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## Level 6

### Plastic-eating worm could remove the world's waste

30th April, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 4 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

A natural solution to the growing crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand. Researchers have discovered that a tiny caterpillar, commonly known as a waxworm, has a taste for plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm devours plastic at "uniquely high speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on an industrial scale. Millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking down and consuming plastic bags, bottles, household items and other discarded waste. Around a trillion plastic bags end up in landfills around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging." He said the waxworm can break down a notoriously tough plastic like polyethylene more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its saliva to break the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and spray them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a viable way to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation."

Sources: [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/04/24/plastic-eating-wax-worm-extremely-exciting-global-pollution/?WT.mc\\_id=tmgliveapp\\_iosshare\\_AntqGjhPTrbZ](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/04/24/plastic-eating-wax-worm-extremely-exciting-global-pollution/?WT.mc_id=tmgliveapp_iosshare_AntqGjhPTrbZ)  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170424141338.htm>  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/04/wax-worms-eat-plastic-polyethylene-trash-pollution-cleanup/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. PLASTIC:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about plastic. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

natural / solution / taste / high speeds / environmentally-friendly / landfills / bags  
exciting / challenging / tough / organisms / chemical bonds / waste / oceans / rivers

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. BANNED:** Students A **strongly** believe plastic should be banned; Students B **strongly** believe that's silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WASTE:** What problems do these kinds of waste cause and how can we best deal with them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems	Solutions
Plastic		
Oil		
Nuclear waste		
Food waste		
Old cars		
Computers		

**5. WORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "worm". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. ENVIRONMENT:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important parts of the environment at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- rivers
- mountains
- lakes
- forests
- oceans
- glaciers
- farmland
- jungles

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says a solution to the growing plastic crisis could be at hand. **T / F**
- b. A caterpillar called a waxworm likes to eat plastic. **T / F**
- c. The worm eats plastic very, very, very quickly. **T / F**
- d. Around a billion plastic bags are buried in the ground each year. **T / F**
- e. The article says researchers set a challenge to break plastic down. **T / F**
- f. The worm can eat plastic over 1,400 times faster than other animals can. **T / F**
- g. Researchers said it is possible to replicate the enzymes of the worm. **T / F**
- h. A researcher wants a viable way to save the worms from plastic waste. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>solution</b>      | a. thrown away |
| 2. <b>at hand</b>       | b. eating      |
| 3. <b>tiny</b>          | c. copy        |
| 4. <b>consuming</b>     | d. near        |
| 5. <b>discarded</b>     | e. strong      |
| 6. <b>challenging</b>   | f. apply       |
| 7. <b>tough</b>         | g. answer      |
| 8. <b>replicate</b>     | h. results     |
| 9. <b>implement</b>     | i. very small  |
| 10. <b>consequences</b> | j. hard        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a tiny caterpillar, commonly       | a. consequences       |
| 2. on an industrial                   | b. saliva             |
| 3. household                          | c. biodegrade         |
| 4. Around a trillion plastic bags end | d. known as a waxworm |
| 5. They take centuries to             | e. solution           |
| 6. break down a notoriously tough     | f. scale              |
| 7. The waxworm uses enzymes in its    | g. day                |
| 8. It might be possible one           | h. up in landfills    |
| 9. working towards a                  | i. plastic            |
| 10. unavoidable                       | j. items              |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

A natural solution to the growing (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand. Researchers have discovered that a tiny caterpillar, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ known as a waxworm, has a taste for plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm (3) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic at "uniquely high speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to global waste on an industrial (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking down and consuming plastic bags, bottles, household (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and other discarded waste. Around a trillion plastic bags end up in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ around the world each year. They take centuries to (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*devours*  
*scale*  
*landfills*  
*crisis*  
*biodegrade*  
*commonly*  
*items*  
*solution*

Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has (9) \_\_\_\_\_ so challenging." He said the waxworm can break down a notoriously (10) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic like polyethylene more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to digest the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be (12) \_\_\_\_\_ one day to replicate these enzymes and (13) \_\_\_\_\_ them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a viable (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*way*  
*tough*  
*possible*  
*accumulation*  
*proved*  
*solution*  
*saliva*  
*spray*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

