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Level 4

Using cotton buds could damage your hearing

7th January, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170107-cotton-buds-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170107-cotton-buds-4.html>

Grandparents tell us not to stick anything smaller than our elbow into our ears. Ear specialists in the USA now agree. They say that cleaning your ears with cotton buds can cause damage to your ears and hearing. A doctor said cotton buds seem harmless but can cause damage. She said: "People want to stick things in their ears and they think it's the right thing to do, but [cotton buds] can cause holes in the eardrum and [make it easier to get] infections."

The doctors said earwax is an important substance to keep our ears healthy. Many people believe earwax is a sign of being dirty. This is wrong and leads to unsafe ear-cleaning habits. Our body produces earwax to do the important job of cleaning the ears, stopping them from drying out, and helping them to sweat. It also protects the ears against bacteria, bugs and dust. Cotton buds can push earwax inside the ear and cause blockages and damage.

Sources: <https://www.yahoo.com/beauty/stop-messing-with-your-ears-231408120.html>
<http://gizmodo.com/doctors-seriously-stop-sticking-q-tips-in-your-ears-1790710578>
<http://www.sciencealert.com/here-s-why-it-s-a-bad-idea-to-clean-your-ears-with-cotton-buds>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170107-cotton-buds-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. anything smaller | a. to do |
| 2. Ear specialists in the USA | b. than our elbow |
| 3. cause damage to your ears | c. now agree |
| 4. cotton buds seem | d. infections |
| 5. People want to stick | e. and hearing |
| 6. they think it's the right thing | f. eardrum |
| 7. cause holes in the | g. harmless |
| 8. make it easier to get | h. things in their ears |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. earwax is an important | a. produces earwax |
| 2. keep our ears | b. ear-cleaning habits |
| 3. earwax is a sign | c. blockages and damage |
| 4. This is wrong and leads to unsafe | d. of being dirty |
| 5. Our body | e. against bacteria |
| 6. stopping them from | f. substance |
| 7. It also protects the ears | g. drying out |
| 8. cause | h. healthy |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170107-cotton-buds-4.html>

Grandparents (1) _____ stick anything smaller than our elbow into our ears. Ear (2) _____ the USA now agree. They say that cleaning your ears with cotton buds (3) _____ to your ears and hearing. A doctor said cotton buds seem harmless but can cause damage. She said: "People (4) _____ things in their ears and they think (5) _____ to do, but [cotton buds] can cause holes in the eardrum and (6) _____ to get infections."

The doctors said earwax (7) _____ substance to keep our ears healthy. Many people believe earwax (8) _____ being dirty. This is wrong and (9) _____ ear-cleaning habits. Our body produces earwax to do the important job of cleaning the ears, stopping them (10) _____, and helping them to sweat. It also protects the ears against bacteria, (11) _____. Cotton buds can push earwax inside the (12) _____ blockages and damage.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170107-cotton-buds-4.html>

Grandparentstellusnottostickanythingsmallerthanourelbowintoour ears.EarspecialistsintheUSAnowagree.They saythatcleaningyourear swithcottonbudscancausedamagetoyourearsandhearing.Adoctorsa idcottonbudsseemharmlessbutcancausedamage.Shesaid:"Peoplew anttostickthingsintheirearsandtheythinkit'stherightthingtodo,but[c ottonbuds]cancauseholesintheeardrumand[makeiteasiertoget]infe ctions."Thedoctorsaidearwaxisanimportantsubstancetokeepourea rshealthy.Manypeoplebelieveearwaxisasignofbeingdirty.This iswron gandleadstounsafeear-cleaninghabits.Ourbodyproducesearwaxtod otheimportantjobofcleaningtheears, stoppingthemfromdryingout,a ndhelpingthemtosweat.Italsoprotectstheearsagainstbacteria,bugs anddust.Cottonbudscanpushearwaxinsidetheearandcauseblockage sanddamage.

COTTON BUDS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170107-cotton-buds-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cotton buds 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) _____

