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Level 1 – 4th June 2026

Teenagers win Earth Prize for microplastic 'magnet'

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-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/2604/260604-earth-prize-1.html>

Three sixteen-year-olds in India have won this year's Earth Prize. The award is for solutions to eco-challenges. The three teenagers invented a special powder made from tamarind seeds. A tamarind is a tropical fruit. Microplastics in water stick to the powder. The microplastics and powder are then removed from the water with a magnet. The powder is a simple, cheap way to make water safer to drink in poor and rural areas.

The powder is called 'Plas-Stick'. The teenagers were very happy to win the award. They said it was "incredibly special for all of us". They explained that microplastics hide in our drinking water. They said their powder acts like a magnet for these microplastics. The collected plastic is turned into useful items "so it can't return to nature". The powder will protect people, animals, and our planet from microplastic pollution.

Sources: <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/3-teens-win-global-earth-prize-for-inventing-tamarind-powder-that-easily-removes-microplastics/>
<https://www.ndtv.com/feature/indian-teenagers-win-earth-prize-2026-for-turning-tamarind-seeds-into-microplastic-filter-11579235>
<https://www.telegraphindia.com/amp/edugraph/of-tamarind-seeds-and-microplastic-prnt/cid/2163540>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Three sixteen-year- | a. to the powder |
| 2. The award is for solutions | b. a special powder |
| 3. The three teenagers invented | c. safer to drink |
| 4. A tamarind is a tropical | d. rural areas |
| 5. Microplastics in water stick | e. fruit |
| 6. The powder is a simple, cheap | f. olds in India |
| 7. make water | g. way |
| 8. poor and | h. to eco-challenges |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The teenagers were | a. drinking water |
| 2. win the | b. very happy |
| 3. They said it was incredibly | c. pollution |
| 4. microplastics hide in our | d. a magnet |
| 5. their powder acts like | e. to nature |
| 6. turned into useful | f. award |
| 7. it can't return | g. items |
| 8. microplastic | h. special |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-1.html>

Three sixteen-year-olds in India (1) _____ year's Earth Prize. The award (2) _____ to eco-challenges. The three teenagers invented a special (3) _____ tamarind seeds. A tamarind is a tropical fruit. Microplastics in (4) _____ the powder. The microplastics and powder (5) _____ from the water with a magnet. The powder is a simple, cheap way to make water safer to drink in poor (6) _____.

The (7) _____ 'Plas-Stick'. The teenagers were very happy to (8) _____. They said it was "incredibly special for (9) _____. They explained that microplastics hide in our drinking water. They said their powder acts (10) _____ for these microplastics. The collected plastic is turned into useful items "so it can't (11) _____. The powder will protect people, animals, and (12) _____ microplastic pollution.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-1.html>

Threesixteen-year-olds in India have won this year's Earth Prize. The award is for solutions to eco-challenges. The three teenagers invented a special powder made from tamarind seeds. A tamarind is a tropical fruit. Microplastics in water stick to the powder. The microplastics and powder are then removed from the water with a magnet. The powder is a simple, cheap way to make water safe to drink in poor and rural areas. The powder is called 'Plas-Stick'. The teenagers were very happy to win the award. They said it was "incredibly special for all of us". They explained that microplastics hide in our drinking water. They said their powder acts like a magnet for these microplastics. The collected plastic is turned into useful items so it can't return to nature". The powder will protect people, animals, and our planet from microplastic pollution.

MICROPLASTICS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about microplastics 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) _____