- 1) A natural solution to the growing crisis of plastic waste in the environment \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. may be on hand
  - b. may be in hand
  - c. may be that hand
  - d. may be at hand
- 2) a tiny caterpillar, commonly known as a waxworm, has a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tasty for plastic
  - b. tasted for plastic
  - c. taste for plastic
  - d. tasting for plastic
- 3) utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. an industry all scale
  - b. an industrial scaled
  - c. an industrial scales
  - d. an industry all scaled
- 4) consuming plastic bags, bottles, household items and other \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. disgraced waste
  - b. this guarded waste
  - c. this guarded wastage
  - d. discarded waste
- 5) Around a trillion plastic bags end up in \_\_\_\_\_ the world
  - a. landfills around
  - b. landfill surround
  - c. land fill surround
  - d. land files around
- 6) extremely exciting because breaking down plastic \_\_\_\_\_ challenging
  - a. has proved sew
  - b. has proved so
  - c. has proved saw
  - d. has proved soon
- 7) more than 1,400 times faster than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. other organisms
  - b. other organism
  - c. others organism
  - d. another organisms
- 8) It might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and \_\_\_\_\_ waste
  - a. sprays them on
  - b. sprayed them on
  - c. spray them on
  - d. splay them on
- 9) Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. in a viable weight
  - b. in a viable way
  - c. in a viable ways
  - d. in a viable whey
- 10) save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. consequences of plastic
  - b. consequence off plastic
  - c. consequences off plastic
  - d. consequential of plastic

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

A natural solution to the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic waste in the environment may be at hand. Researchers have discovered that a tiny caterpillar, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a waxworm, has a taste for plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm devours plastic (3) \_\_\_\_\_ speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking (5) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic bags, bottles, household items and other discarded waste. Around a trillion plastic (6) \_\_\_\_\_ landfills around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down (7) \_\_\_\_\_ so challenging." He said the waxworm can break (8) \_\_\_\_\_ tough plastic like polyethylene more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes (9) \_\_\_\_\_ digest the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and spray (10) \_\_\_\_\_ make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of plastic accumulation."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

1. What did the article say was growing?
2. What is the tiny caterpillar in the article known as?
3. On what kind of scale did the article say the worms could be used?
4. How many plastic bags end up in landfills around the world?
5. How long does plastic waste take to biodegrade?
6. What did a researcher say was challenging?
7. How many times faster can the worms break down plastics?
8. When might it be possible to replicate the enzymes?
9. In what way are researchers planning to implement this finding?
10. What do researchers want to save besides oceans and rivers?



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

- 1) What did the article say was growing?
  - a) caterpillars
  - b) worms
  - c) crisis
  - d) the environment
- 2) What is the tiny caterpillar in the article known as?
  - a) a waxworm
  - b) plastic worms
  - c) hand worms
  - d) devour worms
- 3) On what kind of scale did the article say the worms could be used?
  - a) an industrial scale
  - b) large scale
  - c) gray scale
  - d) Richter scale
- 4) How many plastic bags end up in landfills around the world?
  - a) just over a trillion
  - b) around a trillion
  - c) exactly 1,000,000,000,000
  - d) just under a trillion
- 5) How long does plastic waste take to biodegrade?
  - a) millennia
  - b) years
  - c) decades
  - d) centuries
- 6) What did a researcher say was challenging?
  - a) breeding worms
  - b) breaking down plastic
  - c) extreme excitement
  - d) toughening plastic
- 7) How many times faster can the worms break down plastics?
  - a) over 1,400 times
  - b) exactly 1,400 times
  - c) just under 1,400 times
  - d) about 1,400 times
- 8) When might it be possible to replicate the enzymes?
  - a) November 11
  - b) 2027
  - c) one day
  - d) by the end of the decade
- 9) In what way are researchers planning to implement this finding?
  - a) in a voluble way
  - b) in a virulent way
  - c) in a violent way
  - d) in a viable way
- 10) What do researchers want to save besides oceans and rivers?
  - a) all the environment
  - b) money
  - c) costs
  - d) mountains and parks

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

## **Role A – Rivers**

You think rivers are the most important part of the environment. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): forests, farmland or mountains.

## **Role B – Forests**

You think forests are the most important part of the environment. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): rivers, farmland or mountains.

## **Role C – Farmland**

You think farmland is the most important part of the environment. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): forests, rivers or mountains.

## **Role D – Mountains**

You think mountains are the most important part of the environment. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): forests, farmland or rivers.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'wax' and 'worm'.

<b>wax</b>	<b>worm</b>
------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• growing</li><li>• tiny</li><li>• high</li><li>• spend</li><li>• end</li><li>• take</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• exciting</li><li>• tough</li><li>• saliva</li><li>• spray</li><li>• rid</li><li>• save</li></ul>
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# PLASTIC SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plastic 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.

## PLASTIC DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'worm'?
3. How harmful is plastic to the environment?
4. What do you do to recycle plastic?
5. Should we stop making plastic products?
6. What do you think of the natural solution in the article?
7. How would the world be different without plastic waste?
8. How would the world be different without plastic?
9. How likely do you think it is that the waxworm solution will work?
10. What do you think of landfills?

