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Level 6 – 24th March, 2019

Balloons deadliest plastic for seabirds

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

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

Scientists have made an alarming discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds. A study led by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were the deadliest kind of plastic for seabirds. The research team said balloons were 32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastics. They found that while balloons and other soft plastics accounted for only 5 per cent of plastics ingested, they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths among seabirds. Lead researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause fatal obstructions."

The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a quarter of the deaths were attributed to eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing threat to seabirds. She said: "Marine debris ingestion is now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that reducing the presence of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." LiveScience.com said: "With an estimated 280,000 tons of floating marine debris worldwide, about half of all seabird species are thought to ingest plastic on a daily basis. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they closely resemble squid, according to the study."

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>

WARM-UPS

1. BALLOONS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about balloons. 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?

scientists / alarming / discovery / plastic / seabirds / responsible / researcher / fatal / quarter / eating / threat / presence / mortalities / marine / debris / species / squid

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

3. BAN: Students A **strongly** believe governments must ban balloons; Students B **strongly** believe they shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. POLLUTION: How bad are these kinds of pollution? How can we reduce them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | How Bad? | Solutions |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| Plastic | | |
| Noise | | |
| Air | | |
| River | | |
| Nuclear | | |
| Litter | | |

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

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

- balloons
- bottles
- glitter
- pens
- food trays
- carrier bags
- food packaging
- toys

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. alarming | a. A society or organization having a particular object or common factor, especially a scientific, educational, or social one. |
| 2. institute | b. Took food, drink, or another substance into the body by swallowing or absorbing it. |
| 3. accounted for | c. The action of blocking something or the state of being blocked. |
| 4. ingested | d. Supplied or made up a specified amount or proportion. |
| 5. fragments | e. The stomach or belly. |
| 6. gut | f. Worrying or disturbing. |
| 7. obstructions | g. Small parts broken or separated off something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 8. attributed to | h. A person or thing likely to cause damage or danger. |
| 9. threat | i. The state or fact of existing, occurring, or being in a place or thing. |
| 10. presence | j. Look or seem like someone or something else. |
| 11. mortalities | k. Buoyant or suspended in water or air. |
| 12. floating | l. Deaths. |
| 13. swallow | m. Regarded something as being caused by someone or something. |
| 14. resemble | n. Cause or allow something, especially food or drink to pass down the throat. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. Scientists started alarm clock bells ringing about a discovery. **T / F**
- b. Research was done on seabirds in the North Pole. **T / F**
- c. Balloons accounted for over 40% of plastic-related seabird deaths. **T / F**
- d. A researcher said hard plastics pass more slowly through the gut. **T / F**
- e. Around 25% of dead seabirds in the research died because of plastic. **T / F**
- f. A researcher said marine debris is becoming less of a threat to birds. **T / F**
- g. There are about 280,000 tons of debris floating on our oceans. **T / F**
- h. Seabirds could eat balloons because they think they look like squid. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. alarming | a. probable |
| 2. harmful | b. look like |
| 3. likely | c. consumed |
| 4. ingested | d. growing |
| 5. fatal | e. damaging |
| 6. attributed to | f. deaths |
| 7. increasing | g. globally |
| 8. mortalities | h. worrying |
| 9. worldwide | i. pinned on |
| 10. resemble | j. deadly |

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have made an alarming | a. of deaths |
| 2. balloons were 32 times more | b. closely resemble squid |
| 3. responsible for more than 40 per cent | c. obstructions |
| 4. fragments may pass quickly | d. mortalities |
| 5. cause fatal | e. to seabirds |
| 6. a quarter of the deaths were | f. discovery |
| 7. plastic is becoming an increasing threat | g. likely to kill |
| 8. reduce seabird | h. debris |
| 9. 280,000 tons of floating marine | i. through the gut |
| 10. swallow dangerous balloons because they | j. attributed to eating plastic |

GAP FILL

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

Scientists have made an (1) _____ discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds. A study (2) _____ by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were the (3) _____ kind of plastic for seabirds. The research team said balloons were 32 times more (4) _____ to kill seabirds than hard plastics. They found that while balloons and other soft plastics (5) _____ for only 5 per cent of plastics (6) _____, they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths among seabirds. Lead researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the (7) _____, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause (8) _____ obstructions."

