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## Level 6 – 29th January 2024

### Closing toilet-seat lids may not stop spread of germs

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs and viruses. A recent study pretty much dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the aerial activity of viral particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists determined that there is little difference in the spread of germs, regardless of whether the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying lavatory pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and contaminates nearby areas.

The researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to infect humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge to swab the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant statistical differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to cut the spread of germs. They also said it was important to disinfect the water in the bowl.

Sources: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2024/01/25/does-it-matter-if-you-flush-with-toilet-lid-up-or-down-not-really/72321820007/>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-13011553/Does-flushing-toilet-lid-really-stop-germs-spewing-bathroom-study-says-no.html>  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2024/01/26/closing-toilet-lids-before-flushing-may-not-prevent-spread-of-viruses>

# WARM-UPS

**1. TOILET LIDS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about toilet lids. 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?

toilet seat / germs / study / microbiologists / toilet / five decades / flush / bacteria / test / humans / sponge / swab / differences / bathroom surfaces / water / brush

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

**3. COMPUTER KEYBOARDS:** Students A **strongly** believe computer keyboards are cleaner than toilet seats; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. GERMS:** How dirty are these things? What do you do to avoid their germs Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Dirty	Avoidance
Computer keyboards		
Elevator buttons		
Escalator handrails		
Toilet seats		
Remote controls		
Kitchen towels		

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

**6. TOILETS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the places with the best toilets at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Train stations
- McDonald's
- Parks
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Hotels
- Convenience stores
- Streets

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. prevent      | a. Despite the current circumstances.   |
| 2. dispels      | b. A belief held without proof or certain knowledge; an assumption or hypothesis.           |
| 3. supposition  | c. Makes a doubt, feeling, or belief disappear.   |
| 4. aerial       | d. Makes something impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance. |
| 5. regardless   | e. Keep something from happening.   |
| 6. pathogens    | f. Existing, happening, or operating in the air.  |
| 7. contaminates | g. A bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.                       |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8. flush         | h. Affect a person, organism, etc. with a disease-causing organism.                                 |
| 9. infect        | i. Clearly show the existence or truth of something by giving proof or evidence.                    |
| 10. swab         | j. The level top of something.  |
| 11. mitigate     | k. Take a specimen of tissue from a person or part of the body for examination.                     |
| 12. demonstrate  | l. The process of cleaning something, especially with a chemical, in order to destroy bacteria.     |
| 13. disinfection | m. Make something bad less severe, serious, or painful.   |
| 14. surface      | n. An action that makes the contents put in a toilet disappear with water forcing it down the pipe. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

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

1. A study proved that putting the toilet lid down helps to kill germs. **T / F**
2. Microbiologists studied the aerial spread of germs from toilets. **T / F**
3. Dr Charles Gerba has studied pathogens for nearly half a century. **T / F**
4. A microbiologist said flushing a toilet keeps germs in the toilet bowl. **T / F**
5. Researchers studied the spread of germs in a dozen toilets. **T / F**
6. The researchers found sponges were covered in germs. **T / F**
7. The researchers suggested disinfecting the surfaces in toilets. **T / F**
8. The researchers said there was no need to disinfect water in the bowl. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>supposition</b>  | a. carried out |
| 2. <b>conducted</b>    | b. reduce      |
| 3. <b>determined</b>   | c. infects     |
| 4. <b>forces</b>       | d. major       |
| 5. <b>contaminates</b> | e. show        |
| 6. <b>surfaces</b>     | f. discovered  |
| 7. <b>significant</b>  | g. utilization |
| 8. <b>demonstrate</b>  | h. drives      |
| 9. <b>mitigate</b>     | i. belief      |
| 10. <b>use</b>         | j. tops        |

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

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A recent study pretty much dispels | a. areas                 |
| 2. the aerial activity of             | b. the lid is up or down |
| 3. regardless of whether              | c. differences           |
| 4. a flush forces bacteria out        | d. able to infect humans |
| 5. contaminates nearby                | e. this supposition      |
| 6. The virus was one not              | f. water in the bowl     |
| 7. they used a sponge to              | g. the risk              |
| 8. significant statistical            | h. from under the lid    |
| 9. flushing does not mitigate         | i. swab the surfaces     |
| 10. disinfect the                     | j. viral particles       |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the spread of dangerous germs and viruses. A recent study pretty much (2) \_\_\_\_\_ this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ activity of viral particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists determined that there is little (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the spread of germs, regardless of whether the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying (5) \_\_\_\_\_ pathogens for nearly five (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet (7) \_\_\_\_\_ out of it." He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and contaminates (8) \_\_\_\_\_ areas.

