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Level 6 – 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.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were being smuggled into the country. Included in the seizure were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The value of the confiscated bugs was around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest ever seizure of illegal invertebrates. An environment spokesperson warned potential roach breeders: "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 fed to pet reptiles. Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were more "cost-effective" than feeding lizards smaller bugs. Ms Lesser added that the roaches could have become an invasive species and caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures like crickets, which birds rely on. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease on them, they could potentially wipe out all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, they could "potentially wipe out a whole lot of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and disposed of by 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>

WARM-UPS

1. COCKROACHES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about cockroaches. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

customs officials / Australia / cockroaches / Madagascar / bugs / exotic / penalties / pets / reptiles / snakes / lizards / invasive species / food chain / native animals

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. INVASIVE SPECIES: Students A **strongly** believe all countries should eradicate their invasive species; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. INVERTEBRATES: What do you know about these invertebrates? What do you think of them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Share what you wrote and change partners often.

	What I Know	What I Think
Cockroaches		
Ants		
Jellyfish		
Snails		
Crabs		
Earthworms		

5. BUG: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "bug". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. GIANT CREATURES: Rank these with your partner. Put the most terrifying one-metre-long creatures (were they giant) at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cockroaches
- Hornets
- Earthworms
- Fleas
- Tarantulas
- Leeches
- Centipedes
- Ants

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. customs | a. A punishment given for breaking a law or rule. |
| 2. smuggled | b. Taken away by an official authority. |
| 3. seized | c. Animals without a backbone. |
| 4. hissing | d. People who check goods entering or leaving a country. |
| 5. invertebrates | e. From a foreign country and unusual. |
| 6. exotic | f. Taken into or out of a country illegally. |
| 7. penalties | g. Making a sound like lots of air coming out of something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8. reptiles | h. Living animals or other living things. |
| 9. invasive species | i. To need someone or something for help or support. |
| 10. indigenous | j. Got rid of; killed. |
| 11. creatures | k. A plant or animal that spreads in a new place and causes problems. |
| 12. rely on | l. To destroy completely. |
| 13. wipe out | m. Existing naturally in a place. |
| 14. disposed of | n. Cold-blooded animals such as snakes, lizards, and turtles. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Officials in Australia stopped 100,000 from entering the country. **T / F**
2. Many of the cockroaches were as big as the palm of our hand. **T / F**
3. One of the exotic cockroaches was valued at \$143,000. **T / F**
4. Authorities said they found the largest invertebrate they'd ever seen. **T / F**
5. It is probable the cockroaches were to become pet food for reptiles. **T / F**
6. A snake catcher said the cockroaches could have killed many snakes. **T / F**
7. The snake catcher said the cockroaches could have killed all crickets. **T / F**
8. The cockroaches are now on a plane back to Madagascar. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. seized | a. native |
| 2. smuggled | b. non-native |
| 3. breed | c. destroy |
| 4. exotic | d. rear |
| 5. penalties | e. brought illegally |
| 6. harm | f. exterminated |
| 7. indigenous | g. confiscated |
| 8. wipe out | h. thrown away |
| 9. killed | i. punishments |
| 10. disposed of | j. damage |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. customs officials | a. trade exotic cockroaches |
| 2. be as large as the palm | b. species |
| 3. The value of the confiscated bugs was | c. and disposed of |
| 4. possess, breed or | d. of a person's hand |
| 5. you could face penalties under | e. out all the crickets |
| 6. cockroaches were probably imported to | f. federal law |
| 7. invasive | g. chain |
| 8. they could potentially wipe | h. in Australia |
| 9. if diseased cockroaches entered the food | i. around \$143,000 |
| 10. the impounded bugs will be killed | j. be fed to pet reptiles |

GAP FILL

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

Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were being (1) _____ into the country. Included in the (2) _____ were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large as the (3) _____ of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The (4) _____ of the confiscated bugs was around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest ever seizure of (5) _____ invertebrates. An environment spokesperson warned potential roach (6) _____: "If you are found to (7) _____, breed or trade exotic cockroaches...they will be seized and you could face penalties under federal (8) _____."

