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## **Level 2**

### **Falling insect numbers dangerous to humans**

**28th July, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs-2.html>

The number of insects has fallen by 45 per cent in the past 35 years. This could be dangerous for humans. A report on this has been published in the journal 'Science'. It says the human population has doubled since 1980. The number of insects has nearly halved. One of the biggest reasons is deforestation. Land is disappearing because of new cities and farms. Another reason is global warming. In the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried about the fall in number of bees and butterflies.

Scientists say fewer insects will make many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to pollinate flowers. Farmers will have problems growing food. The lead author of the report said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease. He said rats and mice would have less food so they will move to cities and bring diseases with them. A professor said we must stop more insects from dying. He said scientists must understand, "what species are winning and losing in the fight for survival". This will help us to protect the "helpful" insects.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/10989198/Creepy-crawlies-decline-as-human-population-soars.html>  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2704973/Insect-population-45-just-35-years-Scientists-fear-drop-harm-planet-vital-role-play.html#ixzz38XUJsEL2>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/end-world-predicted-scientists-who-3913927#ixzz38XUjx9pp>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The number of insects has        | a. since 1980            |
| 2 in the past                       | b. global warming        |
| 3. This could be dangerous          | c. 35 years              |
| 4. the human population has doubled | d. in number of bees     |
| 5. The number of insects has nearly | e. wasps                 |
| 6. Another reason is                | f. fallen by 45 per cent |
| 7. beetles, butterflies, bees and   | g. halved                |
| 8. worried about the fall           | h. for humans            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. fewer insects will make many | a. and losing           |
| 2 One of the biggest            | b. problems for humans  |
| 3. there will be fewer insects  | c. for survival         |
| 4. The lead author              | d. to pollinate flowers |
| 5. move to cities and bring     | e. of the report        |
| 6. what species are winning     | f. insects              |
| 7. the fight                    | g. diseases with them   |
| 8. protect the "helpful"        | h. dangers              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs-2.html>

The number of insects (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 45 per cent in the past 35 years. This could be dangerous for humans. A report on this has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the journal 'Science'. It says the human population (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 1980. The number of insects (4) \_\_\_\_\_. One of the biggest reasons is deforestation. Land is disappearing because of new cities and farms. Another reason (5) \_\_\_\_\_. In the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 per cent. Many countries are worried (6) \_\_\_\_\_ number of bees and butterflies.

Scientists say fewer insects will (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Farmers will have problems growing food. The lead author of the report said falling numbers of insects could also (9) \_\_\_\_\_. He said rats and mice would have (10) \_\_\_\_\_ will move to cities and bring diseases with them. A professor said we must stop more insects from dying. He said scientists must understand, "what species are winning and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ for survival". This will help us to protect (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs-2.html>

The number of insects has fallen by 45 percent in the past 35 years. This could be a dangerous for humans. A report on this has been published in the journal 'Science'. It says the human population has doubled since 1980. The number of insects has nearly halved. One of the biggest reasons is deforestation. Land is disappearing because of new cities and farms. Another reason is global warming. In the UK, the number of beetles, butterflies, bees and wasps has fallen by up to 60 percent. Many countries are worried about the fall in number of bees and butterflies. Scientists say fewer insects will make many problems for humans. One of the biggest dangers is that there will be fewer insects to pollinate flowers. Farmers will have problems growing food. The lead author of the reports said falling numbers of insects could also lead to more disease. He said rats and mice would have less food so they will move to cities and bring diseases with them. A professor said we must stop more insects from dying. He said scientists must understand, "what species are winning and losing in the fight for survival". This will help us to protect the "helpful" insects.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*Falling insect numbers dangerous to humans – 28th July, 2014*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140728-bugs-2.html>

Write about **bugs** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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