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**Level 4 – 25th March 2024**

## **UN warns of environmental e-waste catastrophe**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-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/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-4.html>

The UN issued a warning, about the amount of electronics we are throwing away. It is at record levels. The US is worried about, an "environmental catastrophe". Electronic waste often contains toxic chemicals, like mercury. The UN reported that in 2022, we created 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could wrap around the Equator".

A lot of e-waste is sent to poor countries for recycling. However, they often cannot recycle in a way that minimizes environmental damage. E-waste is creating many health problems. It is poisoning rivers and seas. Worryingly, 58 tons of mercury entered the environment and food chain last year. The UN blamed manufacturers for failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumerism.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/20/climate/electronic-waste-recycling-climate-un/index.html>  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/20/un-says-e-waste-is-piling-up-worldwide-as-recycling-rates-remain-low>  
<https://www.foxnews.com/world/un-warns-mounting-e-waste-crisis-trashed-electric-devices>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. The UN issued                         | a. 40-ton trucks      |
| 2. the amount of electronics we are      | b. around the Equator |
| 3. It is at record                       | c. chemicals          |
| 4. Electronic waste often contains toxic | d. throwing away      |
| 5. The UN reported that                  | e. bumper-to-bumper   |
| 6. fill more than 1.5 million            | f. a warning          |
| 7. placed                                | g. in 2022            |
| 8. wrap                                  | h. levels             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. sent to poor countries for | a. rivers               |
| 2. in a way that minimizes    | b. responsibility       |
| 3. E-waste is creating many   | c. recycling            |
| 4. It is poisoning            | d. consumerism          |
| 5. food                       | e. environmental damage |
| 6. failing to accept          | f. chain                |
| 7. what happens               | g. health problems      |
| 8. It also blamed             | h. to their products    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-4.html>

The UN (1) \_\_\_\_\_, about the amount of electronics we are throwing away. It is (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The US is worried about, an "environmental catastrophe". Electronic waste (3) \_\_\_\_\_ chemicals, like mercury. The UN reported that in 2022, we created 62 million (4) \_\_\_\_\_. CNN said this could, "(5) \_\_\_\_\_ 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Equator".

A lot of e-waste is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ countries for recycling. However, they often cannot recycle (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that minimizes environmental damage. E-waste (9) \_\_\_\_\_ health problems. It is poisoning (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Worryingly, 58 tons of mercury entered the environment and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ year. The UN blamed manufacturers for failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ consumerism.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-4.html>

The UN issued a warning about the amount of electronics we are throwing away. It is at record levels. The US is worried about an "environmental catastrophe". Electronic waste often contains toxic chemicals like mercury. The UN reported that in 2022, we created 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this could "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed bumper-to-bumper, could... wrap around the Equator". A lot of e-waste is sent to poor countries for recycling. However, they often cannot recycle in a way that minimizes environmental damage. E-waste is creating many health problems. It is poisoning rivers and seas. Worryingly, 58 tons of mercury entered the environment and food chain last year. The UN blamed manufacturers for failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumerism.

# E-WASTE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about e-waste 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*UN warns of environmental e-waste catastrophe – 25th March 2024*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-4.html>

Write about **e-waste** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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