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## **Level 5 – 18th May 2026**

### **Iran war turns Japan's snack packaging black and white**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-5.html>

The Iran war has brought consequences for food makers in Japan. A shortage of a product needed to make ink has caused companies to change the design of food wrapping. 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. A spokesperson said some products will come with a message that explains: "Packaged to save oil-related materials." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrapping transparent in a bid to deal with the ink shortage.

Tensions in the Middle East have led to a shortage of a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is a component in the production of plastics and printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has assured people that Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. She said actions would be taken to ensure the supply. These include increasing domestic production and importing more from other countries. However, the snack maker said: "Depending on how the situation evolves, we anticipate 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://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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a product needed            | a. transparent           |
| 2. change the design           | b. selling potato chips  |
| 3. changing its packaging from | c. of food wrapping      |
| 4. some of Japan's best-       | d. with the ink shortage |
| 5. Packaged to save oil-       | e. to make ink           |
| 6. a Japanese ketchup          | f. related materials     |
| 7. make parts of its wrapping  | g. maker                 |
| 8. in a bid to deal            | h. colour                |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tensions in                   | a. ensure the supply |
| 2. a shortage of a hydrocarbon   | b. of plastics       |
| 3. a component in the production | c. oil               |
| 4. crude                         | d. production        |
| 5. last beyond                   | e. the Middle East   |
| 6. actions would be taken to     | f. this year         |
| 7. increasing domestic           | g. evolves           |
| 8. how the situation             | h. called naphtha    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-5.html>

The Iran war (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for food makers in Japan. A shortage of a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ make ink has caused companies to change the design of food wrapping. One (3) \_\_\_\_\_ is changing its packaging from colour to black and white. The company sells some of Japan's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ chips. A spokesperson said some products will come with a message that explains: "Packaged to save (5) \_\_\_\_\_." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrapping transparent in a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ with the ink shortage.

Tensions in the Middle East have led to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is a component in the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. She said actions would be taken to (10) \_\_\_\_\_. These include increasing domestic production and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ other countries. However, the snack maker said: "Depending on how the situation evolves, we anticipate the possibility of (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260518-food-packaging-ink-5.html>

The Iran war has brought consequences for food makers in Japan. A short age of a product needed to make ink has caused companies to change the design of food wrapping. 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. A spokesperson said some products will come with a message that explains: "Packaged to save oil-related materials." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrapping transparent in a bid to deal with the ink shortage. Tensions in the Middle East have led to a shortage of a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is a component in the production of plastics and printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has assured people that Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. She said actions would be taken to ensure the supply. These include increasing domestic production and importing more from other countries. However, the snack maker said: "Depending on how the situation evolves, we anticipate 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Iran war turns Japan's snack packaging black and white – 18th May 2026*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

