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Level 6 – 6th January 2025

500-kg space debris crashes into Kenya village

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

There is a growing problem of space debris, to the extent that it could pose a danger to people. Earlier this week, an enormous metal ring crashed into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The mystery object was approximately 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It had the potential to cause significant loss of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the hunk of metal was probably the separation ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "Our experts will analyze the object...and keep the public informed of the outcome." It said this was "an isolated case".

The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets into the heavens. There has been a heating up of the space race in the past decade. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now orbiting Earth and probing deep space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into low-Earth orbit. The European Space Agency estimated that there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris circling our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into 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>

WARM-UPS

1. SPACE DEBRIS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about space debris. 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?

problem / space debris / danger / metal ring / loss of life / hunk of metal / experts / rockets / satellites / the heavens / orbit / Earth / Elon Musk / planet / atmosphere

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

3. FINES: Students A **strongly** believe countries should be fined for leaving debris in space. Students B **strongly** believe this is not a good idea. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SPACE: What do you know about these things? What do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Space		
Our galaxy		
The ISS		
Mars		
Asteroids		
Black holes		

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

6. JUNK: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst items of junk at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Junk mail
- Junk food
- Junk in a drawer
- Junk in a room
- Junk TV shows
- Junk news stories
- Junk folder
- Junk bonds

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. to the extent that | a. How much something happens or is true. |
| 2. pose | b. The result of something. |
| 3. potential | c. To be or cause a problem or danger. |
| 4. significant | d. A very large piece of something. |
| 5. hunk | e. Something that could happen or be possible. |
| 6. outcome | f. Very important or big. |
| 7. isolated | g. Single; exceptional. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8. the heavens | h. Related to business or making money. |
| 9. a heating up | i. Looking or searching for something carefully. |
| 10. the space race | j. The sky or space above us. |
| 11. probing | k. To move around something, like the earth or a planet. |
| 12. commercial | l. When something gets warmer. |
| 13. orbit | m. Things that are not useful or valuable. |
| 14. junk | n. A competition to explore space, especially between countries. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. The article says more items of space debris are falling to Earth. **T / F**
2. A huge block of metal crashed into a village near Nairobi. **T / F**
3. The space debris damaged a lot of property. **T / F**
4. A space agency said the debris was from a rocket launched recently. **T / F**
5. A space rocket was launched to search for heaven. **T / F**
6. The space race is becoming more competitive. **T / F**
7. Commercial companies are now exploring deep space. **T / F**
8. Most space debris burns up when it re-enters Earth's atmosphere. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. debris | a. approximated |
| 2. pose | b. exceptional |
| 3. hunk | c. safely |
| 4. outcome | d. the wide blue yonder |
| 5. isolated | e. result |
| 6. the heavens | f. exploring |
| 7. probing | g. constitute |
| 8. estimated | h. orbiting |
| 9. circling | i. chunk |
| 10. harmlessly | j. detritus |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. to the extent that it | a. metal ring |
| 2. an enormous | b. space |
| 3. cause significant | c. case |
| 4. keep the public informed | d. the heavens |
| 5. It said this was an isolated | e. upon re-entry |
| 6. launch rockets into | f. could pose a danger |
| 7. a heating up | g. circling our planet |
| 8. probing deep | h. loss of life |
| 9. 14,000 tons of debris | i. of the space race |
| 10. burn up | j. of the outcome |

GAP FILL

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

There is a growing problem of space debris, to the (1) _____ that it could pose a danger to people. Earlier this week, an (2) _____ metal ring crashed into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The (3) _____ object was approximately 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It had the potential to cause (4) _____ loss of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small (5) _____. Kenya's Space Agency said the (6) _____ of metal was probably the separation ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "Our (7) _____ will analyze the object...and keep the public informed of the outcome." It said this was "an (8) _____ case".

mystery
wood
extent
hunk
isolated
enormous
experts
significant

The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets into the (9) _____. There has been a (10) _____ up of the space race in the past (11) _____. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now orbiting Earth and (12) _____ deep space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into low-Earth (13) _____. The European Space Agency (14) _____ that there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris (15) _____ our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these (16) _____ burn up upon re-entry into our atmosphere.

