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Level 5 – 25th June, 2018

Birds' stomachs too full of plastic to eat

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180625-plastic-pollution-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/1806/180625-plastic-pollution-5.html>

A BBC team made a worrying film about the devastating impact plastic pollution is having on seabirds in the Tasman Sea near Australia. The team was working on the remote Lord Howe Island for a documentary called "Drowning in Plastic". They filmed many birds that had died because their stomachs were full of plastic. The birds starved to death. There was no room in their stomachs for food. The team filmed marine biologists working to try and save the birds. The scientists captured hundreds of chicks and removed plastic from their stomachs to give them a chance of survival.

A marine biologist explained what was happening. She said the birds were predators that eat anything. She said: "They have no ability to detect...non-plastic, so they eat it." Adult birds feed the plastic to their chicks, not knowing what they are feeding them. The biologist said most of the plastic is "entirely preventable". She said much of the plastic could easily be swapped for other materials, such as aluminium or wood. She said: "My own toothbrush is made of bamboo." A BBC TV presenter said: "We saw...90 pieces of plastic come out of one of the chicks."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-44579422>
<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/birds-are-dropping-dead-off-australia-s-coast-and-it-s-all-our-fault-20180518-p4zg4t.html>
<http://en.mercopress.com/2018/06/23/seabirds-starving-to-death-because-of-plastic-pollution-reveals-documentary>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180625-plastic-pollution-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the devastating | a. biologists |
| 2. working on the remote | b. of survival |
| 3. their stomachs were | c. Lord Howe Island |
| 4. no room in their | d. full of plastic |
| 5. marine | e. from their stomachs |
| 6. The scientists captured | f. stomachs for food |
| 7. removed plastic | g. hundreds of chicks |
| 8. give them a chance | h. impact |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the birds were predators | a. to their chicks |
| 2. They have no ability to | b. aluminium |
| 3. Adult birds feed the plastic | c. feeding them |
| 4. what they are | d. be swapped |
| 5. entirely | e. that eat anything |
| 6. the plastic could easily | f. of plastic |
| 7. materials such as | g. detect non-plastic |
| 8. 90 pieces | h. preventable |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180625-plastic-pollution-5.html>

A BBC team made (1) _____ about the devastating impact plastic pollution (2) _____ seabirds in the Tasman Sea near Australia. The team was working (3) _____ Lord Howe Island for a documentary called "Drowning in Plastic". They filmed many birds that had died because their stomachs were (4) _____. The birds starved to death. There was no room in their stomachs for food. The team filmed marine biologists (5) _____ and save the birds. The scientists captured hundreds of chicks and removed plastic from their stomachs to give them a (6) _____.

A marine biologist explained (7) _____. She said the birds were predators that eat anything. She said: "They have no ability to (8) _____, so they eat it." Adult birds feed the plastic to their chicks, not knowing what they (9) _____. The biologist said most of the plastic is "entirely preventable". She said much of the plastic could (10) _____ for other materials, such as aluminium or wood. She said: "My own toothbrush is (11) _____." A BBC TV presenter said: "We saw...90 (12) _____ come out of one of the chicks."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180625-plastic-pollution-5.html>

ABBCteammadeaworryingfilmaboutthedevastatingimpactplasticpollutionishavingonseabirdsintheTasmanSeanearAustralia.TheteamwasworkingontheremoteLordHoweIslandforadocumentarycalled"DrowninginPlastic".Theyfilmedmanybirdsthathaddiedbecausetheirstomachswerefullofplastic.Thebirdsstarvedtodeath.Therewasnofoodintheirstomachsforfood.Theteamfilmedmarinebiologistsworkingtotryandsavethebirds.Thescientistscapturedhundredsofchicksandremovedplasticfromtheirstomachstogivethemachanceofsurvival.Amarinebiologistexplainedwhatwashappening.Shesaidthebirdswerepredatorsthateatanything.Shesaid:"Theyhavenoabilitytodetect...nonon-plastic,sotheyeatit."Adultbirdsfeedtheplastictotheirchicks,notknowingwhattheyarefeedingthem.Thebiologistsaidmostoftheplasticis"entirelypreventable".Shesaidmuchoftheplasticcouldeasilybeswappedforothermaterials,suchasaluminiumorwood.Shesaid:"Myowntoothbrushismadeofbamboo."ABBCTVpresentersaid:"Wesaw...90piecesofplasticcomeoutofoneofthechicks."

PLASTIC POLLUTION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180625-plastic-pollution-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plastic pollution 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) _____

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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) _____