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## PLASTIC DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'plastic'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. In what other ways can we deal with the problem of plastic waste?
15. Would you keep waxworms to eat your plastic waste?
16. How good is your town at disposing of plastic waste?
17. What other dangers are there to our environment?
18. What are the dangers of plastic waste?
19. What could we use instead of plastic?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

A natural solution to the (1) \_\_\_\_ crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand. Researchers have discovered that a (2) \_\_\_\_ caterpillar, commonly known as a waxworm, has a (3) \_\_\_\_ for plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm devours plastic at "uniquely high speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on an industrial (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking down and consuming plastic bags, bottles, (5) \_\_\_\_ items and other discarded waste. Around a trillion plastic bags end (6) \_\_\_\_ in landfills around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has proved (7) \_\_\_\_ challenging." He said the waxworm can break down a notoriously (8) \_\_\_\_ plastic like polyethylene more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its (9) \_\_\_\_ to break the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and (10) \_\_\_\_ them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a viable way to get (11) \_\_\_\_ of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences (12) \_\_\_\_ plastic accumulation."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |               |                  |             |
|-----|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) growth    | (b) grown     | (c) growing      | (d) grower  |
| 2.  | (a) tiny      | (b) tinted    | (c) tinny        | (d) tin     |
| 3.  | (a) taste     | (b) tasting   | (c) tasted       | (d) tastes  |
| 4.  | (a) scale     | (b) ratio     | (c) band         | (d) ladder  |
| 5.  | (a) housework | (b) household | (c) housekeeping | (d) houses  |
| 6.  | (a) of        | (b) down      | (c) at           | (d) up      |
| 7.  | (a) such      | (b) thus      | (c) so           | (d) every   |
| 8.  | (a) toughs    | (b) toughens  | (c) toughen      | (d) tough   |
| 9.  | (a) saliva    | (b) salvia    | (c) salivate     | (d) salient |
| 10. | (a) spree     | (b) spray     | (c) spry         | (d) splay   |
| 11. | (a) lid       | (b) rid       | (c) bid          | (d) hid     |
| 12. | (a) at        | (b) by        | (c) of           | (d) in      |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. mlymonoc known as a waxworm
2. the waxworm edosruv plastic
3. at uenlqyi high speeds
4. on an rsuanlitti scale
5. Around a itrinllo plastic bags
6. They take etuenicsr to biodegrade

## Paragraph 2

7. remeylxte exciting
8. break down a notoriously ugoht plastic
9. enzymes in its lasvai
10. spray them on waste to make it dmcoeeepos
11. We are planning to ltnpeemmi this
12. in a elibav way



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a viable
- ( ) up in landfills around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.
- ( ) proved so challenging." He said the waxworm can break down a notoriously tough plastic like polyethylene more
- ( ) saliva to break the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and spray
- ( ) plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm devours plastic at "uniquely high
- ( ) than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its
- ( ) oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation."
- ( ) industrial scale. Millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking down and consuming plastic bags,
- ( ) speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on an
- ( ) discovered that a tiny caterpillar, commonly known as a waxworm, has a taste for
- ( **1** ) A natural solution to the growing crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand. Researchers have
- ( ) way to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our
- ( ) Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has
- ( ) bottles, household items and other discarded waste. Around a trillion plastic bags end

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

1. solution growing plastic natural the of A to crisis waste .
2. speeds high uniquely at plastic devours waxworm The .
3. global - waste friendly Utilize solution this to environmentally .
4. and their consuming days plastic breaking bags down Spend .
5. landfills in up end bags plastic trillion a Around world the around .
6. tough break plastic down The a waxworm notoriously can .
7. times other than 1,400 than More faster organisms .
8. bonds its break chemical in to plastic's Enzymes saliva the .
9. one replicate It possible to enzymes be day these might .
10. are this a We to in way planning finding viable implement .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

A natural solution to the *growing / grown* crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at *hand / head*. Researchers have discovered that a *tinny / tiny* caterpillar, commonly known as a waxworm, has a *taste / tasty* for plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm devours plastic *on / at* "uniquely high speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to *globally / global* waste on an industrial scale. Millions of waxworms could be *bread / bred* to spend their days breaking down and *consuming / consumption* plastic bags, bottles, household items and other *discarded / distracted* waste. Around a trillion plastic bags end *up / down* in landfills around the world each year. They take *centuries / centurions* to biodegrade.

Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, *extreme / extremely* exciting because breaking down plastic has proved *such / so* challenging." He said the waxworm can break down a notoriously *toughen / tough* plastic like polyethylene more than 1,400 times faster *that / than* other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its *saliva / salvia* to break the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be possible one day to *replicate / calculate* these enzymes and *spray / splay* them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement *thus / this* finding in a viable way to get *rid / riddance* of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from *an / the* unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

\_ n \_ t \_ r \_ l \_ s \_ l \_ t \_ n \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ g \_ r \_ w \_ n \_ g \_ c \_ r \_ s \_ s \_ f \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_  
w \_ s \_ t \_ \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ \_ n \_ v \_ r \_ n \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ m \_ y \_ b \_ \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ d \_ .  
R \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ r \_ s \_ h \_ v \_ \_ d \_ s \_ c \_ v \_ r \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ \_ t \_ n \_ y \_ c \_ t \_ r \_ p \_ l \_ l \_ r \_ ,  
c \_ m \_ m \_ n \_ l \_ y \_ k \_ n \_ w \_ n \_ \_ s \_ \_ w \_ x \_ w \_ r \_ m \_ , \_ h \_ s \_ \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ f \_ r \_  
p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ . R \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ r \_ s \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ C \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ d \_ g \_ \_ n \_ v \_ r \_ s \_ t \_ y \_ \_ n \_  
t \_ h \_ \_ K \_ s \_ y \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ w \_ x \_ w \_ r \_ m \_ d \_ v \_ \_ r \_ s \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ t \_  
" \_ n \_ q \_ \_ l \_ y \_ h \_ g \_ h \_ s \_ p \_ \_ d \_ s \_ " . T \_ h \_ y \_ s \_ y \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ t \_ s \_ p \_ s \_ s \_ b \_ l \_  
t \_ \_ t \_ l \_ z \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ \_ n \_ v \_ r \_ n \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ l \_ l \_ y \_ - f \_ r \_ n \_ d \_ l \_ y \_ s \_ l \_ t \_ \_ n \_ t \_  
g \_ l \_ b \_ l \_ w \_ s \_ t \_ \_ n \_ \_ n \_ d \_ s \_ t \_ r \_ \_ l \_ s \_ c \_ l \_ . M \_ l \_ l \_ \_ n \_ s \_ \_ f \_  
w \_ x \_ w \_ r \_ m \_ s \_ c \_ \_ l \_ d \_ b \_ \_ b \_ r \_ d \_ t \_ s \_ p \_ n \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ \_ r \_ d \_ y \_ s \_ b \_ r \_ \_ k \_ n \_ g \_  
d \_ w \_ n \_ \_ n \_ d \_ c \_ n \_ s \_ m \_ n \_ g \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ b \_ g \_ s \_ , \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ l \_ s \_ , \_ h \_ \_ s \_ h \_ l \_ d \_  
\_ t \_ m \_ s \_ \_ n \_ d \_ \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ d \_ s \_ c \_ r \_ d \_ d \_ w \_ s \_ t \_ . \_ r \_ \_ n \_ d \_ \_ t \_ r \_ l \_ \_ n \_  
p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ b \_ g \_ s \_ \_ n \_ d \_ \_ p \_ \_ n \_ l \_ n \_ d \_ f \_ l \_ l \_ s \_ \_ r \_ \_ n \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ w \_ r \_ l \_ d \_ \_ c \_h \_  
y \_ \_ r \_ . T \_ h \_ y \_ t \_ k \_ \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ \_ s \_ t \_ b \_ \_ d \_ g \_ r \_ d \_ .