circling
probing
estimated
heating
harmlessly
heavens
orbit
decade

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) There is a growing problem of space debris, to the extent that it could _____
 - a. pose a danger
 - b. impose a danger
 - c. post a danger
 - d. posse a danger
- 2) Earlier this week, an enormous _____
 - a. metal ring clashed
 - b. metal rink crashed
 - c. metal ring crashed
 - d. medal ring crashed
- 3) the hunk of metal was probably _____
 - a. the separating ring
 - b. the separate shun ring
 - c. the separation ring
 - d. the separation rink
- 4) analyze the object and keep the public informed _____
 - a. of an income
 - b. of the upcoming
 - c. of a outcome
 - d. of the outcome
- 5) It said this was _____
 - a. an isolate cast
 - b. an isolated case
 - c. an isolate it case
 - d. an isolated base
- 6) more companies and countries launch rockets _____
 - a. into the heathens
 - b. into the heavens
 - c. onto the heavens
 - d. into them heavens
- 7) There has been a heating up of the space race in _____
 - a. the psst decade
 - b. the parsed decade
 - c. the passed decade
 - d. the past decade
- 8) USA, China, India and other nations are _____
 - a. know orbiting Earth
 - b. now orbit in Earth
 - c. new orbiting Earth
 - d. now orbiting Earth
- 9) SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into _____
 - a. low-Earth orbit
 - b. lowly-Earth orbit
 - c. low-Earthly orbit
 - d. low-Earth ore bit
- 10) debris circling our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces _____
 - a. of space junk
 - b. of spatial dunk
 - c. off space junk
 - d. of space dunk

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

There is a growing problem of space debris, to (1) _____ it could pose a danger to people. Earlier this week, an (2) _____ crashed into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The (3) _____ approximately 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It had the (4) _____ significant loss of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the (5) _____ was probably the separation ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "Our experts will analyze the object...and keep the public informed of the outcome." It said this was "(6) _____".

The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets (7) _____. There has been a heating up of the space race in (8) _____. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now orbiting Earth and (9) _____. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into (10) _____. The European Space Agency estimated that there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris (11) _____. This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these (12) _____ upon re-entry into our atmosphere.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How far from Kenya's capital city did the space debris land?
2. What was the width of the debris?
3. Where in the village of Mukuku did the debris land?
4. Who said the debris was probably a separation ring from a rocket?
5. Who will analyze the debris?
6. What has been heating up in the past ten years?
7. What are satellites probing?
8. What kind of companies has sent rockets into space?
9. How many pieces of space debris are there in space?
10. What happens to most space debris when it re-enters our atmosphere?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How far from Kenya's capital city did the space debris land?
 - a) 119 km
 - b) 118 km
 - c) 117 km
 - d) 116 km
- 2) What was the width of the debris?
 - a) 2.6 metres
 - b) 2.5 metres
 - c) 2.4 metres
 - d) 2.3 metres
- 3) Where in the village of Mukuku did the debris land?
 - a) on the main road
 - b) on the community centre
 - c) in a pond
 - d) in a small wood
- 4) Who said the debris was probably a separation ring from a rocket?
 - a) NASA
 - b) SpaceX
 - c) Kenya's Space Agency
 - d) Blue Origin
- 5) Who will analyze the debris?
 - a) the army
 - b) the police
 - c) mechanics
 - d) experts
- 6) What has been heating up in the past ten years?
 - a) rocket engines
 - b) the Sun
 - c) the space race
 - d) the heavens
- 7) What are satellites probing?
 - a) deep space
 - b) our thoughts
 - c) Mars
 - d) an asteroid
- 8) What kind of companies has sent rockets into space?
 - a) tech companies
 - b) start-ups
 - c) commercial companies
 - d) privatized companies
- 9) How many pieces of space debris are there in space?
 - a) 160 million pieces
 - b) 170 million pieces
 - c) 180 million pieces
 - d) 190 million pieces
- 10) What happens to most space debris when it re-enters our atmosphere?
 - a) It burns up.
 - b) It crashes into Earth.
 - c) nothing
 - d) It is encased in ice.

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Junk Mail

You think junk mail is the worst form of junk. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least junky of these (and why): junk food, junk TV shows or junk news stories.

Role B – Junk Food

You think junk food is the worst form of junk. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least junky of these (and why): junk mail, junk TV shows or junk news stories.

Role C – Junk TV Shows

You think junk TV shows is the worst form of junk. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least junky of these (and why): junk food, junk mail or junk news stories.

Role D – Junk News Stories

You think junk news stories is the worst form of junk. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least junky of these (and why): junk food, junk TV shows or junk mail.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'space' and 'debris'.

space	debris

- 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">• growing• crashed• cause• hunk• keep• case	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• heavens• heating• deep• orbit• circling• re-entry
--	--

SPACE DEBRIS SURVEY

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

SPACE DEBRIS 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 'space'?
3. What do you think of space?
4. Is debris in space worse than debris on Earth?
5. Do companies have a responsibility to retrieve space debris?
6. Do you worry about space debris falling on you?
7. How can we reduce the volume of space debris?
8. What will the space debris problem be like in 100 years from now?
9. How important is space exploration?
10. Would you like to see humans living in space?

