _____ recognized threat....We suggest that [fewer] balloons (10) _____ in the ocean would (11) _____ mortalities." There is 280,000 tons of marine debris worldwide. About half of seabirds eat plastic daily. Seabirds think balloons they (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-4.html>

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BALLOONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about balloons 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) _____