likely
ingested
alarming
fatal
deadliest
gut
led
accounted

The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a (9) _____ of the deaths were attributed to eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing (10) _____ to seabirds. She said: "Marine (11) _____ ingestion is now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that reducing the (12) _____ of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird (13) _____." LiveScience.com said: "With an estimated 280,000 tons of floating marine debris worldwide, about half of all seabird (14) _____ are thought to ingest plastic on a daily basis. Birds are especially likely to (15) _____ dangerous balloons because they closely (16) _____ squid, according to the study."

mortalities
swallow
threat
debris
resemble
species
quarter
presence

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Scientists have made an alarming discovery about what kinds of pollution _____
 - a. are most harmfully
 - b. are most harmed full
 - c. are most armful
 - d. are most harmful
- 2) They found that while balloons and other soft plastics _____ 5%
 - a. accounted four only
 - b. account it for only
 - c. accounted for only
 - d. a count it for only
- 3) they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths _____
 - a. aiming seabird
 - b. among seabird
 - c. among seabirds
 - d. aiming seabirds
- 4) Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through _____
 - a. the gut
 - b. the but
 - c. the jut
 - d. the tut
- 5) but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause _____
 - a. fatally obstructs shuns
 - b. fatal abstractions
 - c. fatally obstetricians
 - d. fatal obstructions
- 6) more than a quarter of the deaths were _____ eating plastic
 - a. attribute it to
 - b. attributed too
 - c. attributed to
 - d. a tribute to
- 7) balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce _____
 - a. seabird mortalities
 - b. seabird immortalize
 - c. seabird immoralities
 - d. seabird moralities
- 8) With an estimated 280,000 tons of floating _____
 - a. marine day brie
 - b. marine debris
 - c. marine deb brie
 - d. marine debut
- 9) half of all seabird species are thought to ingest plastic on _____
 - a. a daily basics
 - b. a daily bay sis
 - c. a daily basis
 - d. a daily base is
- 10) Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they _____
 - a. closely resembled squid
 - b. closely resemble squids
 - c. closely resemble squidgy
 - d. closely resemble squid

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Scientists have (1) _____ discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds. A study led by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons (2) _____ kind of plastic for seabirds. The research team said balloons were 32 times (3) _____ kill seabirds than hard plastics. They found that while balloons and other soft plastics accounted for only 5 per cent (4) _____, they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths among seabirds. Lead researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly (5) _____, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted (6) _____ obstructions."

The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a quarter of the deaths (7) _____ eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing threat to seabirds. She said: "Marine (8) _____ now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that (9) _____ of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." LiveScience.com said: "With an estimated 280,000 (10) _____ marine debris worldwide, about half of all seabird species are (11) _____ plastic on a daily basis. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they (12) _____, according to the study."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What adjective did the article use to describe the discovery?
2. Where is the institute that conducted this research?
3. How many times are balloons more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastic?
4. What percentage of ingested plastic is made up of balloons?
5. What do hard plastic fragments pass through quickly?
6. How many dead seabirds did the researchers examine?
7. What did a researcher say was a globally recognized threat?
8. How much marine debris is floating on Earth's oceans?
9. How many seabirds are estimated to ingest balloons on a daily basis?
10. What do seabirds think balloons look like?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What adjective did the article use to describe the discovery?
 - a) amazing
 - b) banging
 - c) ringing
 - d) alarming
- 2) Where is the institute that conducted this research?
 - a) Japan
 - b) Australia
 - c) Chile
 - d) the USA
- 3) How many times are balloons more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastic?
 - a) 5
 - b) 40
 - c) 32
 - d) 60
- 4) What percentage of ingested plastic is made up of balloons?
 - a) 5
 - b) 6
 - c) 7
 - d) 8
- 5) What do hard plastic fragments pass through quickly?
 - a) sand
 - b) the ecosystem
 - c) the gut
 - d) the ocean
- 6) How many dead seabirds did the researchers examine?
 - a) 7,133
 - b) 1,733
 - c) 1,373
 - d) 3,713
- 7) What did a researcher say was a globally recognized threat?
 - a) eating plastic
 - b) balloon production
 - c) balloon fragmentation
 - d) marine debris ingestion
- 8) How much marine debris is floating on Earth's oceans?
 - a) 280,000 tons
 - b) 208,000 tons
 - c) 800,000 tons
 - d) 820,000 tons
- 9) How many seabirds are estimated to ingest balloons on a daily basis?
 - a) about a quarter
 - b) about a third
 - c) about half
 - d) about two thirds
- 10) What do seabirds think balloons look like?
 - a) bags
 - b) squid
 - c) fish
 - d) water

