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Level 2 – 1st January 2026

Huge rise in household waste over holiday period

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-2.html>

There are many holidays at the end of the year. People have parties and family get-togethers, and give gifts. However, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a lot of trash. A USA environmental agency said that household waste goes up by 25 per cent over the holiday period. The company Eureka Recycling said we needed to carefully separate what we throw away. It said: "It really does make a difference if you...put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin." A professor said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible.

Many experts have reported on how to deal with waste. They advised people to be aware of the recycling rules in their town. Different places have different rules. One expert said we should be careful when we throw away electronics and Christmas lights. Another expert said it was good to think ahead to reduce waste. She said people could buy "experiences over stuff". This means buying someone a concert ticket instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging. She also recommended giving people 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. There are many holidays at | a. we throw away |
| 2. People have parties and family | b. waste |
| 3. household waste goes up | c. make a difference |
| 4. over the holiday | d. the end of the year |
| 5. carefully separate what | e. possible |
| 6. it really does | f. period |
| 7. we should avoid producing | g. get-togethers |
| 8. as much as | h. by 25 per cent |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. experts have reported on how | a. rules |
| 2. they advised | b. in lots of packaging |
| 3. be aware of the recycling | c. have different rules |
| 4. different places | d. ahead to reduce waste |
| 5. be careful when we throw | e. to deal with waste |
| 6. it was good to think | f. concert ticket |
| 7. buying someone a | g. away electronics |
| 8. a present that comes | h. people |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-2.html>

There are many holidays at the (1) _____ year. People have parties and (2) _____, and give gifts. However, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year (3) _____ lot of trash. A USA environmental agency said that household (4) _____ by 25 per cent over the holiday period. The company Eureka Recycling said we needed to carefully separate what we throw away. It said: "It really does (5) _____ if you...put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin." A professor said we (6) _____ waste as much as possible.

Many experts have reported on (7) _____ with waste. They advised people to (8) _____ the recycling rules in their town. Different places have different rules. One (9) _____ should be careful when we throw away electronics and Christmas lights. Another expert said it was good to think (10) _____ waste. She said people could buy "experiences over stuff". This means buying someone a concert ticket (11) _____ a present that comes in (12) _____. She also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-2.html>

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WASTE AND TRASH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste-2.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-2.html>

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

[illegible]