Bedbugs on the rise in the U.S.A.

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0904/090416-bedbugs.html

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Article</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm`ups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before Reading / Listening</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While Reading / Listening</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Gap Fill</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Reading / Listening</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Survey</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Work</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16th April, 2009
"Good night. Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite." This is a familiar rhyme often said when children go to bed. It is being used a lot more often in America today. Why? Bedbugs are making a comeback. The tiny bloodsucking creatures are becoming a huge problem in many of the nation’s hospitals, hotels and shelters. America is seeing its biggest outbreak of bedbugs in over six decades. There have been so many complaints to local governments that the Environment Protection Agency has hosted its first ever bedbug summit. Experts at the two-day conference discussed ways to combat the problem. More than 300 people attended, including scientists, public health officials and pest control workers.

Many people thought bedbugs disappeared years ago. There are several reasons for their comeback. One is that authorities have banned many of the pesticides traditionally used to kill the insects. The chemicals were said to be bad for the environment. Another reason is the increase in world travel has seen the bugs arriving in large numbers in people’s suitcases. Bedbugs live in bed mattresses and sofas. They feed on human blood, but do not usually carry diseases. However, some people have allergies to them. The rice-sized bugs give a nasty bite, which can lead to infection. The skin around the bitten area usually becomes swollen and gets extremely itchy. They are most active in the early hours of the morning.
1. **BUGS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about bugs. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. **CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

   sleeping tight / rhymes / tiny creatures / huge problems / complaints / pests / comebacks / pesticides / the environment / suitcases / allergies / infections / itchy

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

3. **PESTS:** What are the biggest pests? Complete this table. Share your answers with your partner(s). Change partners and share again.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pests</th>
<th>Why they are pests</th>
<th>The best way to control them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedbugs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cockroaches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **OUTBREAKS:** Students A strongly believe there will be more and more outbreaks in the future; Students B strongly believe we will be able to control future outbreaks. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. **CREATURES:** With your partner(s), rate these bugs from most to least interesting / useful / scary. Share your ideas with your partner(s).

   - bedbugs
   - ants
   - caterpillars
   - spiders
   - cockroaches
   - scorpions
   - moths
   - centipedes

6. **ITCHY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'itchy'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.
BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article’s headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):
   a. Bedbugs in America are now living at higher and higher places.  
   b. Bedbugs are very small creatures that suck blood.  
   c. America’s first ever conference on bedbugs was held over two days.  
   d. Bedbug specialists at a conference talked about helping the insects.  
   e. A ban on chemicals used to kill bedbugs is a reason for their comeback.  
   f. Bedbugs are arriving in America on airplanes and ships.  
   g. Bedbugs are the size of a small grape.  
   h. Early evening is the time bedbugs are most active.

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:
   1. familiar a. return
   2. comeback b. very
   3. huge c. died out
   4. hosted d. normally
   5. combat e. insect killers
   6. disappeared f. unpleasant
   7. pesticides g. fight
   8. usually h. well-known
   9. nasty i. enormous
   10. extremely j. held

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):
   1. a familiar rhyme often said when a. kill the insects
   2. Bedbugs are making a b. control workers
   3. America is seeing its biggest outbreak c. hours of the morning
   4. ways to combat d. to infection
   5. health officials and pest e. of bedbugs
   6. Many people thought bedbugs f. children go to bed
   7. the pesticides traditionally used to g. human blood
   8. They feed on h. comeback
   9. a nasty bite which can lead i. the problem
   10. They are most active in the early j. disappeared years ago
**WHILE READING / LISTENING**

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

“Good night. Sleep __________. Don’t let the bedbugs bite.” This is a familiar __________ often said when children go to bed. It is being used a lot more often in America today. Why? Bedbugs are making a comeback. The tiny bloodsucking __________ are becoming a huge problem in many of the nation’s hospitals, hotels and shelters. America is seeing its biggest __________ of bedbugs in over six __________. There have been so many complaints to local governments that the Environment Protection Agency has hosted its first ever bedbug summit. __________ at the two-day conference discussed ways to __________ the problem. More than 300 people attended, including scientists, public health officials and __________ control workers.

Many people thought bedbugs disappeared years ago. There are __________ reasons for their comeback. One is that authorities have banned many of the __________ traditionally used to kill the insects. The chemicals were said to be bad for the environment. Another reason is the __________ in world travel has seen the bugs arriving in large numbers in people’s suitcases. Bedbugs live in bed mattresses and sofas. They __________ on human blood, but do not usually carry diseases. However, some people have __________ to them. The rice-sized bugs give a nasty __________, which can lead to infection. The skin around the __________ area usually becomes swollen and gets extremely itchy. They are most __________ in the early hours of the morning.
LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

“Good night. Sleep tight. Don't ________________.” This is a familiar rhyme often said when children go to bed. It is being used a lot more often in America today. Why? Bedbugs are ________________. The tiny bloodsucking creatures are becoming a huge problem in many of the nation’s hospitals, hotels and shelters. America ________________ outbreak of bedbugs in over six decades. There have been so many complaints to local governments that the Environment Protection Agency has ________________ bedbug summit. Experts at the two-day conference discussed ways to combat the problem. More than 300 people attended, including scientists, public health officials ________________ workers.