*aerial*  
*nearby*  
*prevent*  
*lavatory*  
*dispels*  
*bowl*  
*difference*  
*decades*

The researchers tested the spread of a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to infect humans. They (10) \_\_\_\_\_ one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to swab the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant (12) \_\_\_\_\_ differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the spread of germs. They also said it was important to (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the water in the bowl.

*statistical*  
*flushed*  
*disinfection*  
*test*  
*prior*  
*disinfect*  
*sponge*  
*cut*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

- 1) A recent study pretty much \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. expels this superstition
  - b. these spells this imposition
  - c. dispels this supposition
  - d. dispels this exposition
- 2) The scientists determined that there is little difference in the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. spread off germs
  - b. spared of gems
  - c. speed of germs
  - d. spread of germs
- 3) Dr Charles Gerba has been studying lavatory pathogens for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nearly five decadences
  - b. nearly five decants
  - c. nearly five decades
  - d. nearby five deck aids
- 4) goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the toilet bowel
  - b. the toilet bowl
  - c. the toilet ball
  - d. the toilet howl
- 5) He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. contaminates nearby arenas
  - b. contaminates nearby areas
  - c. contaminates nearby auras
  - d. contaminates nearby aerials
- 6) after a flush. The virus was one not able \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to inflect humans
  - b. to infect humans
  - c. to infest humans
  - d. to inject humans
- 7) with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. swab the surfaces
  - b. stab the surfaces
  - c. scab the surfaces
  - d. slab the surfaces
- 8) They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. pair to flushing...
  - b. peer to flushing...
  - c. priory to flushing...
  - d. prior to flushing...
- 9) and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. necessary after blushing
  - b. necessary after flashing
  - c. necessary after flushing
  - d. necessary after fishing
- 10) They also said it was important to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. disinfection the water
  - b. re-infect the water
  - c. dissing fact the water
  - d. disinfect the water

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the spread of dangerous germs and viruses. A recent study pretty much (2) \_\_\_\_\_. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the aerial activity of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a toilet is flushed. The scientists determined that there is little difference in the spread of germs, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying lavatory pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of it." He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not (7) \_\_\_\_\_ humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid (10) \_\_\_\_\_ does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that (11) \_\_\_\_\_ restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to cut the spread of germs. They also said it was (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the water in the bowl.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

1. When did a study dispel a supposition about toilet seats?
2. Where was this research conducted?
3. What kind of activity did scientists research regarding viral particles?
4. What has Dr Charles Gerba studied for half a century?
5. What did a microbiologist say was contaminated after a toilet flush?
6. How many bathrooms did researchers use in their research?
7. What did researchers use to swab surfaces in toilets?
8. What statistical differences did the researchers find?
9. What might we need to disinfect after using it?
10. What did the researchers say it was important to disinfect?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

- 1) When did a study dispel a supposition about toilet seats?
  - a) 1984
  - b) recently
  - c) last year
  - d) two years ago
- 2) Where was this research conducted?
  - a) the University of Amazonia
  - b) the University of Armenia
  - c) the University of Sanitation
  - d) the University of Arizona
- 3) What kind of activity did scientists research regarding viral particles?
  - a) fusion activity
  - b) hot activity
  - c) aerial activity
  - d) fission activity
- 4) What has Dr Charles Gerba studied for half a century?
  - a) lavatory pathogens
  - b) toilet bowls
  - c) ergonomic toilet seats
  - d) bathrooms
- 5) What did a microbiologist say was contaminated after a toilet flush?
  - a) toilet paper
  - b) nearby areas
  - c) the flush button
  - d) toilet door handles
- 6) How many bathrooms did researchers use in their research?
  - a) two
  - b) three
  - c) four
  - d) five
- 7) What did researchers use to swab surfaces in toilets?
  - a) cotton
  - b) toilet aper
  - c) a sponge
  - d) a syringe
- 8) What statistical differences did the researchers find?
  - a) no significant differences
  - b) huge differences
  - c) none at all
  - d) many
- 9) What might we need to disinfect after using it?
  - a) our hands
  - b) the toilet seat
  - c) toilet paper
  - d) a toilet brush
- 10) What did the researchers say it was important to disinfect?
  - a) everything
  - b) the toilet floor
  - c) the water in the bowl
  - d) the flush button

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

## **Role A – Train Stations**

You think train stations have the best toilets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these places (and why): parks, schools or convenience stores.

