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**Level 2 – 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-2.html>

### **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-2.html>

Three sixteen-year-olds in India have won this year's Earth Prize. It is the world's largest environmental competition for teenagers. It is for thinking of solutions to global eco-challenges. The three teenagers invented a biodegradable powder made from tamarind seeds. A tamarind is a tropical fruit that is used in sauces. Microplastics in water stick to the powder. The mass of microplastics and powder can be removed from the water with a magnet. The powder is a simple, cheap way to make water safer to drink in rural areas.

The teenagers called their invention 'Plas-Stick'. They were extremely happy to win an award for it. They said it was "incredibly special for all of us, especially as the first team from India to receive it". They explained: "Tiny bits of plastic hide in our drinking water, but they're too small to see. We made a special powder...that acts like a magnet for these tiny plastics." Their website also says 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-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Three sixteen-year-               | a. seeds         |
| 2. the world's largest environmental | b. challenges    |
| 3. It is for thinking                | c. olds in India |
| 4. global eco-                       | d. fruit         |
| 5. a biodegradable                   | e. competition   |
| 6. made from tamarind                | f. rural areas   |
| 7. A tamarind is a tropical          | g. powder        |
| 8. make water safer to drink in      | h. of solutions  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. They were extremely happy     | a. all of us         |
| 2. it was incredibly special for | b. pollution         |
| 3. the first team from India     | c. receive it        |
| 4. Tiny bits                     | d. into useful items |
| 5. We made a special             | e. nature            |
| 6. plastic is turned             | f. to win an award   |
| 7. it can't return to            | g. powder            |
| 8. microplastic                  | h. of plastic        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260604-earth-prize-2.html>

Three sixteen-year-olds in India (1) \_\_\_\_\_ year's Earth Prize. It is the world's largest environmental (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It is for thinking of solutions to global eco-challenges. The three teenagers invented a biodegradable (3) \_\_\_\_\_ tamarind seeds. A tamarind is a tropical fruit that is (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Microplastics in water stick to the powder. The mass of microplastics and powder can (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the water with a magnet. The powder is a simple, cheap way to make water safer to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ areas.

The teenagers (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 'Plas-Stick'. They were extremely happy to win an (8) \_\_\_\_\_. They said it was "incredibly special for all of us, especially as the first team from India (9) \_\_\_\_\_". They explained: "Tiny bits of plastic hide in our drinking water, but they're too small to see. We made (10) \_\_\_\_\_...that acts like a magnet for these tiny plastics." Their website also says the collected plastic is turned (11) \_\_\_\_\_, "so it can't return to nature". 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-2.html>

Threesixteen-year-olds in India have won this year's Earth Prize. It is the world's largest environmental competition for teenagers. It is for thinking of solutions to global eco-challenges. The three teenagers invented a biodegradable powder made from tamarind seeds. A tamarind is a tropical fruit that is used in sauces. Microplastics in water stick to the powder. The mass of microplastics and powder can be removed from the water with a magnet. The powder is a simple, cheap way to make water safe to drink in rural areas. The teenagers called their invention 'Plas-Stick'. They were extremely happy to win an award for it. They said it was "incredibly special for all of us, especially as the first team from India to receive it". They explained: "Tiny bits of plastic hide in our drinking water, but they're too small to see. We made a special powder... that acts like a magnet for these tiny plastics." Their website also says 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-2.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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Teenagers win Earth Prize for microplastic "magnet" – 4th June 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) \_\_\_\_\_