Many people thought bedbugs disappeared years ago. There are ________________ comeback. One is that authorities have banned many of the pesticides traditionally ________________ insects. The chemicals were said to be bad for the environment. Another reason is the increase in world travel ________________ arriving in large numbers in people’s suitcases. Bedbugs live in bed mattresses and sofas. They feed on human blood, but do not usually carry diseases. However, some people have allergies to them. The rice-sized bugs ________________, which can lead to infection. The skin around the bitten area usually becomes swollen and gets extremely itchy. They are most active ________________ the morning.
AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words ‘sleep’ and ‘tight’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sleep</th>
<th>tight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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:

- familiar
- often
- tiny
- seeing
- local
- combat
- several
- banned
- bad
- numbers
- rice
- itchy
**STUDENT BUGS SURVEY**

Write five GOOD questions about bugs 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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.
BUGS DISCUSSION

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

a) What did you think when you read the headline?
b) What springs to mind when you hear the word ‘bedbugs’?
c) Have you had any experiences with bedbugs?
d) What’s your favourite insect and why?
e) What rhymes are there in your country for when children go to bed?
f) What would you do if there were bedbugs in a hotel you stayed in?
g) What do you think bedbugs do every day?
h) Why do you think people decide to become a bedbug expert?
i) What sort of person becomes a bedbug expert?
j) Have you ever had a problem with insects?

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

a) Did you like reading this article?
b) What kinds of insects do you see every day?
c) Do you think authorities should bring back the pesticides that kill bedbugs?
d) How can we stop bedbugs travelling on airplanes and ships?
e) What do you think of the idea of insects feeding on your blood?
f) Do you have any allergies?
g) How would the world be different if insects were the size of footballs?
h) What do you do when you get an insect bite?
i) When are you most active? Why?
j) What questions would you ask the bedbug experts?
"Good night. Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs (1) ____." This is a familiar rhyme often said when children go to bed. It is being used a lot more often in America today. Why? Bedbugs are (2) ____ a comeback. The tiny bloodsucking creatures are becoming a huge problem in many of the nation’s hospitals, hotels and shelters. America is (3) ____ its biggest outbreak of bedbugs in over six decades. There have been so many complaints (4) ____ local governments that the Environment Protection Agency has hosted its first ever bedbug summit. Experts at the (5) ____ conference discussed ways to combat the problem. More than 300 people attended, (6) ____ scientists, public health officials and pest control workers.

Many people (7) ____ bedbugs disappeared years ago. There are several reasons for their comeback. One is that authorities have banned many of the pesticides traditionally (8) ____ to kill the insects. The chemicals were said to be bad for the environment. Another reason is the increase (9) ____ world travel has seen the bugs arriving in large (10) ____ in people’s suitcases. Bedbugs live in bed mattresses and sofas. They feed on human blood, but do not usually carry diseases. However, some people have allergies to them. The rice-sized bugs give a nasty bite, which can (11) ____ to infection. The skin around the bitten area usually becomes swollen and gets extremely itchy. They are most active in the early hours of the morning.

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

1. (a) bitten (b) bites (c) bite (d) biting
2. (a) made (b) making (c) makes (d) make
3. (a) seeing (b) looking (c) eyeing (d) staring
4. (a) so (b) on (c) by (d) to
5. (a) two days (b) today (c) two-day (d) two day
6. (a) included (b) includes (c) including (d) inclusive
7. (a) thinking (b) thought (c) thoughts (d) thoughtful
8. (a) used (b) using (c) use (d) uses
9. (a) on (b) in (c) up (d) by
10. (a) numbers (b) numerals (c) digits (d) numerous
11. (a) leader (b) led (c) leads (d) lead
12. (a) fast (b) slow (c) hurry (d) early
WRITING:

Write about **bugs** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner’s paper.

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
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 bedbugs. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PESTS: Make a poster about different pests. How can we combat them? Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PEST CONTROL: Write a magazine article about a day in the life of a pest control worker. Include imaginary interviews with the worker and a pest.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to a bedbug expert. Ask him/her three questions about bedbugs. Give him/her three ideas on what he/she should do to combat the bedbug problem. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.
Bedbugs on the rise in the U.S.A.  

"Good night. Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite." This is a familiar rhyme often said when children go to bed. It is being used a lot more often in America today. Why? Bedbugs are making a comeback. The tiny bloodsucking creatures are becoming a huge problem in many of the nation’s hospitals, hotels and shelters. America is seeing its biggest outbreak of bedbugs in over six decades. There have been so many complaints to local governments that the Environment Protection Agency has hosted its first ever bedbug summit. Experts at the two-day conference discussed ways to combat the problem. More than 300 people attended, including scientists, public health officials and pest control workers.

Many people thought bedbugs disappeared years ago. There are several reasons for their comeback. One is that authorities have banned many of the pesticides traditionally used to kill the insects. The chemicals were said to be bad for the environment. Another reason is the increase in world travel has seen the bugs arriving in large numbers in people’s suitcases. Bedbugs live in bed mattresses and sofas. They feed on human blood, but do not usually carry diseases. However, some people have allergies to them. The rice-sized bugs give a nasty bite, which can lead to infection. The skin around the bitten area usually becomes swollen and gets extremely itchy. They are most active in the early hours of the morning.