breeders
palm
smuggled
law
value
possess
illegal
seizure

The seized cockroaches were probably (9) _____ to be fed to pet reptiles. Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were more "cost-(10) _____" than feeding lizards smaller bugs. Ms Lesser added that the roaches could have become an (11) _____ species and caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures like crickets, which birds (12) _____ on. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease on them, they could potentially (13) _____ out all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered the food (14) _____, they could "potentially wipe out a (15) _____ lot of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and (16) _____ of by authorities.

whole
disposed
effective
invasive
wipe
rely
imported
chain

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Customs officials in Australia have seized more _____
 - a. than 10,000 cockroaches
 - b. than 100,000 cockroaches
 - c. than hundreds of thousands of cockroaches
 - d. than thousands of cockroaches
- 2) These are giant insects that can be as large _____
 - a. as the psalm
 - b. as the palm
 - c. was the palm
 - d. has the psalm
- 3) Authorities said it was the largest ever seizure _____
 - a. of illegally invertebrates
 - b. of legal invertebrates
 - c. of illegal invertebrates
 - d. of ill eagle invertebrates
- 4) If you are found to possess, breed or _____
 - a. trade exotica cockroaches
 - b. trade exotically cockroaches
 - c. trade eggs optic cockroaches
 - d. trade exotic cockroaches
- 5) they will be seized and you could face penalties _____
 - a. under federal lawn
 - b. under federal law
 - c. under federal flaw
 - d. under federal lore
- 6) The seized cockroaches were probably imported _____
 - a. to beef fed
 - b. to be feed
 - c. to be fed
 - d. to beefed
- 7) Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were _____
 - a. more lost-effective
 - b. more cost-effective
 - c. more frost-effective
 - d. more coast-effective
- 8) caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures like crickets, which _____
 - a. birds rely in
 - b. birds rely yon
 - c. birds rely on
 - d. birds relay on
- 9) the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered _____
 - a. the feed chain
 - b. the fed chain
 - c. the fodder chain
 - d. the food chain
- 10) Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and disposed _____
 - a. of by authorities
 - b. of buy authorities
 - c. off by authorities
 - d. off buy authorities

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were (1) _____ the country. Included in the seizure were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are (2) _____ can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The value of the (3) _____ around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest ever (4) _____ invertebrates. An environment spokesperson warned potential roach breeders: "If you are found to possess, breed (5) _____ cockroaches...they will be seized and you could face penalties (6) _____."

The seized cockroaches were probably imported to be (7) _____ reptiles. Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were (8) _____ than feeding lizards smaller bugs. Ms Lesser added that the roaches could have become an invasive species and caused a lot of (9) _____ creatures like crickets, which birds rely on. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease on them, they could (10) _____ all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, they could "(11) _____ a whole lot of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and (12) _____ authorities.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who seized more than 100,000 cockroaches in Australia?
2. How big can Madagascar hissing cockroaches be?
3. What was the value of the confiscated insects?
4. Who warned potential cockroach breeders?
5. Under what law could breeders face penalties?
6. What might the cockroaches have become food for?
7. Who said the giant cockroaches were cost-effective as food?
8. What relies on crickets for food?
9. What could it be damaging for the cockroaches to enter?
10. What will happen to the cockroaches?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Who seized more than 100,000 cockroaches in Australia?
 - a) a cockroach expert
 - b) customs officials
 - c) a man called Bob
 - d) an insect zoo
- 2) How big can Madagascar hissing cockroaches be?
 - a) as big as a coconut
 - b) as big as an egg
 - c) the size of a water melon
 - d) as big as the palm of a person's hand
- 3) What was the value of the confiscated insects?
 - a) \$143,000
 - b) \$134,000
 - c) \$133,000
 - d) \$144,000
- 4) Who warned potential cockroach breeders?
 - a) reptile breeders
 - b) a zoo owner
 - c) an environment spokesperson
 - d) a pest control officer
- 5) Under what law could breeders face penalties?
 - a) the 1867 Insect Law
 - b) federal law
 - c) consumer law
 - d) a health and safety law
- 6) What might the cockroaches have become food for?
 - a) pet reptiles
 - b) hamsters
 - c) pet spiders
 - d) chickens
- 7) Who said the giant cockroaches were cost-effective as food?
 - a) a snake oil salesman
 - b) a snake charmer
 - c) a snake catcher
 - d) a snake dancer
- 8) What relies on crickets for food?
 - a) birds
 - b) dogs
 - c) cows
 - d) leopards
- 9) What could it be damaging for the cockroaches to enter?
 - a) the food chain
 - b) abandoned buildings
 - c) construction sites
 - d) caves
- 10) What will happen to the cockroaches?
 - a) They'll go back to Madagascar.
 - b) They'll be pit in an insect zoo.
 - c) They'll be sold as pets.
 - d) They will be killed.

