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Level 1 – 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-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/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-1.html>

Animals face many dangers. These include climate change, habitat loss, and pollution. There is a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that automatically cut the grass in gardens. Mayors in Germany say the mowers are killing hedgehogs. Mayors in Germany want a nationwide ban on using the mowers at night. Hedgehogs are at risk. They curl up into a ball when there is danger. This makes it difficult for a mower to detect hedgehogs.

German law protects hedgehogs. People who harm or kill them could get a \$75,000 fine. The animals are on a "near threatened" list. Their numbers dropped by over 30 per cent in the last 10 years. 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". She added: "This is a key step towards protecting animals."

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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Animals face many | a. cut the grass |
| 2. climate | b. into a ball |
| 3. habitat | c. change |
| 4. machines that automatically | d. hedgehogs |
| 5. Mayors in Germany want a nationwide | e. at night |
| 6. using the mowers | f. dangers |
| 7. They curl up | g. ban |
| 8. difficult for a mower to detect | h. loss |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. German law protects | a. protecting animals |
| 2. People who harm or | b. fine |
| 3. get a \$75,000 | c. endangered |
| 4. animals are on a near threatened | d. hedgehogs |
| 5. Their numbers dropped by | e. to find solutions |
| 6. She wants them to | f. list |
| 7. small animals are no longer | g. kill them |
| 8. a key step towards | h. over 30% |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-1.html>

Animals (1) _____. These include climate change, habitat (2) _____. There is a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that automatically (3) _____ in gardens. Mayors in Germany say the mowers are killing hedgehogs. Mayors in Germany want (4) _____ on using the mowers at night. Hedgehogs are at risk. They (5) _____ a ball when there is danger. This makes it difficult for a (6) _____ hedgehogs.

German law protects hedgehogs. People (7) _____ kill them could get a \$75,000 fine. The animals are on a (8) _____. Their numbers dropped by over 30 per cent (9) _____ 10 years. A German mayor wants lawn mower (10) _____ hedgehogs. She wants them, "to find (11) _____ that small animals are no longer endangered by robot lawn mowers". She added: "This is a (12) _____ protecting animals."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-1.html>

Animals face many dangers. These include climate change, habitat loss, and pollution. There is a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that automatically cut the grass in gardens. Mayors in Germany say the mowers are killing hedgehogs. Mayors in Germany want a nation-wide ban on using the mowers at night. Hedgehogs are at risk. They curl up into a ball when there is danger. This makes it difficult for a mower to detect hedgehogs. German law protects hedgehogs. People who harm or kill them could get a \$75,000 fine. The animals are on a "near threatened" list. Their numbers dropped by over 30 percent in the last 10 years. 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". She added: "This is a key step towards protecting animals."

HEDGEHOGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-4.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) _____

