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Level 1 – 1st January 2026

Huge rise in household waste over holiday period

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-1.html>

There are many holidays at the end of the year. People have parties and get-togethers. However, Christmas and the New Year can create lots of trash. An environmental agency said that household waste goes up by 25 per cent over the holidays. A recycling company said we needed to separate what we throw away. It said it really makes a difference to recycle boxes, bottles and cans correctly. A professor said we should avoid producing waste.

Many experts gave advice on how to deal with waste. We should be aware of recycling rules. Different places have different rules. One expert said we should be careful when we throw away electronics. Another expert said we should think ahead to cut waste. She said people could buy a concert ticket as a present instead of a gift that comes in lots of packaging. She also recommended giving digital cards and gift cards.

Sources: <https://www.npr.org/2025/12/26/nx-s1-5649424/holiday-waste-recycling-tips-mistakes>
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2025/dec/26/five-things-to-do-with-holiday-waste>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/christmas-tree-holiday-garbage-disposal-tips/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. There are many holidays at the | a. waste |
| 2. People have parties and get- | b. we throw away |
| 3. create lots | c. togethers |
| 4. an environmental | d. and cans correctly |
| 5. we needed to separate what | e. of trash |
| 6. it really makes a | f. end of the year |
| 7. recycle boxes, bottles | g. agency |
| 8. we should avoid producing | h. difference |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. many experts gave | a. different rules |
| 2. how to deal | b. lots of packaging |
| 3. we should be aware | c. with waste |
| 4. different places have | d. be careful |
| 5. we should | e. advice |
| 6. when we throw away | f. ahead to cut waste |
| 7. we should think | g. of recycling rules |
| 8. a gift that comes in | h. electronics |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-1.html>

There are many holidays at (1) _____ the year. People have (2) _____-togethers. However, Christmas and the New Year (3) _____ of trash. An environmental agency said that household waste (4) _____ 25 per cent over the holidays. A recycling company said we needed to (5) _____ throw away. It said it really makes a difference to recycle boxes, bottles and cans correctly. A professor said (6) _____ producing waste.

Many experts gave (7) _____ to deal with waste. We should (8) _____ recycling rules. Different places have different rules. One expert said we should be careful when (9) _____ electronics. Another expert said we should (10) _____ cut waste. She said people could buy a concert ticket (11) _____ instead of a gift that comes in lots of packaging. She also recommended (12) _____ and gift cards.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-1.html>

There are many holidays at the end of the year. People have parties and get-togethers. However, Christmas and the New Year can create a lot of trash. An environmental agency said that household waste goes up by 25 percent over the holidays. A recycling company said we needed to separate what we throw away. It said it really makes a difference to recycle boxes, bottles and cans correctly. A professor said we should avoid producing waste. Many experts gave advice on how to deal with waste. We should be aware of recycling rules. Different places have different rules. One expert said we should be careful when we throw away electronics. Another expert said we should think ahead to cut waste. She said people could buy a concert ticket as a present instead of a gift that comes in a lot of packaging. She also recommended giving digital cards and gift cards.

WASTE AND TRASH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about waste and trash 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-1.html>

Write about **waste and trash** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]