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – One-metre-long Cockroaches

You think one-metre-long cockroaches would be the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their one-metre-long creatures wouldn't be as scary. Also, tell the others which would be the least scary of these (and why): one-metre-long hornets, one-metre-long tarantulas or one-metre-long leeches.

Role B – One-metre-long Hornets

You think one-metre-long hornets would be the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their one-metre-long creatures wouldn't be as scary. Also, tell the others which would be the least scary of these (and why): one-metre-long cockroaches, one-metre-long tarantulas or one-metre-long leeches.

Role C – One-metre-long Tarantulas

You think one-metre-long tarantulas would be the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their one-metre-long creatures wouldn't be as scary. Also, tell the others which would be the least scary of these (and why): one-metre-long hornets, one-metre-long cockroaches or one-metre-long leeches.

Role D – One-metre-long Leeches

You think one-metre-long leeches would be the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their one-metre-long creatures wouldn't be as scary. Also, tell the others which would be the least scary of these (and why): one-metre-long hornets, one-metre-long tarantulas or one-metre-long cockroaches.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'cockroach' and 'Australia'.

cockroach	Australia

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• seized• thousands• palm• value• warned• face	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fed• cost• harm• wipe• chain• sadly
---	--

COCKROACHES SURVEY

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

COCKROACHES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'cockroach'?
3. What do you know about cockroaches?
4. What do think of a palm-sized cockroach?
5. What should happen to people who smuggle insects?
6. How do you feel about a cockroach making a hissing sound?
7. What are your favourite insects?
8. What good do cockroaches do?
9. How would you feel if all insects were giant sized?
10. Do you think insects are good pets?

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COCKROACHES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'insects'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of cockroaches?
15. What experiences do you have of cockroaches?
16. What can governments do to combat invasive species?
17. What invasive species are in there in your country?
18. What damage do invasive species do to ecosystems?
19. Do you think the seized cockroaches should be killed?
20. What questions would you like to ask a cockroach expert?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were being (1) _____ into the country. Included in the seizure were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large as the (2) _____ of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The value (3) _____ the confiscated bugs was around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest ever seizure (4) _____ illegal invertebrates. An environment spokesperson warned (5) _____ roach breeders: "If you are found to possess, breed or trade exotic cockroaches...they will be seized and you could face penalties (6) _____ federal law."

The seized cockroaches were probably imported to be (7) _____ to pet reptiles. Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were more "cost- (8) _____" than feeding lizards smaller bugs. Ms Lesser added that the roaches could have become an invasive species and caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures like crickets, which birds rely (9) _____. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease on them, they could potentially wipe (10) _____ all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches (11) _____ the food chain, they could "potentially wipe out a whole lot of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and (12) _____ of by authorities.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) snuggled | (b) struggled | (c) slugged | (d) smuggled |
| 2. | (a) palmistry | (b) psalm | (c) palmful | (d) palm |
| 3. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) at | (d) by |
| 4. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) of | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) potentate | (b) potentially | (c) potential | (d) potent |
| 6. | (a) under | (b) above | (c) below | (d) over |
| 7. | (a) feeder | (b) fed | (c) feeds | (d) feeding |
| 8. | (a) effective | (b) reflective | (c) affective | (d) inflective |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) up | (b) off | (c) out | (d) over |
| 11. | (a) ate | (b) cooked | (c) entered | (d) died |
| 12. | (a) dispossessed | (b) displeased | (c) displaced | (d) disposed |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. customs faficisol in Australia
2. being eudlgmgs into the country
3. the value of the ifoesnctcd bugs
4. seizure of illegal beatetisrnver
5. breed or trade coitxe cockroaches
6. you could face penalties under edaelfr law