R \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ r \_ D \_ r \_ P \_ \_ l \_ \_ B \_ m \_ b \_ l \_ l \_ s \_ \_ d \_ : " \_ t \_ 's \_ \_ x \_ t \_ r \_ m \_ l \_ y \_ ,  
\_ x \_ t \_ r \_ m \_ l \_ y \_ \_ x \_ c \_ t \_ n \_ g \_ b \_ c \_ \_ s \_ \_ b \_ r \_ \_ k \_ n \_ g \_ d \_ w \_ n \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_  
h \_ s \_ p \_ r \_ v \_ d \_ s \_ \_ c \_ h \_ l \_ l \_ n \_ g \_ n \_ g \_ . " H \_ s \_ \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ w \_ x \_ w \_ r \_ m \_ c \_ n \_  
b \_ r \_ \_ k \_ \_ d \_ w \_ n \_ \_ \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ \_ \_ s \_ l \_ y \_ t \_ \_ g \_ h \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ l \_ k \_  
p \_ l \_ y \_ t \_ h \_ y \_ l \_ n \_ \_ m \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ 1 , 4 0 0 \_ t \_ m \_ s \_ f \_ s \_ t \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ r \_  
\_ r \_ g \_ n \_ s \_ m \_ s \_ . T \_ h \_ w \_ x \_ w \_ r \_ m \_ \_ s \_ s \_ \_ n \_ z \_ y \_ m \_ s \_ \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ s \_ l \_ v \_  
t \_ \_ b \_ r \_ \_ k \_ t \_ h \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ 's \_ c \_ h \_ m \_ c \_ l \_ b \_ n \_ d \_ s \_ . \_ t \_ m \_ g \_ h \_ t \_ b \_  
p \_ s \_ s \_ b \_ l \_ \_ n \_ \_ d \_ y \_ t \_ \_ r \_ p \_ l \_ c \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ \_ n \_ z \_ y \_ m \_ s \_ \_ n \_ d \_  
s \_ p \_ r \_ y \_ t \_ h \_ m \_ \_ n \_ w \_ s \_ t \_ t \_ m \_ k \_ \_ t \_ d \_ c \_ m \_ p \_ s \_ . \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ r \_  
r \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ r \_ s \_ \_ d \_ : " W \_ \_ r \_ p \_ l \_ n \_ n \_ n \_ g \_ t \_ \_ m \_ p \_ l \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ s \_  
f \_ n \_ d \_ n \_ g \_ \_ n \_ \_ v \_ \_ b \_ l \_ w \_ y \_ t \_ \_ g \_ t \_ r \_ d \_ \_ f \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ w \_ s \_ t \_ ,  
w \_ r \_ k \_ n \_ g \_ t \_ w \_ r \_ d \_ s \_ \_ s \_ l \_ t \_ \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ v \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ c \_ \_ n \_ s \_ ,  
r \_ v \_ r \_ s \_ , \_ n \_ d \_ \_ l \_ l \_ t \_ h \_ \_ n \_ v \_ r \_ n \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ t \_ h \_ \_ n \_ v \_ \_ d \_ b \_ l \_  
c \_ n \_ s \_ q \_ \_ n \_ c \_ s \_ \_ f \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ \_ c \_ c \_ m \_ l \_ t \_ \_ n \_ . "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

a natural solution to the growing crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand researchers have discovered that a tiny caterpillar commonly known as a waxworm has a taste for plastic researchers from cambridge university in the uk say that the waxworm devours plastic at "uniquely high speeds" they say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on an industrial scale millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking down and consuming plastic bags bottles household items and other discarded waste around a trillion plastic bags end up in landfills around the world each year they take centuries to biodegrade

researcher dr paolo bombelli said "it's extremely extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging" he said the waxworm can break down a notoriously tough plastic like polyethylene more than 1400 times faster than other organisms the waxworm uses enzymes in its saliva to break the plastic's chemical bonds it might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and spray them on waste to make it decompose another researcher said "we are planning to implement this finding in a viable way to get rid of plastic waste working towards a solution to save our oceans rivers and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm.html>

A natural solution to the growing crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand. Researchers have discovered that a tiny caterpillar, commonly known as a waxworm, has a taste for plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University in the UK say that the waxworm devours plastic at "unusually high speeds". They say that it is possible to utilize this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on an industrial scale. Millions of waxworms could be bred to spend their days breaking down and consuming plastic bags, bottles, household items and other discarded waste. Around a trillion plastic bags end up in landfills around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade. Researcher Dr Paolo Bombelli said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging." He said the waxworm can break down a notoriously tough plastic like polyethylene more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its saliva to break the plastic's chemical bonds. It might be possible one day to replicate these enzymes and spray them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a viable way to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation."







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. PLASTIC:** Make a poster about the damage plastic waste does. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. WAXWORMS:** Write a magazine article about waxworms and how they might eliminate all plastic waste. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this will work and with those who think it will not work.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on plastic. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to deal with discarded plastic. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T    b T    c T    d F    e F    f T    g F    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. solution      | a. answer      |
| 2. at hand       | b. near        |
| 3. tiny          | c. very small  |
| 4. consuming     | d. eating      |
| 5. discarded     | e. thrown away |
| 6. challenging   | f. hard        |
| 7. tough         | g. strong      |
| 8. replicate     | h. copy        |
| 9. implement     | i. apply       |
| 10. consequences | j. results     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A crisis
2. A waxworm
3. An industrial scale
4. Around a trillion
5. Centuries
6. Breaking down plastic
7. More than 1,400 times faster
8. One day
9. In a viable way
10. All the environment

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. a    4. b    5. d    6. b    7. a    8. c    9. d    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)