## **Role B – Parks**

You think parks have the best toilets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these places (and why): train stations, schools or convenience stores.

## **Role C – Schools**

You think schools have the best toilets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these places (and why): parks, train stations or convenience stores.

## **Role D – Convenience Stores**

You think convenience stores have the best toilets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these places (and why): parks, schools or train stations.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

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

<b>toilet</b>	<b>germs</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>• study</li><li>• activity</li><li>• difference?</li><li>• decades</li><li>• air</li><li>• areas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• test</li><li>• minute</li><li>• statistical</li><li>• prior</li><li>• surfaces</li><li>• important</li></ul>
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# TOILET LIDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Write five GOOD questions about toilet lids 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.

# TOILET LIDS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'toilet'?
3. What do you think of toilet lids?
4. What worries do you have about toilet seats?
5. What do you think of public toilets?
6. How germ-free is the toilet seat in your house?
7. What do you do to avoid 'stuff' in public toilets?
8. What do you think of putting fluffy covers on toilet seats?
9. What do you think of bidets?
10. Has reading this article changed your view of toilet seats?

*Closing toilet-seat lids may not stop spread of germs – 29th January 2024*  
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# TOILET LIDS 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 'germs'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Should we hold our breath when we flush the toilet?
15. What do you think of toilets in fast food restaurants?
16. Are toilet seats cleaner than computer keyboards?
17. How hygienic are door handles, escalator handrails and elevator buttons?
18. What's the worst toilet you've ever been in?
19. What do you think of the toilet in your house?
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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Many people (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs and (2) \_\_\_\_\_. A recent study pretty much dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ activity of viral particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists determined that there is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ difference in the spread of germs, regardless of whether the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying (5) \_\_\_\_\_ pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ nearby areas.

The researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant statistical differences in the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection (11) \_\_\_\_\_ all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to cut the spread of germs. They also said it was important to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the water in the bowl.

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

- |     |                  |                 |               |                |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) believing    | (b) believer    | (c) beliefs   | (d) believe    |
| 2.  | (a) vitals       | (b) virality    | (c) virals    | (d) viruses    |
| 3.  | (a) aerial       | (b) aerial      | (c) oral      | (d) aerology   |
| 4.  | (a) small        | (b) few         | (c) little    | (d) tiny       |
| 5.  | (a) lavatory     | (b) lavender    | (c) lavish    | (d) laboratory |
| 6.  | (a) contaminates | (b) contributes | (c) contents  | (d) contagious |
| 7.  | (a) inject       | (b) inflect     | (c) ingest    | (d) infect     |
| 8.  | (a) swab         | (b) sway        | (c) swag      | (d) swap       |
| 9.  | (a) queasiness   | (b) quantities  | (c) qualifies | (d) qualities  |
| 10. | (a) a priori     | (b) priory      | (c) prior     | (d) priority   |
| 11. | (a) to           | (b) at          | (c) of        | (d) off        |
| 12. | (a) reinfect     | (b) disinfect   | (c) defect    | (d) confect    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. pretty much dispels this pspunoisoti
2. A team of omigcotbiirsols
3. research on the arliea activity
4. viral pateclsir
5. studying lavatory tpnohsage for nearly five decades
6. taiaonsnnect nearby areas

## Paragraph 2

7. The virus was one not able to cetnfi humans
8. they used a sponge to awbs
9. significant tstiaastlci differences
10. flushing does not tmiegtai the risk
11. all restroom cafruess
12. fdcestini the water

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

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

- ( ) and viruses. A recent study pretty much dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona
- ( ) to swab the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant statistical differences in the
- ( ) flushed. The scientists determined that there is little difference in the spread of germs, regardless of whether the lid is
- ( ) quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid
- ( ) decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet
- ( ) the spread of germs. They also said it was important to disinfect the water in the bowl.
- ( ) The researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to infect
- ( ) bowl out of it." He said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and contaminates nearby areas.
- ( ) humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge
- ( **1** ) Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs
- ( ) conducted research on the aerial activity of viral particles after a toilet is
- ( ) up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying lavatory pathogens for nearly five
- ( ) prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom
- ( ) surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to cut

