

Consumers asked to throw away hoverboards

19th December, 2015



Three of the UK's biggest retailers, including online giant Amazon, are advising customers to dispose of hoverboards amid safety concerns. There have been many online reports of the toy catching fire and exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a

special recycling centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers to address these safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using any physical effort. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the popular device.

Electrical Safety First, a consumer protection group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping list in the run-up to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've suspended the sale of all hoverboards, both in store and online, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been registered as vehicles.

Sources: *Telegraph.co.uk / BBC / DailyMail.com*

Writing

Safety checks need to be tightened on all goods sold to the public. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

retailers / online / giant / consumers / recycling / electronic / equipment / popular / protection / shopping / measure / dispose / understand / satisfaction / priority

True / False

- Four of the UK's top stores have told people to get rid of hoverboards. T / F
- There are reports that hoverboards have exploded and caught fire. T / F
- There will be no refunds for people who bought a hoverboard. T / F
- Hoverboards are now the top-selling Christmas gift. T / F
- Over a million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard. T / F
- Tesco is Britain's biggest bricks-and-mortar retailer. T / F
- Amazon apologised for the inconvenience the hoverboards caused. T / F
- Hoverboards are not registered to be used on the roads. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. biggest | a. makers |
| 2. dispose of | b. present |
| 3. manufacturers | c. postponed |
| 4. currently | d. throw away |
| 5. hoping | e. safety |
| 6. gift | f. largest |
| 7. run-up | g. prime concern |
| 8. suspended | h. wishing |
| 9. precautionary | i. presently |
| 10. priority | j. lead-in |

Discussion – Student A

- How much fun do you think hoverboards are? Why?
- How successful have you been at getting refunds?
- Do you prefer bricks-and-mortar stores or online stores?
- What problems would hoverboards create on the roads?
- Would you like a board that can truly hover?
- How much are hoverboards like science fiction come true?
- What should be the age limit for kids to start using hoverboards?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of Amazon?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- amid safety
- reports of the toy catching
- Stores have told consumers they will get
- without using any physical
- the retailers' decision will disappoint
- a consumer
- as a precautionary
- We regret the inconvenience
- your safety and satisfaction
- they have not been registered
- many kids
- is our highest priority
- concerns
- protection group
- measure
- as vehicles
- fire and exploding
- effort
- a refund
- this may cause you

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about hoverboards?
- What do you think of the retailers for promising refunds?
- How dangerous do you think hoverboards are?
- What gift would you really like?
- What kind of compensation should the makers pay?
- Do you think shopping malls should ban hoverboards?
- Where would you use a hoverboard?

Spelling

- the UK's biggest rteeaslr
- catching fire and opnglxdie
- a special ieyclcgnr centre
- electronic imnupqet
- ipiontaspd many kids
- the popular cieevd
- a consumer roinctotep group
- edsnsedpu the sale of all hoverboards
- a raetrioncyaup measure
- We regret the cieinnecoven
- our highest rryioitp
- registered as svichlee

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. h
6. b	7. j	8. c	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – iPads

You think iPads are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): PlayStations, digital cameras or calorie counters.

Role B – PlayStations

You think PlayStations are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): iPads, digital cameras or calorie counters.

Role C – Digital cameras

You think digital cameras are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): PlayStations, iPads or calorie counters.

Role D – Calorie counters

You think calorie counters are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): PlayStations, digital cameras or iPads.

Speaking – Devices

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- iPad
- iPhone
- PlayStation
- Smart watch
- GPS
- calorie counter
- step counter
- digital camera

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.