500-kg space debris crashes into Kenya village – 6th January 2025
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SPACE DEBRIS 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 'debris'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of space debris?
15. Should companies get fined for leaving debris in space?
16. What further problems might space debris cause?
17. What do you know about SpaceX and Blue Origin?
18. What do you think of there being 170 million pieces of space junk?
19. How would you feel about going into space?
20. What questions would you like to ask the space agency?

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/2025/250106-space-debris.html>

There is a (1) _____ problem of space debris, to the extent that it could (2) _____ a danger to people. Earlier this week, an enormous metal ring crashed into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km southeast (3) _____ the capital Nairobi. The mystery object was approximately 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It had the potential to cause significant (4) _____ of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the (5) _____ of metal was probably the separation ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "Our experts will analyze the object...and keep the public informed of the outcome." It said this was "an isolated (6) _____".

The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets into the (7) _____. There has been a heating up of the space race in the past decade. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now (8) _____ Earth and probing deep space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into (9) _____-Earth orbit. The European Space Agency estimated that there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris (10) _____ our planet. This includes over 170 million (11) _____ of space junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly (12) _____ up upon re-entry into our atmosphere.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) grown | (b) growing | (c) glowing | (d) growling |
| 2. | (a) impose | (b) oppose | (c) suppose | (d) pose |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) lease | (b) lost | (c) loss | (d) lass |
| 5. | (a) hunk | (b) bunk | (c) funk | (d) punk |
| 6. | (a) case | (b) box | (c) pack | (d) bag |
| 7. | (a) nirvana | (b) purgatory | (c) hell | (d) heavens |
| 8. | (a) orbiting | (b) orbital | (c) orbits | (d) orbited |
| 9. | (a) slow | (b) low | (c) follow | (d) glow |
| 10. | (a) squaring | (b) lining | (c) circling | (d) angling |
| 11. | (a) snippets | (b) grains | (c) pieces | (d) morsels |
| 12. | (a) soak | (b) burn | (c) crack | (d) muck |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. an osnomeur metal ring
2. xotlpypaeraim 2.5 metres wide
3. the potential to cause gncifitiasn loss of life
4. probably the steirapano ring
5. Our retxeps will analyze the object
6. It said this was an aslodtei case

Paragraph 2

7. anuchl rockets into the heavens
8. bnogrip deep space
9. milaoccerm companies
10. into low-Earth borit
11. debris cirilcgn our planet
12. upon re-entry into our aophmesetr

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () deep space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into
- () analyze the object...and keep the public informed of the outcome." It said this was "an isolated case".
- () life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the hunk
- () into the heavens. There has been a heating up of the space race in the past
- () The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets
- () southeast of the capital Nairobi. The mystery object was approximately 2.5 metres wide, and
- () a danger to people. Earlier this week, an enormous metal ring crashed into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km
- () low-Earth orbit. The European Space Agency estimated that there are currently more than 14,000 tons
- () decade. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now orbiting Earth and probing
- () of metal was probably the separation ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "Our experts will
- () of debris circling our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces of space
- () weighed 500 kilograms. It had the potential to cause significant loss of
- () junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into our atmosphere.
- (**1**) There is a growing problem of space debris, to the extent that it could pose

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. space a debris . of There problem is growing
2. a that could it pose extent danger . The
3. enormous An crashed the into village . ring metal
4. hunk The separation metal the of was ring .
5. case . said this It an isolated was
6. the There's a space heating up of race .
7. other India Earth . nations are and now orbiting
8. 14,000 our tons debris of circling Over planet .
9. includes This of junk . space over 170 million pieces
10. these upon harmlessly burn re-entry . Most up of

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

There is a *growing / groan* problem of space debris, to the *extant / extent* that it could pose a danger to people. Earlier this week, an enormous metal ring *crashed / crushed* into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The mystery *subject / object* was approximately 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It had the *potent / potential* to cause significant *loss / lost* of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the *hunk / punk* of metal was probably the *reparation / separation* ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "*Your / Our* experts will analyze the object...and keep the public informed *of / off* the outcome." It said this was "an isolated case".

The problem of space debris will get bigger *was / as* more companies and countries launch rockets *into / unto* the heavens. There has been a heating *down / up* of the space race in the past decade. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now *orbital / orbiting* Earth and probing *deep / depth* space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into *lowly- / low-*Earth orbit. The European Space Agency estimated *what / that* there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris *squaring / circling* our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are *wider / width* than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into our *atmosphere / biosphere*.