Paragraph 2

7. be fed to pet letpsrei
8. roaches were more cost-eetifcevf
9. become an vsivinae species
10. caused a lot of harm to gnuiiesndo creatures
11. wipe out a whole lot of avneti animals
12. podside of by authorities

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () bugs. Ms Lesser added that the roaches could have become an invasive species and caused a lot of
- () catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were more "cost-effective" than feeding lizards smaller
- (**1**) Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were being smuggled
- () ever seizure of illegal invertebrates. An environment spokesperson warned potential
- () harm to indigenous creatures like crickets, which birds rely on. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease
- () if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, they could "potentially wipe
- () insects that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The value
- () into the country. Included in the seizure were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant
- () of the confiscated bugs was around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest
- () on them, they could potentially wipe out all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that
- () out a whole lot of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and disposed of by authorities.
- () roach breeders: "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 fed to pet reptiles. Professional snake

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. Australia Customs have in more officials seized .
2. being Cockroaches country into smuggled that the were .
3. \$143,000 bugs confiscated of The the value was .
4. An breeders environment potential roach spokesperson warned .
5. could face federal law penalties under You .
6. be Cockroaches fed imported reptiles to to were .
7. an become could have invasive roaches species The .
8. a Caused creatures harm indigenous lot of to .
9. a animals lot native of out whole Wipe .
10. authorities be bugs by impounded killed The will .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were being *snuggled / smuggled* into the country. *Included / Inclusive* in the seizure were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are *giant / gaunt* insects that can be as large as the *palm / psalm* of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The value *of / at* the confiscated bugs was around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest *ever / even* seizure of illegal invertebrates. An environment spokesperson *waned / warned* potential roach breeders: "If you *be / are* found to possess, breed or trade exotic cockroaches...they will be seized and you could *head / face* penalties *under / over* federal law."

The seized cockroaches were probably imported *for / to* be fed to pet reptiles. Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were *more / much* "cost-effective" than feeding lizards smaller bugs. Ms Lesser added *that / what* the roaches could have become an *invasion / invasive* species and caused a lot of harm *to / as* indigenous creatures like crickets, which birds rely *in / on*. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease on them, they could potentially wipe *in / out* all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered *their / the* food chain, they could "potentially wipe out a whole *lot / lots* of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and disposed *at / of* by authorities.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

Level 6

Thousands of hissing cockroaches seized in Australia – 8th June 2026

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INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

100,000 c_ckr__ch_s th_t w_r_ b__ng sm_ggl_d _nt_ th_ c__ntry. _ncl_d_d _n th_ s__z_r_ w_r_ th__s_nds _f M_d_g_sc_r h_ss_ng c_ckr__ch_s. Th_s_ _r_ g__nt _ns_cts th_t c_n b_ _s l_rg_ _s th_ p_lm _f _ p_rs_n's h_nd. Th_r_ w_s _ls_ _ l_rg_ n_mb_r _f d_b__ c_ckr__ch_s. Th_ v_l__ _f th_ c_nf_sc_t_d b_gs w_s _r__nd \$143,000. __th_r_t__s s__d _t w_s th_ l_rg_st _v_r s__z_r_ _f _ll_g_l _nv_rt_br_t_s. _n _nv_r_nm_nt sp_k_sp_rs_n w_rn_d p_t_nt__l r__ch br__d_rs: "_f y__ _r_ f__nd t_ p_ss_ss, br__d _r tr_d_ _x_t_c c_ckr__ch_s...th_y w_ll b_ s__z_d _nd y__ c__ld f_c_ p_n_lt__s _nd_r f_d_r_l l_w."

