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Level 0 – 9th April 2026

Robot lawn mowers are a danger to hedgehogs

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-0.html>

Hedgehogs face many dangers. There is a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that automatically cut the grass in gardens. They are killing hedgehogs in Germany. Mayors in Germany want a ban on using the mowers at night. Hedgehogs curl up into a ball when there is danger, so mowers cannot see them.

German law protects hedgehogs. People who harm them can get a big fine. The animals are on a "near threatened" list. A German mayor wants lawn mower makers to help hedgehogs. She wants them, "to find solutions to ensure that small animals are no longer endangered by robot lawn mowers".

Sources: <https://www.dw.com/en/hedgehogs-threatened-by-robot-mowers-german-activists-warn/a-70160521>
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/apr/06/german-mayors-call-for-night-time-ban-on-robot-lawnmowers-to-protect-hedgehogs>
<https://nerdbot.com/2026/04/06/germanys-hedgehog-population-threatened-by-robot-lawnmowers/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Hedgehogs face | a. into a ball |
| 2. There is a new | b. at night |
| 3. These are | c. see them |
| 4. cut the | d. a ban |
| 5. Mayors in Germany want | e. many dangers |
| 6. using the mowers | f. machines |
| 7. Hedgehogs curl up | g. danger |
| 8. mowers cannot | h. grass in gardens |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. German law protects | a. longer endangered |
| 2. People who | b. threatened" list |
| 3. get a big | c. hedgehogs |
| 4. The animals are on a "near | d. mayor |
| 5. a German | e. to find solutions |
| 6. lawn mower | f. harm them |
| 7. She wants them | g. makers |
| 8. small animals are no | h. fine |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-0.html>

Hedgehogs (1) _____. There is a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These (2) _____ automatically (3) _____ in gardens. They are killing hedgehogs in Germany. Mayors in Germany want (4) _____ using the mowers at night. Hedgehogs (5) _____ a ball when there is danger, so mowers (6) _____. (7) _____ hedgehogs. People who harm them can get (8) _____. The animals are (9) _____ threatened list. A German mayor wants lawn mower (10) _____ hedgehogs. She wants them, "to (11) _____ ensure that small animals are no (12) _____ by robot lawn mowers".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-0.html>

Hedgehogs face many dangers. There is a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that automatically cut the grass in gardens. They are killing hedgehogs in Germany. Mayors in Germany want to ban the use of the mowers at night. Hedgehogs curl up into a ball when there is danger, so mowers cannot see them. German law protects hedgehogs. People who harm them can get a big fine. The animals are on a "near threatened" list. A German mayor wants lawn mower makers to help hedgehogs. She wants them "to find solutions to ensure that small animals are no longer endangered by robot lawn mowers".

HEDGEHOGS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hedgehogs 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) _____