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)

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

Th_r_ _s _ gr_w_ng pr_bl_m _f sp_c_ d_br_s, t_ th_ _xt_nt th_t _t c__ld p_s_ _ d_ng_r t_ p__pl_. __rl__r th_s w__k, _n _n_rm__s m_t_l r_ng cr_sh_d _nt_ th_ K_ny_n v_ll_g_ _f M_k_k_, 116 km s__th__st _f th_ c_p_t_l N__r_b_. Th_ myst_ry _bj_ct w_s _ppr_x_m_t_ly 2.5 m_tr_s w_d_, _nd w__gh_d 500 k_l_gr_ms. _t h_d th_ p_t_nt__l t_ h_v_ c__s_d s_gn_f_c_nt l_ss _f l_f_ _nd d_m_g_ t_ pr_p_rty. F_rt_n_t_ly, _t l_nd_d _n _ sm_ll w__d. K_ny_'s Sp_c_ _g_ncy s__d th_ h_nk _f m_t_l w_s pr_b_bly th_ s_p_r_t__n r_ng fr_m _ r_c_ntly-l__nch_d r_ck_t. _n _ff_c__l s__d: " __r _xp_rts w_ll _n_lyz_ th_ _bj_ct..._nd k__p th_ p_bl_c _nf_r_m_d _f th_ __tc_m_." _t s__d th_s w_s "_n _s_l_t_d c_s_".

Th_ pr_bl_m _f sp_c_ d_br_s w_ll g_t b_gg_r _s m_r_ c_m_p_n__s _nd c__ntr__s l__nch r_ck_ts _nt_ th_ h__v_ns. Th_r_ h_s b__n _ h__t_ng _p _f th_ sp_c_ r_c_ _n th_ p_st d_c_d_. M_ny s_t_ll_t_s fr_m th_ _S_, Ch_n_, _nd__ _nd _th_r n_t__ns _r_ n_w _rb_t_ng __rth _nd pr_b_ng d__p sp_c_. C_mm_rc__l c_m_p_n__s, s_ch _s _l_n M_sk's Sp_c_X _nd J_ff B_z_s' Bl__ _r_g_n h_v_ s_nt d_z_ns _f r_ck_ts _nt_ l_w-__rth _rb_t. Th_ __r_p__n Sp_c_ _g_ncy _st_m_t_d th_t th_r_ _r_ c_rr_ntly m_r_ th_n 14,000 t_ns _f d_br_s c_rcl_ng __r pl_n_t. Th_s _ncl_d_s _v_r 170 m_ll__n p__c_s _f sp_c_ j_nk th_t _r_ w_d_r th_n _n_ m_ll_m_tr_. M_st _f th_s_ h_rml_ssy b_rn _p _p_n r__ntry _nt_ __r _tm_sph_r_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

there is a growing problem of space debris to the extent that it could pose a danger to people earlier this week an enormous metal ring crashed into the kenyan village of mukuku 116 km southeast of the capital nairobi the mystery object was approximately 25 metres wide and weighed 500 kilograms it had the potential to cause significant loss of life and damage to property fortunately it landed in a small wood kenyas space agency said the hunk of metal was probably the separation ring from a recentlylaunched rocket an official said our experts will analyze the objectand keep the public informed of the outcome it said this was an isolated case

the problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets into the heavens there has been a heating up of the space race in the past decade many satellites from the usa china india and other nations are now orbiting earth and probing deep space commercial companies such as elon musks spacex and jeff bezos blue origin have sent dozens of rockets into lowearth orbit the european space agency estimated that there are currently more than 14000 tons of debris circling our planet this includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are wider than one millimetre most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into our atmosphere

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

There is a growing problem of space debris, to the extent that it could pose a danger to people. Earlier this week, an enormous metal ring crashed into the Kenyan village of Mukuku, 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The mystery object was approximately 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It had the potential to cause significant loss of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the hunk of metal was probably the separation ring from a recently-launched rocket. An official said: "Our experts will analyze the object... and keep the public informed of the outcome." It said this was "an isolated case". The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets into the heavens. There has been a heating up of the space race in the past decade. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now orbiting Earth and probing deep space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into low-Earth orbit. The European Space Agency estimated that there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris circling our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into our atmosphere.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **space debris** for 10 minutes. Comment on 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SPACE: Make a poster about space. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SPACE DEBRIS: Write a magazine article about fining countries who create space debris. 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 space debris. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to solve the problem of increasing amounts of junk in space. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 116 km
- 2.5 metres
- In a small wood
- Kenya's Space Agency
- Experts
- The space race
- Deep space
- Commercial companies
- 170 million pieces
- It burns up.

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- There is a growing problem of space debris.
- The extent that it could pose a danger.
- An enormous metal ring crashed into the village.
- The hunk of metal was the separation ring.
- It said this was an isolated case.
- There's a heating up of the space race.
- India and other nations are now orbiting Earth.
- Over 14,000 tons of debris circling our planet.
- This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk.
- Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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