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Level 5 – 25th March 2024

UN warns of environmental e-waste catastrophe

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-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/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-5.html>

The UN has issued a warning to consumers worldwide. The amount of electronics we are throwing away is at record levels and is creating an "environmental catastrophe". The UN defines electronics as anything with a plug or a battery. They often contain toxic chemicals, such as lead and mercury. E-waste includes cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN reported that in 2022, the world generated 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".

Most e-waste comes from developed countries. A lot of it is sent for recycling to poor countries. These often lack the resources to 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 last year. Some of this got into the food chain. The UN blamed manufacturers for failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It also blamed consumers, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more difficult to dispose of them".

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The UN has issued | a. or a battery |
| 2. The amount of electronics we are | b. tons of e-waste |
| 3. anything with a plug | c. Equator |
| 4. toxic chemicals, such as lead | d. a warning |
| 5. the world generated 62 million | e. 40-ton trucks |
| 6. fill more than 1.5 million | f. bumper-to-bumper |
| 7. if placed | g. and mercury |
| 8. wrap around the | h. throwing away |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. developed | a. chain |
| 2. recycle in a way that minimizes | b. to buy electronics |
| 3. It is poisoning | c. countries |
| 4. Some of this got into the food | d. dispose of them |
| 5. failing to accept | e. environmental damage |
| 6. It also blamed | f. responsibility |
| 7. it's just a few clicks | g. rivers |
| 8. it's far more difficult to | h. consumers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-5.html>

The UN has (1) _____ to consumers worldwide. The amount of electronics we are throwing away is (2) _____ and is creating an "environmental catastrophe". The UN defines electronics (3) _____ a plug or a battery. They often contain toxic chemicals, such as (4) _____. E-waste includes cellphones, refrigerators and e-cigarettes. The UN reported that in 2022, (5) _____ 62 million tons of e-waste. CNN said this could, "fill more than 1.5 million 40-ton trucks which, if placed (6) _____, could...wrap around the Equator".

Most e-waste comes from developed countries. A (7) _____ is sent for recycling to poor countries. These often lack the resources to recycle (8) _____ that minimizes environmental damage. E-waste is creating many health problems. It (9) _____ and seas. Worryingly, 58 tons of mercury entered the environment last year. Some of this got into (10) _____. The UN blamed manufacturers for failing to accept responsibility for what happens to their products. It (11) _____, saying, "it's just a few clicks" to buy electronics, but "it's far more difficult to (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240325-electronic-waste-catastrophe-5.html>

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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) _____

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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) _____

