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Level 5

Household items as bad as cars for pollution

19th February, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180219-household-items-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/1802/180219-household-items-5.html>

Scientists say a massive cause of pollution is right under our noses. Everyday household items such as toothpaste, deodorant, perfume and polish contain volatile compounds that lead to pollution. Dr Brian McDonald, an air-pollution researcher at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, conducted research into what creates pollution in our homes. He was surprised to find that household items now cause as much pollution as cars, trucks and other vehicles. Dr McDonald said that as "the transportation sector gets cleaner, these other sources...become more important".

The researchers looked at volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in a range of household items. VOCs react with sunlight to form ozone pollution. This goes into the environment and gets trapped in our house or apartment. VOCs interact with other chemicals to form tiny particles in the air that can damage our lungs. Dr McDonald said we should regulate household products more tightly to reduce their impact on our health. He gave a warning, saying: "The things I use in the morning to get ready for work are comparable to emissions that come out of the tailpipe of my car."

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/household-items-like-perfume-as-bad-as-cars-for-pollution-scientists-say-11252527>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02132-9>
<https://phys.org/news/2018-02-common-products-perfume-printer-ink.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180219-household-items-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. a massive cause | a. lead to pollution |
| 2. right under | b. gets cleaner |
| 3. contain volatile compounds that | c. important |
| 4. an air-pollution | d. pollution as cars |
| 5. conducted research into what | e. of pollution |
| 6. cause as much | f. creates pollution |
| 7. the transportation sector | g. our noses |
| 8. become more | h. researcher |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. researchers looked at volatile | a. with sunlight |
| 2. a range | b. the environment |
| 3. VOCs react | c. come out |
| 4. This goes into | d. of household items |
| 5. form tiny particles | e. of my car |
| 6. reduce their impact | f. in the air |
| 7. emissions that | g. organic compounds |
| 8. the tailpipe | h. on our health |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180219-household-items-5.html>

Scientists say a (1) _____ pollution is right under our noses. Everyday household items such (2) _____, perfume and polish contain volatile compounds that lead to pollution. Dr Brian McDonald, an (3) _____ at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, conducted research into what creates pollution in our homes. He was surprised to find that (4) _____ cause as much pollution as cars, trucks (5) _____. Dr McDonald said that as "the transportation sector gets cleaner, (6) _____...become more important".

The researchers looked at (7) _____ (VOCs) in a range of household items. VOCs (8) _____ to form ozone pollution. This goes into the environment and gets trapped in our house or apartment. VOCs interact with other chemicals to (9) _____ in the air that can damage our lungs. Dr McDonald said (10) _____ household products more tightly to (11) _____ on our health. He gave a warning, saying: "The things I use in the morning to get ready for work are comparable to (12) _____ out of the tailpipe of my car."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180219-household-items-5.html>

Scientistssayamassivecauseofpollutionisrightunderournoses. Every dayhouseholditemssuchastoothpaste,deodorant,perfumeandpolish containvolatilecompoundsthatleadtopollution. DrBrianMcDonald,an air-pollutionresearcherattheUSNationalOceanicandAtmosphericAdministration,conductedresearchintowhatcreatespollutioninourhomes. Hewassurprisedtofindthathouseholditemsnowcauseasmuchpollutionascars,trucksandothervehicles. DrMcDonaldsaidthatasthetransportationsectorgetscleaner,theseothersources...becomemoreimportant". Theresearcherslookedatvolatileorganiccompounds(VOCs)in arangeofhouseholditems. VOCsreactwithsunlighttoformozonepollution. Thisgoesintotheenvironmentandgetstrappedinourhouseorapartment. VOCsinteractwithotherchemicalstoformtinyparticlesintheairthatcandamageourlungs. DrMcDonaldsaidweshouldregulatehouseholdproductsmoretightlytoreducetheirimpactonourhealth. Hegaveawarning,saying:"ThethingsIuseinthemorningtogetreadyforworkarecomparabletoemissionsthatcomeoutofthetailpipeofmycar."

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180219-household-items-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about household items 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) _____

