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Level 5 – 3rd July 2023

Microscopic handbag sells for \$63,000

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230703-microscopic-handbag-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/2307/230703-microscopic-handbag-5.html>

Engineers and designers have been miniaturizing things for decades. The trend to manufacture ever smaller products has seen pocket-sized computers and mobile phones. The latest thing to be downsized is a handbag that is so tiny it can only be seen with the help of a microscope. The art group MSCHF has created a microscopic Louis Vuitton-inspired handbag. MSCHF say its creation is "smaller than a grain of sea salt and narrow enough to pass through the eye of a needle". It is 657 by 222 by 700 micrometres. It just sold for \$63,750 at an online auction.

The neon-green bag was made using a high-tech technique called two-photon polymerization. This technology uses 3D printers to make mechanical biotech components like microfilters. MSCHF used the technology to see how small they could make a handbag. The chief creative officer said he had not asked Louis Vuitton for permission to use its logo on the handbag. He said he would rather ask for forgiveness than for permission. He thought the bag was funny because it comes from something that is highly functional, but it has become an item of jewellery.

Sources: <https://nypost.com/2023/06/29/microscopic-louis-vuitton-handbag-sells-for-over-63000-smaller-than-a-grain-of-salt/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/29/style/mschf-lv-microscopic-bag-auction/index.html>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-12247561/Bizarre-handbag-thats-smaller-grain-salt-sells-63K.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230703-microscopic-handbag-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. designers have been | a. an online auction |
| 2. manufacture ever | b. sized computers |
| 3. pocket- | c. of a microscope |
| 4. The latest thing to be | d. of a needle |
| 5. seen with the help | e. miniaturizing things |
| 6. smaller than a grain | f. downsized |
| 7. pass through the eye | g. of sea salt |
| 8. It just sold for \$63,750 at | h. smaller products |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The neon-green | a. forgiveness |
| 2. made using a high- | b. of jewellery |
| 3. This technology uses | c. use its logo |
| 4. biotech components | d. tech technique |
| 5. permission to | e. is highly functional |
| 6. ask for | f. 3D printers |
| 7. it comes from something that | g. bag |
| 8. it has become an item | h. like microfilters |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230703-microscopic-handbag-5.html>

Engineers (1) _____ been miniaturizing things for decades. The trend to manufacture ever smaller products has seen pocket-sized computers and mobile phones. The latest thing to be downsized is a handbag that is (2) _____ can only be seen with the help of a microscope. The art group MSCHF (3) _____ microscopic Louis Vuitton-inspired handbag. MSCHF say its creation is "smaller than a (4) _____ salt and narrow enough to pass through the eye (5) _____". It is 657 by 222 by 700 micrometres. It just sold for \$63,750 at (6) _____.

The (7) _____ was made using a high-tech technique called two-photon polymerization. This technology uses 3D printers to (8) _____ components like microfilters. MSCHF used the technology to (9) _____ they could make a handbag. The chief creative officer said he had not asked Louis Vuitton for permission to use (10) _____ the handbag. He said he would rather ask for forgiveness (11) _____. He thought the bag was funny because it comes from something that is highly functional, but it has become an (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230703-microscopic-handbag-5.html>

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MINIATURIZATION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230703-microscopic-handbag-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about miniaturization 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) _____

