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**Level 2 – 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-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/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-2.html>

Animals face many dangers every day. These include climate change, habitat loss, and pollution. Mayors in Germany have found a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that automatically cut the grass in people's gardens. The mayors say the mowers are killing hedgehogs and other small animals. Two cities have started a night-time ban on using the lawn mowers. However, other mayors want a nationwide ban. Hedgehogs are at risk. They curl up into a ball when there is danger. This makes it more difficult for a robot mower's sensors to detect a hedgehog.

German law protects hedgehogs. People who injure, trap, or kill them could get a \$75,000 fine. The animals have been on the "near threatened" list since 2024. This is because their numbers dropped by over 30 per cent in the previous 10 years. One German mayor asked lawn mower makers to do more to protect hedgehogs. She said: "We are calling on manufacturers 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 and enriching the quality of life in the city through biodiversity."

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-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Animals face many             | a. hedgehog          |
| 2. climate                       | b. loss              |
| 3. habitat                       | c. sensors           |
| 4. other mayors want             | d. is danger         |
| 5. They curl                     | e. dangers every day |
| 6. when there                    | f. a nationwide ban  |
| 7. difficult for a robot mower's | g. up into a ball    |
| 8. detect a                      | h. change            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. German law protects             | a. protecting animals  |
| 2. People who injure, trap, or     | b. fine                |
| 3. get a \$75,000                  | c. to find solutions   |
| 4. their numbers dropped by        | d. of life in the city |
| 5. We are calling on manufacturers | e. hedgehogs           |
| 6. small animals are no longer     | f. over 30 per cent    |
| 7. a key step towards              | g. kill them           |
| 8. enriching the quality           | h. endangered          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-2.html>

Animals (1) \_\_\_\_\_ every day. These include climate (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and pollution. Mayors in Germany have found a new danger – robot lawn mowers. These are machines that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ grass in people's gardens. The mayors say the mowers are killing hedgehogs and (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Two cities have started a night-time ban on using the lawn mowers. However, other mayors want a nationwide ban. Hedgehogs (5) \_\_\_\_\_. They curl up into a ball when (6) \_\_\_\_\_. This makes it more difficult for a robot mower's sensors to detect a hedgehog.

German law protects hedgehogs. People (7) \_\_\_\_\_, or kill them could get a \$75,000 fine. The animals have been on the "near (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 2024. This is because their numbers dropped by over 30 per cent in (9) \_\_\_\_\_ years. One German mayor asked lawn mower makers to do more to protect hedgehogs. She said: "We are calling on manufacturers (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that small animals are no longer endangered by robot lawn mowers." She added: "This is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ towards protecting animals and enriching the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the city through biodiversity."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-2.html>

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# HEDGEHOGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260409-hedgehogs-and-lawn-mowers-2.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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Robot lawn mowers are a danger to hedgehogs – 9th April 2026*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

