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Level 5

EU votes for universal phone charger

18th March, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger.html>

Have you ever wondered why smartphone chargers are all so different? Lawmakers at the European Union have thought about the same mystery. Consumers should welcome a new, common-sense plan voted for by EU politicians. The EU decided that smartphone companies must make the plug adaptor that connects to the electricity supply the same. They did not vote on making the connector to the phone itself the same. This will leave many consumers feeling puzzled. They may see the law as a half measure. There were calls to standardize this connector too.

The variety of current adaptors is harmful to the environment. When people buy a new phone, they throw away their old charger and buy a new one that fits their new phone. An EU politician said the new law would help the environment by reducing electronic waste. She told reporters: "It will put an end to charger clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic waste annually." She added that the incompatibility of chargers for electronic devices was "a nightmare and a real inconvenience for consumers". Manufacturers have until 2017 to follow the new law.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-24726077>
<http://www.siliconrepublic.com/enterprise/item/36152-smartphone-companies-to/>
<http://www.euractiv.com/innovation-enterprise/meps-vote-harmonise-mobile-phone-news-534138>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Have you ever wondered | a. sense plan |
| 2. thought about the | b. by EU politicians |
| 3. welcome a new, common- | c. feeling puzzled |
| 4. voted for | d. why |
| 5. connects to the electricity | e. this connector |
| 6. This will leave many consumers | f. same mystery |
| 7. They may see the law as a half | g. supply |
| 8. There were calls to standardize | h. measure |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The variety | a. fits their new phone |
| 2. harmful | b. of chargers |
| 3. throw away | c. reducing electronic waste |
| 4. buy a new one that | d. for consumers |
| 5. help the environment by | e. of current adaptors |
| 6. It will put an | f. their old charger |
| 7. the incompatibility | g. end to charger clutter |
| 8. a real inconvenience | h. to the environment |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger.html>

Have (1) _____ smartphone chargers are all so different?

Lawmakers at the European Union have thought

(2) _____. Consumers should welcome a new,

(3) _____ voted for by EU politicians. The EU decided that

smartphone companies must make the plug adaptor that connects to the

(4) _____. They did not vote on making the connector to

the (5) _____. This will leave many consumers feeling

puzzled. They may see the law as a half measure.

(6) _____ standardize this connector too.

The variety (7) _____ harmful to the environment. When

people buy a new phone, they throw (8) _____ and buy a

new one that fits their new phone. An EU politician said the new law would

help the environment (9) _____ waste. She told reporters:

"It will (10) _____ clutter and 51,000 tons of electronic

waste annually." She added (11) _____ of chargers for

electronic devices was "a nightmare and (12) _____ for

consumers". Manufacturers have until 2017 to follow the new law.

PHONE CHARGERS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140318-phone-charger.html>

Write five GOOD questions about phone chargers 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

