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**Level 4 – 8th June 2026**

## **Thousands of hissing cockroaches seized in Australia**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-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/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-4.html>

Officials in Australia found more than 100,000 cockroaches being smuggled into the country. There were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant bugs that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. The value of the bugs was around \$143,000. A spokesperson gave a warning to cockroach breeders: She said: "If you are found to possess, breed or trade exotic cockroaches...they will be seized and you could face penalties."

The cockroaches were probably imported to be reptile food. A snake catcher said the giant roaches were cheaper than feeding lizards many smaller bugs. She said if the cockroaches had a disease, they could wipe out all of the crickets, which birds need for food. She also said that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, they could "potentially wipe out a whole lot of native animals". The seized bugs will be killed by the authorities.

Sources: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-06-05/dubia-cockroaches-seized-from-alleged-bathurst-breeder/106762346>  
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/world/articles/australia-seizes-100-000-cockroaches-034129678.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjwpwv18910o>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. officials                 | a. warning          |
| 2. being smuggled            | b. be seized        |
| 3. the palm of a person's    | c. in Australia     |
| 4. The value of the bugs was | d. hand             |
| 5. A spokesperson gave a     | e. penalties        |
| 6. breed or trade exotic     | f. into the country |
| 7. they will                 | g. around \$143,000 |
| 8. you could face            | h. cockroaches      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the cockroaches were probably | a. chain                   |
| 2. reptile                       | b. disease                 |
| 3. cheaper than feeding lizards  | c. native animals          |
| 4. if the cockroaches had a      | d. out all of the crickets |
| 5. they could wipe               | e. by the authorities      |
| 6. entered the food              | f. many smaller bugs       |
| 7. wipe out a whole lot of       | g. imported                |
| 8. killed                        | h. food                    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-4.html>

Officials in Australia (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 100,000 cockroaches being smuggled (2) \_\_\_\_\_. There were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. The value of the bugs was around \$143,000. A spokesperson (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to cockroach breeders: She said: "If you are found to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ trade exotic cockroaches...they will be seized and you (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The cockroaches were (7) \_\_\_\_\_ be reptile food. A snake catcher said the giant roaches were cheaper (8) \_\_\_\_\_ many smaller bugs. She said if the cockroaches had a disease, they could (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of the crickets, which birds need for food. She also said that if diseased cockroaches entered (10) \_\_\_\_\_, they could "potentially wipe out a whole (11) \_\_\_\_\_ animals". The seized bugs will be (12) \_\_\_\_\_ authorities.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-4.html>

Officials in Australia found more than 100,000 cockroaches being smuggled into the country. There were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant bugs that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. The value of the bugs was around \$143,000. A spokesperson gave a warning to cockroach breeders: She said: "If you are found to possess, breed or trade exotic cockroaches... they will be seized and you could face penalties." The cockroaches were probably imported to be reptile food. As a snake catcher said, the giant roaches were cheaper than feeding lizards many smaller bugs. She said if the cockroaches had a disease, they could wipe out all of the crickets, which birds need for food. She also said that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, they could "potentially wipe out a whole lot of native animals". These seized bugs will be killed by the authorities.

# COCKROACHES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cockroaches 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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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) \_\_\_\_\_

