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**Level 5 – 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-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/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-5.html>

Officials in Australia seized more than 100,000 cockroaches being smuggled into the country. It was the largest ever seizure of illegal invertebrates. The officials found thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. The value of the seized bugs was around \$143,000. An environment 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 under federal law."

The seized cockroaches were probably imported to be reptile food. A professional snake catcher said the giant roaches were cheaper than feeding lizards smaller bugs. She added that they could become an invasive species and cause harm to native creatures like crickets. She said if they had a disease, they could wipe out all 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 and disposed of 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. officials                        | a. illegal invertebrates |
| 2. being smuggled into              | b. cockroaches           |
| 3. the largest ever seizure of      | c. breeders              |
| 4. as large as the palm             | d. the country           |
| 5. The value of the seized bugs was | e. penalties             |
| 6. cockroach                        | f. of a person's hand    |
| 7. breed or trade exotic            | g. around \$143,000      |
| 8. you could face                   | h. in Australia          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. imported to be reptile            | a. out all the crickets |
| 2. roaches were cheaper than feeding | b. to native creatures  |
| 3. become an invasive                | c. of native animals    |
| 4. cause harm                        | d. species              |
| 5. they could wipe                   | e. by the authorities   |
| 6. entered the food                  | f. food                 |
| 7. a whole lot                       | g. chain                |
| 8. killed and disposed of            | h. lizards smaller bugs |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-5.html>

Officials in Australia (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 100,000 cockroaches being smuggled into the country. It was the largest ever (2) \_\_\_\_\_ invertebrates. The officials found thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of a person's hand. The value of the seized bugs was around \$143,000. An environment spokesperson (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to cockroach breeders: She said: "If you are (5) \_\_\_\_\_, breed or trade exotic cockroaches...they will be seized and you could face penalties (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The seized cockroaches were probably imported (7) \_\_\_\_\_ food. A professional snake catcher said the giant roaches were cheaper (8) \_\_\_\_\_ smaller bugs. She added that they could become an invasive species and cause (9) \_\_\_\_\_ creatures like crickets. She said if they had a disease, they (10) \_\_\_\_\_ all the crickets, which birds need for food. She also said that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ wipe out a whole lot of native animals". The seized bugs will be killed and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the authorities.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260608-hissing-cockroaches-5.html>

Officials in Australia seized more than 100,000 cockroaches being smuggled into the country. It was the largest ever seizure of illegal invertebrates. The officials found thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. The value of these seized bugs was around \$143,000. An environmental 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 under federal law." These seized cockroaches were probably imported to be reptile food. A professional snake catcher said the giant roaches were cheaper than feeding lizard smaller bugs. She added that they could become an invasive species and cause harm to native creatures like crickets. She said if they had a disease, they could wipe out all 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 and disposed of 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Thousands of hissing cockroaches seized in Australia – 8th 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) \_\_\_\_\_

