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Level 4 – 24th April, 2021

Scientists make biodegradable plastic

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210424-biodegradable-plastic-4.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210424-biodegradable-plastic-4.html>

Plastic has polluted the countryside and endangered wildlife for decades. Environmentalists told us to cut the amount we use or switch to biodegradable alternatives. Scientists have now made a biodegradable plastic, so the billions of plastic bags, cups, straws, etc. that we throw away each day could be "compostable". They could break down like organic waste. The plastic breaks down within weeks, rather than centuries, using just heat and water.

This new plastic has enzymes inside it. When these enzymes are exposed to heat and water, they eat away at the plastic and turn it into nutrients for the soil. A professor said 98 per cent of the plastic her team made degraded. She said: "We are...saying that we are on the right track. We can solve this continuing problem of single-use plastics." She added: "Look at all the wasted stuff we throw away - clothing, shoes, electronics....We are taking things from the earth at a faster rate than we can return them."

Sources: <https://phys.org/news/2021-04-biodegradable-plastics-compostable.html>
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/plastic-compost-new-enzyme-technique-biodegradable>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-04-22/biodegradable-plastic-compost-enzymes-environment-soil-green/100082958>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210424-biodegradable-plastic-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Plastic has polluted the | a. cut the amount |
| 2. endangered wildlife for | b. rather than centuries |
| 3. Environmentalists told us to | c. bags |
| 4. switch to biodegradable | d. and water |
| 5. billions of plastic | e. countryside |
| 6. organic | f. alternatives |
| 7. breaks down within weeks, | g. waste |
| 8. using just heat | h. decades |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. This new plastic has enzymes | a. at the plastic |
| 2. exposed | b. use plastics |
| 3. they eat away | c. right track |
| 4. turn it into nutrients | d. a faster rate |
| 5. we are on the | e. inside it |
| 6. single- | f. stuff |
| 7. Look at all the wasted | g. to heat and water |
| 8. taking things from the earth at | h. for the soil |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210424-biodegradable-plastic-4.html>

Plastic has (1) _____ and endangered wildlife for decades. Environmentalists told us to (2) _____ we use or switch to biodegradable alternatives. Scientists have now made a biodegradable plastic, so the (3) _____ bags, cups, straws, etc. that we throw (4) _____ could be "compostable". They could break down (5) _____. The plastic breaks down within weeks, (6) _____, using just heat and water.

This new plastic has (7) _____. When these enzymes are exposed to heat and water, they (8) _____ the plastic and turn it (9) _____ the soil. A professor said 98 per cent of the plastic her team made degraded. She said: "We are...saying that we are on (10) _____. We can solve this continuing problem of (11) _____." She added: "Look at all the wasted stuff we throw away - clothing, shoes, electronics....We are taking things from the earth at a (12) _____ we can return them."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210424-biodegradable-plastic-4.html>

Plastic has polluted the countryside and endangered wildlife for decades. Environmentalists told us to cut the amount we use or switch to biodegradable alternatives. Scientists have now made a biodegradable plastic, so the billion of plastic bags, cups, straws, etc. that we throw away each day could be "compostable". They could break down like organic waste. The plastic breaks down within weeks, rather than centuries, using just heat and water. This new plastic has enzymes inside it. When these enzymes are reexposed to heat and water, they eat away at the plastic and turn it into nutrients for the soil. A professor said 98 percent of the plastic her team made degraded. She said: "We are... saying that we are on the right track. We can solve this continuing problem of single-use plastics." She added: "Look at all the wasted stuff we throw away - clothing, shoes, electronics.... We are taking things from the earth a fast rate that we can't return them."

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210424-biodegradable-plastic-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about biodegradable 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.

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) _____

