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Level 4 – 18th May 2026

Iran war turns Japan's snack packaging black and white

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-4.html>

The Iran war has affected food makers in Japan. There is now a shortage of the ink needed to make food wrappings. One major snack manufacturer is changing its packaging from colour to black and white. The company sells some of Japan's best-selling potato chips. Some of its products will come with a message that says: "Packaged to save oil-related materials." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrappings transparent.

The Iran war has led to a shortage of a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is used to make printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japan's prime minister has said Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. Actions will be taken to ensure the supply. These include increasing domestic production and importing more. However, the snack maker is anticipating "the possibility of additional impacts arising".

Sources: <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/16557789>
https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20260430_17/
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20260514/p2g/00m/0bu/043000c>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The Iran war has affected food | a. selling potato chips |
| 2. There is now a shortage | b. manufacturer |
| 3. needed to make food | c. makers in Japan |
| 4. One major snack | d. with a message |
| 5. from colour | e. of the ink |
| 6. Japan's best- | f. to black and white |
| 7. its products will come | g. transparent |
| 8. make parts of its wrappings | h. wrappings |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The Iran war has led | a. additional impacts |
| 2. a hydrocarbon called | b. make printing ink |
| 3. This is used to | c. oil |
| 4. crude | d. to ensure the supply |
| 5. enough naphtha to last | e. to a shortage |
| 6. Actions will be taken | f. production |
| 7. increasing domestic | g. naphtha |
| 8. anticipating the possibility of | h. beyond this year |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-4.html>

The Iran war has (1) _____ in Japan. There is now a shortage of the ink needed to make ink (2) _____. One major snack manufacturer is changing (3) _____ colour to black and white. The company sells some of Japan's best-selling potato chips. Some (4) _____ will come with a message that says: "Packaged to save (5) _____." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of (6) _____.

The Iran war has led to (7) _____ a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is used to make printing ink. It is made (8) _____. Japan's prime minister has said Japan will have enough naphtha to (9) _____ year. Actions will be taken to (10) _____. These include increasing domestic (11) _____ more. However, the snack maker is anticipating "the possibility of (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-4.html>

The Iran war has affected food makers in Japan. There is now a shortage of the ink needed to make food wrappings. One major snack manufacturer is changing its packaging from colour to black and white. The company sells some of Japan's best-selling potato chips. Some of its products will come with a message that says: "Packaged to save oil-related materials."

"Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrappings transparent. The Iran war has led to a shortage of a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is used to make printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japan's prime minister has said Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. Actions will be taken to ensure the supply. These include increasing domestic production and importing more. However, the snack maker is anticipating "the possibility of additional impacts arising".

FOOD PACKAGING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about food packaging 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) _____

