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**Level 4** – 6th January 2025

## 500-kg space debris crashes into Kenya village

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-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/2025/250106-space-debris-4.html>

The problem of space debris is getting bigger. It could be a danger to us. Earlier this week, a huge metal ring crashed into a Kenyan village near Nairobi. It was about 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It could have killed people and damaged property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the debris was probably a separation ring from a rocket. An official said: "Our experts will...keep the public informed."

More companies and countries are launching rockets. The space race is heating up. Many satellites are now orbiting Earth and going into deep space. Commercial companies have sent dozens of rockets into orbit. Europe's space agency estimated there are over 14,000 tons of debris circling Earth. This includes over 170 million pieces that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these burn up when they re-enter our atmosphere.

Sources: <https://www.euronews.com/2025/01/03/kenya-investigates-giant-piece-of-space-debris-that-crash-landed-in-a-village>  
<https://www.livescience.com/space/massive-piece-of-space-junk-crashes-into-village-in-kenya-and-officials-still-have-no-idea-where-it-came-from>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/space/kenya-space-debris-rocket-crash-b2673612.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The problem       | a. danger to us          |
| 2. It could be a     | b. into a Kenyan village |
| 3. a huge metal      | c. a small wood          |
| 4. crashed           | d. property              |
| 5. damaged           | e. informed              |
| 6. it landed in      | f. of space debris       |
| 7. a separation ring | g. ring                  |
| 8. keep the public   | h. from a rocket         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. More companies and         | a. companies      |
| 2. The space race             | b. orbiting Earth |
| 3. satellites are now         | c. our atmosphere |
| 4. going into deep            | d. tons of debris |
| 5. Commercial                 | e. countries      |
| 6. over 14,000                | f. that are wider |
| 7. over 170 million pieces    | g. is heating up  |
| 8. burn up when they re-enter | h. space          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-4.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ space debris is getting bigger. It could be a danger to us. Earlier this week, a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ crashed into a Kenyan village near Nairobi. It was about 2.5 metres (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 500 kilograms. It could have killed people (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the debris was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ring from a rocket. An official said: "Our experts will...(6) \_\_\_\_\_ informed."

More (7) \_\_\_\_\_ are launching rockets. The space race is heating up. Many satellites are now orbiting Earth and going (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Commercial companies have sent dozens of rockets into orbit. Europe's space (9) \_\_\_\_\_ are over 14,000 tons (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Earth. This includes over 170 million pieces that are (11) \_\_\_\_\_ millimetre. Most of these burn up when they (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-4.html>

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# SPACE DEBRIS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about space debris 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) \_\_\_\_\_