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

1. dangerous germs . the prevent spread to of Helps
2. recent A study dispels supposition . pretty this much
3. There's difference the little germs . of spread in
4. you that flush when All air goes somewhere .
5. from flush the A bacteria lid . under forces
6. The two of in spread virus bathrooms . a
7. one They bowl with up . flushed lid the
8. swab the sponge surfaces . to used They a
9. Mitigate surfaces . contaminating bathroom risk the of
10. was It the important disinfect water . to

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to *prevention* / *prevent* the spread of dangerous germs and viruses. A recent study pretty much *expels* / *dispels* this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the *aerial* / *aural* activity of viral particles after a toilet is *flushed* / *flushed*. The scientists *detriment* / *determined* that there is little difference in *the* / *a* spread of germs, regardless of *whether* / *rather* the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying *lavatory* / *laboratory* pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet *bowel* / *bowl* out of it." He said a flush forces *bacteria* / *bacterium* out from under the lid and contaminates nearby areas.

The researchers tested the spread of a *vest* / *test* virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to *inject* / *infect* humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge to *squab* / *swab* the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant *statistically* / *statistical* differences in the *quantities* / *qualities* of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid *prior* / *priory* to flushing does not mitigate the risk *to* / *of* contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that *dissatisfaction* / *disinfection* of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or *prior* / *after* toilet-brush use" to cut the spread of germs. They also said it was important to *reinfect* / *disinfect* the water in the bowl.

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

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

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M\_ny p\_\_pl\_ b\_l\_\_v\_ th\_t p\_tt\_ng th\_ t\_\_l\_t-s\_\_t l\_d  
d\_wn h\_lps t\_ pr\_v\_nt th\_ spr\_\_d \_f d\_ng\_r\_\_s g\_rms  
\_nd v\_r\_s\_s. \_ r\_c\_nt st\_dy pr\_tty m\_ch d\_sp\_ls th\_s  
s\_pp\_s\_t\_\_n. \_ t\_\_m \_f m\_cr\_b\_\_l\_g\_sts fr\_m th\_  
\_n\_v\_rs\_ty \_f \_r\_z\_n\_ c\_nd\_ct\_d r\_s\_\_rch \_n th\_  
\_\_r\_\_l \_ct\_v\_ty \_f v\_r\_l p\_rt\_cl\_s \_ft\_r \_ t\_\_l\_t \_s  
fl\_sh\_d. Th\_ sc\_\_nt\_sts d\_t\_rm\_n\_d th\_t th\_r\_ \_s lttl\_  
d\_ff\_r\_nc\_ \_n th\_ spr\_\_d \_f g\_rms, r\_g\_rdl\_ss \_f  
wh\_th\_r th\_ l\_d \_s \_p \_r d\_wn. M\_cr\_b\_\_l\_g\_st Dr  
Ch\_rl\_s G\_rb\_ h\_s b\_\_n st\_dy\_ng l\_v\_t\_ry p\_th\_g\_ns  
f\_r n\_\_rly f\_v\_ d\_c\_d\_s. H\_ s\_\_d: "\_ll th\_t \_\_r wh\_n  
y\_\_ fl\_sh g\_\_s s\_m\_wh\_r\_, \_nd \_t c\_rr\_\_s th\_ v\_r\_s\_s  
th\_t \_r\_ \_n th\_ t\_\_l\_t b\_wl \_\_t \_f \_t." H\_ s\_\_d \_  
fl\_sh f\_rc\_s b\_ct\_r\_\_ \_\_t fr\_m \_nd\_r th\_ l\_d \_nd  
c\_nt\_m\_n\_t\_s n\_\_rby \_r\_\_s.