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Balloons

You think balloons are the worst pollutants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): glitter, bottles or carrier bags.

Role B – Glitter

You think glitter are the worst pollutants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): balloons, bottles or carrier bags.

Role C – Bottles

You think bottles are the worst pollutants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): glitter, balloons or carrier bags.

Role D – Carrier Bags

You think carrier bags are the worst pollutants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): glitter, bottles or balloons.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| plastic | balloons |
|----------------|-----------------|

- 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">• alarming• deadliest• 32• 5• among• fatal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,733• becoming• now• directly• tons• squid |
|---|--|

BALLOONS SURVEY

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

BALLOONS 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 'balloon'?
3. What do you think of balloons?
4. Should governments ban all plastics?
5. How sad is the sight of a bird killed by a balloon?
6. What should governments now do about this problem?
7. What could you do to reduce the use of plastics?
8. How much plastic is there in our food chain?
9. Should balloons be banned?
10. Would you like to do research in Antarctica?

Balloons deadliest plastic for seabirds – 24th March, 2019
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BALLOONS 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 'plastic'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why do we need balloons in this world?
15. How can we educate people about the danger of balloons?
16. How much of a threat are humans to birds?
17. What can be done to clean up marine debris?
18. What will you do from today to use less plastic?
19. How do you feel when you see a beach covered in plastic?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

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/1903/190324-balloons.html>

Scientists have made an (1) _____ discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds. A study (2) _____ by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were the deadliest kind of plastic for seabirds. The research team said balloons were 32 times more (3) _____ to kill seabirds than hard plastics. They found that while balloons and other soft plastics accounted (4) _____ only 5 per cent of plastics ingested, they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths (5) _____ seabirds. Lead researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, but soft plastics are more likely to become (6) _____ and cause fatal obstructions."

The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a (7) _____ of the deaths were attributed to eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing (8) _____ to seabirds. She said: "Marine debris ingestion is now a globally recognized threat...We suggest that (9) _____ the presence of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." LiveScience.com said: "With an (10) _____ 280,000 tons of floating marine debris worldwide, about half of all seabird species are thought to ingest plastic (11) _____ a daily basis. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they closely (12) _____ squid, according to the study."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) alarmed | (b) alarms | (c) alarming | (d) alarm |
| 2. | (a) led | (b) fed | (c) wed | (d) bed |
| 3. | (a) likely | (b) likelier | (c) likelihood | (d) liked |
| 4. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) on | (d) at |
| 5. | (a) from | (b) between | (c) ranging | (d) among |
| 6. | (a) comprised | (b) cemented | (c) commented | (d) compacted |
| 7. | (a) quarter | (b) quartile | (c) quart | (d) quartered |
| 8. | (a) treaty | (b) throat | (c) treat | (d) threat |
| 9. | (a) reducing | (b) reduced | (c) reduction | (d) reduces |
| 10. | (a) estimates | (b) estimated | (c) estimation | (d) estimating |
| 11. | (a) to | (b) on | (c) of | (d) in |
| 12. | (a) resemble | (b) assemble | (c) ensemble | (d) semblance |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Scientists have made an alarming coedrvisy
2. Institute for Marine and traAticnc Studies
3. plastics noeuactdc for only 5%
4. Hard plastic smrgtafne
5. more likely to become cmdctoepa
6. cause fatal outncrobssit

Paragraph 2

7. becoming an increasing tteahr
8. now a globally cedrenzoig ...
9. 280,000 tons of floating marine rsibed
10. thought to gnites plastic
11. likely to waollsw dangerous balloons
12. they closely mesblere squid

