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## **Level 5**

### **Consumers asked to throw away hoverboards**

**19th December, 2015**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151219-hoverboards-5.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/1512/151219-hoverboards-5.html>

Three big UK retailers, including Amazon, are advising customers to throw away hoverboards because of safety concerns. There have been reports of the toy catching fire and exploding. Consumers will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a recycling centre for electronic equipment. Stores have asked makers to address the safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that transport users like a skateboard, but without any physical effort. They are one of the most popular gifts this Christmas. The retailers' decision will disappoint many kids.

A consumer protection group in the UK said around half-a-million people bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have it on their shopping list. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer said: "We've suspended the sale of all hoverboards, both in store and online, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority." Hoverboards are not allowed on public roads in Britain because they are not classed as vehicles.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/shopping-and-consumer-news/12052732/Get-rid-of-your-hoverboards-now-Amazon-tells-customers.html>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35109728>  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3361995/Amazon-throw-hoverboards-away-advice-amid-safety-alert.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151219-hoverboards-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Three big UK                  | a. fire and exploding   |
| 2. reports of the toy catching   | b. disappoint many kids |
| 3. a recycling                   | c. wheeled scooters     |
| 4. address the safety            | d. retailers            |
| 5. self-balancing, two-          | e. centre               |
| 6. without any physical          | f. this Christmas       |
| 7. one of the most popular gifts | g. issues               |
| 8. The retailers' decision will  | h. effort               |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A consumer protection           | a. measure                |
| 2. Another million people have it  | b. on public roads        |
| 3. Britain's largest bricks-       | c. on their shopping list |
| 4. as a precautionary              | d. as vehicles            |
| 5. We regret                       | e. our highest priority   |
| 6. your safety and satisfaction is | f. group                  |
| 7. not allowed                     | g. and-mortar retailer    |
| 8. not classed                     | h. the inconvenience      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151219-hoverboards-5.html>

Three big UK retailers, including Amazon, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to throw away hoverboards (2) \_\_\_\_\_ concerns. There have been reports of the toy catching fire and exploding. Consumers will get a refund (3) \_\_\_\_\_ hoverboard to a recycling centre for electronic equipment. Stores have asked makers (4) \_\_\_\_\_ safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that transport users like a skateboard, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ physical effort. They (6) \_\_\_\_\_ most popular gifts this Christmas. The retailers' decision will disappoint many kids.

A consumer protection group in the UK (7) \_\_\_\_\_-a-million people bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have (8) \_\_\_\_\_ list. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer said: "We've suspended (9) \_\_\_\_\_ hoverboards, both in store and online, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you (10) \_\_\_\_\_ understand that your safety and satisfaction is (11) \_\_\_\_\_." Hoverboards are not allowed on public roads in Britain because (12) \_\_\_\_\_ as vehicles.

# HOVERBOARDS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151219-hoverboards-5.html>

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

*Consumers asked to throw away hoverboards - 19th December, 2015*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