Th\_ r\_s\_\_rch\_rs t\_st\_d th\_ spr\_\_d \_f \_ t\_\_st v\_r\_s \_n  
tw\_ b\_thr\_\_ms \_ft\_r \_ fl\_sh. Th\_ v\_r\_s w\_s \_n\_ n\_t  
\_bl\_ t\_ \_nf\_ct h\_m\_ns. Th\_y fl\_sh\_d \_n\_ b\_wl w\_th  
th\_ l\_d \_p, \_nd \_n\_th\_r w\_th th\_ l\_d d\_wn. \_ft\_r \_  
m\_n\_t\_, th\_y \_s\_d \_ sp\_ng\_ t\_ sw\_b th\_ s\_rf\_c\_s \_n  
th\_ t\_\_l\_t. Th\_y c\_ncl\_d\_d th\_t th\_r\_ w\_r\_ n\_  
s\_gn\_f\_c\_nt st\_t\_st\_c\_l d\_ff\_r\_nc\_s \_n th\_ q\_\_nt\_t\_\_s  
\_f th\_ v\_r\_s \_n th\_ tw\_ b\_thr\_\_ms. Th\_y \_dd\_d th\_t  
th\_ r\_s\_lts "d\_m\_nstr\_t\_ th\_t cl\_s\_ng th\_ t\_\_l\_t l\_d  
pr\_\_r t\_ fl\_sh\_ng d\_\_s n\_t m\_t\_g\_t\_ th\_ r\_sk \_f  
c\_nt\_m\_n\_t\_ng b\_thr\_\_m s\_rf\_c\_s, \_nd th\_t  
d\_s\_nf\_ct\_\_n \_f \_ll r\_str\_\_m s\_rf\_c\_s m\_y b\_ n\_c\_ss\_ry  
\_ft\_r fl\_sh\_ng \_r \_ft\_r t\_\_l\_t-br\_sh \_s\_" t\_ c\_t th\_  
spr\_\_d \_f g\_rms. Th\_y \_ls\_ s\_\_d \_t w\_s \_mp\_r\_t\_n\_t t\_  
d\_s\_nf\_ct th\_ w\_t\_r \_n th\_ b\_wl.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

many people believe that putting the toiletseat lid down helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs and viruses a recent study pretty much dispels this supposition a team of microbiologists from the university of arizona conducted research on the aerial activity of viral particles after a toilet is flushed the scientists determined that there is little difference in the spread of germs regardless of whether the lid is up or down microbiologist dr charles gerba has been studying lavatory pathogens for nearly five decades he said all that air when you flush goes somewhere and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it he said a flush forces bacteria out from under the lid and contaminates nearby areas

the researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush the virus was one not able to infect humans they flushed one bowl with the lid up and another with the lid down after a minute they used a sponge to swab the surfaces in the toilet they concluded that there were no significant statistical differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms they added that the results demonstrate that closing the toilet lid prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet brush use to cut the spread of germs they also said it was important to disinfect the water in the bowl

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240129-toilet-lids.html>

Many people believe that putting the toilet-seat lid down helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs and viruses. A recent study pretty much dispels this supposition. A team of microbiologists from the University of Arizona conducted research on the aerial activity of viral particles after a toilet is flushed. The scientists determined that there is little difference in the spread of germs, regardless of whether the lid is up or down. Microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba has been studying glavatory pathogens for nearly five decades. He said: "All that air when you flush goes somewhere, and it carries the viruses that are in the toilet bowl out of it." He said a flush force bacteria out from under the lid and contaminates nearby areas. These researchers tested the spread of a test virus in two bathrooms after a flush. The virus was one not able to infect humans. They flushed one bowl with the lid up, and another with the lid down. After a minute, they used a sponge to swab the surfaces in the toilet. They concluded that there were no significant statistical differences in the quantities of the virus in the two bathrooms. They added that the results "demonstrate that closing the toilet lid prior to flushing does not mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces, and that disinfection of all restroom surfaces may be necessary after flushing or after toilet-brush use" to cut the spread of germs. They also said it was important to disinfect the water in the bowl.







# 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 news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. TOILET LIDS:** Make a poster about toilet lids. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SELF-DISINFECTING TOILETS:** Write a magazine article about laws to require all toilet lids to be self-disinfecting. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 toilet lids. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on toilet cleanliness. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e    2. c    3. b    4. f    5. a    6. g    7. d  
8. n    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 F    5 F    6 F    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. i	2. a	3. f	4. h	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. e	9. b	10. g

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Recently
2. The University of Arizona
3. Aerial activity
4. Lavatory pathogens
5. Nearby areas
6. Two
7. A sponge
8. No significant differences
9. A toilet brush
10. The water in the bowl

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Helps to prevent the spread of dangerous germs.
2. A recent study pretty much dispels this supposition.
3. There's little difference in the spread of germs.
4. All that air when you flush goes somewhere.
5. A flush forces bacteria from under the lid.
6. The spread of a virus in two bathrooms.
7. They flushed one bowl with the lid up.
8. They used a sponge to swab the surfaces.
9. Mitigate the risk of contaminating bathroom surfaces.
10. It was important to disinfect the water.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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