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () estimated 280,000 tons of floating marine debris worldwide, about half of all seabird species are
- () to eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing threat to seabirds. She said: "Marine debris
- () ingestion is now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that reducing the presence of balloons and balloon
- () plastics. They found that while balloons and other soft plastics accounted for only 5 per cent of plastics
- () balloons because they closely resemble squid, according to the study."
- () by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were the deadliest kind
- () are more likely to become compacted and cause fatal obstructions."
- () The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a quarter of the deaths were attributed
- (**1**) Scientists have made an alarming discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds. A study led
- () researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, but soft plastics
- () thought to ingest plastic on a daily basis. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous
- () ingested, they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths among seabirds. Lead
- () fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." LiveScience.com said: "With an
- () of plastic for seabirds. The research team said balloons were 32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. An of what alarming discovery pollution . about kinds
2. seabirds . were the plastic deadliest for Balloons
3. were Balloons likely more kill . to 32 times
4. pass may through fragments the quickly gut . Plastic
5. more become compacted . to are Soft plastics likely
6. globally a ingestion threat . debris recognized Marine is
7. estimated 280,000 An floating of debris . marine tons
8. basis . daily plastic ingest to Thought a on
9. to balloons . especially likely swallow dangerous Birds are
10. closely squid, the study . to resemble according They

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Scientists have made an *alarm / alarming* discovery about what kinds of pollution are most *harmful / harmed* to seabirds. A study led by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were the deadliest kind of plastic *to / for* seabirds. The research team said balloons were 32 times more *likelihood / likely* to kill seabirds than hard plastics. They found that *while / thorough* balloons and other soft plastics accounted *to / for* only 5 per cent of plastics ingested, they were *responsibility / responsible* for more than 40 per cent of deaths *between / among* seabirds. Lead researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may *pass / meander* quickly through the gut, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause *fatal / vital* obstructions."

The study *contained / examined* 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a *quartile / quarter* of the deaths were *attributed / tribute* to eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic *is / are* becoming an increasing threat to seabirds. She said: "Marine debris *congestion / ingestion* is now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that reducing the *presents / presence* of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird *mortals / mortalities*." LiveScience.com said: "With an estimated 280,000 tons of floating *praline / marine* debris worldwide, about half of all seabird species are thought to ingest plastic on a *date / daily* basis. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they closely resemble *squid / squidgy*, according to the study."

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/1903/190324-balloons.html>

S c__ n t_s t s h_v_ m_d__ n _l_r m_n g d_s c_v_r y
_b__ t w h_t k_n d s _f p_l l_t__ n _r_ m_s t h_r m
f_l t_ s__ b_r d s . A s t_d y l_d b y A_s t_r_l__ 's
I n s t_t_t_ f_r M_r_n_ _n d A n t_r c_t_c S t_d__ s
d_s c_v_r_d t h_t b_l l__ n s w_r_ t h_ d__ d l__ s t
k_n d _f p_l s_t_c f_r s__ b_r d s . T h_ r_s__ r c h
t__ m s__ d b_l l__ n s w_r_ 3 2 t_m_s m_r_ l_k_l
y t_ k_l l s__ b_r d s t h_n h_r d p_l s_t_c s . T
h_y f__ n d t h_t w h_l_ b_l l__ n s _n d _t h_r s_f t
p_l s_t_c s _c c__ n t_d f_r _n l y 5 p_r c_n t _f p
l_s t_c s _n g_s t_d , t h_y w_r_ r_s p_n s_b l_ f_r
m_r_ t h_n 4 0 p_r c_n t _f d__ t h s _m_n g s__
b_r d s . L__ d r_s__ r c h_r L__ r_n R_m_n s__ d :
" H_r d p_l s_t_c f_r g m_n t s m_y p_s s q__ c k l y
t h_r__ g h t h_ g_t , b_t s_f t p_l s_t_c s _r_ m_r_
l_k_l y t_ b_c_m_ c_m p_c t_d _n d c__ s_ f_t_l _b s t
r_c t__ n s . "