Th_ s__z_d c_ckr__ch_s w_r_ pr_b_bly _mp_rt_d t_ b_ f_d t_ p_t r_pt_l_s. Pr_f_ss__n_l sn_k_ c_tch_r St_f_n__ L_ss_r s__d th_ r__ch_s w_r_ m_r_ "c_st_ _ff_ct_v_" th_n f__d_ng l_z_rds sm_ll_r b_gs. Ms L_ss_r _dd_d th_t th_ r__ch_s c__ld h_v_ b_c_m_ _n _nv_s_v_ sp_c__s _nd c__s_d _ l_t _f h_rm t_ _nd_g_n__s cr__t_r_s l_k_ cr_ck_ts, wh_ch b_rds r_ly _n. Sh_ s__d: "_f th_y g_t __t _nd th_y h_d _ d_s__s_ _n th_m, p_t_nt__lly _t c__ld w_p_ __t _ll th_ cr_ck_ts." Sh_ t_ld th_ __str_l__n Br__dc_st_ng C_rp_r_t__n th_t _f d_s__s_d c_ckr__ch_s _nt_r_d th_ f__d ch__n, th_y c__ld "p_t_nt__lly w_p_ __t _ wh_l_ l_t _f n_t_v_ _n_m_ls". S_dly, th_ _mp__nd_d b_gs w_ll b_ k_ll_d _nd d_sp_s_d _f by __th_r_t__s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

customs officials in australia have seized more than 100000 cockroaches that were being smuggled into the country included in the seizure were thousands of madagascar hissing cockroaches these are giant insects that can be as large as the palm of a persons hand there was also a large number of dubia cockroaches the value of the confiscated bugs was around 143000 authorities said it was the largest ever seizure of illegal invertebrates an environment spokesperson warned potential roach breeders 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 fed to pet reptiles professional snake catcher stefanie lesser said the roaches were more costeffective than feeding lizards smaller bugs ms lesser added that the roaches could have become an invasive species and caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures like crickets which birds rely on she said if they got out and they had a disease on them they could potentially wipe out all the crickets she told the australian broadcasting corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain they could potentially wipe out a whole lot of native animals sadly the impounded bugs will be killed and disposed of by authorities

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Customs officials in Australia have seized more than 100,000 cockroaches that were being smuggled into the country. Included in these seizures were thousands of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. These are giant insects that can be as large as the palm of a person's hand. There was also a large number of dubia cockroaches. The value of the confiscated bugs was around \$143,000. Authorities said it was the largest ever seizure of illegal invertebrates. An environment spokesperson warned potential roach breeders: "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 fed to pet reptiles. Professional snake catcher Stefanie Lesser said the roaches were more "cost-effective" than feeding lizards smaller bugs. Ms Lesser added that the roaches could have become an invasive species and caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures like crickets, which birds rely on. She said: "If they got out and they had a disease on them, they could potentially wipe out all the crickets." She told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that if diseased cockroaches entered the food chain, they could "potentially wipe out a whole lot of native animals". Sadly, the impounded bugs will be killed and disposed of by authorities.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. COCKROACHES: Make a poster about cockroaches. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. INVASIVE SPECIES: Write a magazine article about countries wiping out invasive species. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on cockroaches. Ask him/her three questions about cockroaches. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. c 6. e 7. a
8. n 9. k 10. m 11. h 12. i 13. l 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T 2 T 3 F 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 T 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. e	3. d	4. b	5. i
6. j	7. a	8. c	9. f	10. h

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Customs officials
2. As big as the palm of a person's hand
3. \$143,000
4. An environment spokesperson
5. Federal law
6. Pet reptiles
7. A snake catcher
8. Birds
9. The food chain
10. They will be killed.

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Customs officials in Australia have seized more.
2. Cockroaches that were being smuggled into the country.
3. The value of the confiscated bugs was \$143,000.
4. An environment spokesperson warned potential roach breeders.
5. You could face penalties under federal law.
6. Cockroaches were imported to be fed to reptiles.
7. The roaches could have become an invasive species.
8. Caused a lot of harm to indigenous creatures.
9. Wipe out a whole lot of native animals.
10. The impounded bugs will be killed by authorities.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)