T h_ s t_d y _x_m_n_d 1 , 7 3 3 d__ d s__ b_r d s _n
d f__ n d t h_t m_r_ t h_n _ q__ r t_r _f t h_ d__ t
h s w_r_ t t r_b_t_d t__ _t_n g p_l s_t_c . M s
R_m_n _x p_l__ n_d t h_t p_l s_t_c _s b_c_m_n g _n
_n c_r__ s_n g t h_r__ t t_ s__ b_r d s . S h_ s__ d :
" M_r_n_ d_b r_s _n g_s t__ n _s n_w _ g_l_b_l l y
r_c_g n_z_d t h_r__ t . . . W_ s_g g_s t t h_t r_d_c_n
g t h_ p_r_s_n c_ _f b_l l__ n s _n d b_l l__ n f_r_g
m_n t s _n t h_ _c__ n w__ l d d_r_c_t_l y r_d_c_ s__
b_r d m_r t_l t__ s . " L_v_S c__ n c_. c_m s__ d : "
W_t h _n _s t_m_t_d 2 8 0 , 0 0 0 t_n s _f f_l__ t_n g
m_r_n_ d_b r_s w_r l d w_d_ , _b__ t h_l f _f _l l s__
b_r d s p_c__ s _r_ t h__ g h t t_ n g_s t p_l s_t_c
_n _ d__ l y b_s_s . B_r d s _r_ _s p_c__ l l y l_k_l y
t_ s w_l l_w d_n g_r__ s b_l l__ n s b_c__ s_ t h_y c
l_s_l y r_s_m b_l_ s q__ d , _c c_r d_n g t_ t h_ s t_d
y . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

scientists have made an alarming discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds a study led by australia's institute for marine and antarctic studies discovered that balloons were the deadliest kind of plastic for seabirds the research team said balloons were 32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastics they found that while balloons and other soft plastics accounted for only 5 per cent of plastics ingested they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of deaths among seabirds lead researcher lauren roman said hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause fatal obstructions

the study examined 1733 dead seabirds and found that more than a quarter of the deaths were attributed to eating plastic ms roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing threat to seabirds she said marine debris ingestion is now a globally recognized threat we suggest that reducing the presence of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities livescience.com said with an estimated 280000 tons of floating marine debris worldwide about half of all seabird species are thought to ingest plastic on a daily basis birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they closely resemble squid according to the study"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Scientists have made an alarming discovery about what kinds of pollution are most harmful to seabirds. A study led by Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were the deadliest kind of plastic for seabirds. The research teams said balloons were 32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastics. They found that while balloons and other soft plastics accounted for only 5 percent of plastics ingested, they were responsible for more than 40 percent of deaths among seabirds. Lead researcher Lauren Roman said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause fatal obstructions." The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds and found that more than a quarter of the deaths were attributed to eating plastic. Ms Roman explained that plastic is becoming an increasing threat to seabirds. She said: "Marine debris ingestion is now a globally recognized threat... We suggest that reducing the presence of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." LiveScience.com said: "With an estimated 280,000 tons of floating marine debris worldwide, about half of all seabird species are thought to ingest plastic on a daily basis. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons because they closely resemble squid, according to the study."

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. BALLOONS: Make a poster about balloons. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PLASTICS: Write a magazine article about ending the use of plastics. 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 balloons. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on banning plastics. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. alarming | a. worrying |
| 2. harmful | b. damaging |
| 3. likely | c. probable |
| 4. ingested | d. consumed |
| 5. fatal | e. deadly |
| 6. attributed to | f. pinned on |
| 7. increasing | g. growing |
| 8. mortalities | h. deaths |
| 9. worldwide | i. globally |
| 10. resemble | j. look like |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Alarming
2. Australia
3. Thirty-two
4. Five per cent
5. The gut
6. 1,733
7. Marine debris ingestion
8. 280,000 tons
9. About half
10. Squid

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. An alarming discovery about what kinds of pollution.
2. Balloons were the deadliest plastic for seabirds.
3. Balloons were 32 times more likely to kill.
4. Plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut.
5. Soft plastics are more likely to become compacted.
6. Marine debris ingestion is a globally recognized threat.
7. An estimated 280,000 tons of floating marine debris.
8. Thought to ingest plastic on a daily basis.
9. Birds are especially likely to swallow dangerous balloons.
10. They closely resemble squid, according to the study.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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