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Level 5 – 24th March, 2019

Balloons deadliest plastic for seabirds

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-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/1903/190324-balloons-5.html>

Scientists made an alarming discovery about what plastic is most harmful to seabirds. Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered that balloons were deadliest. The research team said balloons were 32 times likelier to kill seabirds than hard plastics. They said that while balloons and soft plastics accounted for 5 per cent of plastics ingested, they were responsible for more than 40 per cent of seabird deaths. A researcher said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause fatal obstructions."

The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds. Researchers found that over a quarter of the deaths were because of plastic, which is becoming an increasing threat to seabirds. A researcher said: "Marine debris ingestion is now a globally recognized threat....We suggest that reducing the presence of balloons and balloon fragments in the ocean would directly reduce seabird mortalities." There is 280,000 tons of marine debris worldwide. The researcher said about half of seabirds eat plastic daily. Seabirds will swallow balloons because they think they look like squid.

Sources: <https://cosmosmagazine.com/biology/balloons-the-biggest-risk-to-seabirds>
<https://www.livescience.com/64918-balloons-killing-seabirds.html>
<https://m.health24.com/Lifestyle/Environmental-health/Animals/the-deadliest-plastic-for-seabirds-balloons-20190305>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Scientists made an alarming | a. more than 40% |
| 2. plastic is most harmful | b. ingested |
| 3. balloons were 32 times | c. obstructions |
| 4. 5 per cent of plastics | d. discovery |
| 5. they were responsible for | e. compacted |
| 6. pass quickly through | f. to seabirds |
| 7. more likely to become | g. likelier to kill |
| 8. cause fatal | h. the gut |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. examined 1,733 dead | a. of balloons |
| 2. a quarter | b. swallow balloons |
| 3. an increasing threat | c. of the deaths |
| 4. a globally recognized | d. look like squid |
| 5. reducing the presence | e. to seabirds |
| 6. There is 280,000 tons of marine | f. threat |
| 7. Seabirds will | g. seabirds |
| 8. Seabirds think balloons | h. debris worldwide |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-5.html>

Scientists (1) _____ discovery about what plastic is most harmful to seabirds. Australia's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies discovered (2) _____ deadliest. The research team said balloons were 32 (3) _____ kill seabirds than hard plastics. They said that while balloons and soft plastics (4) _____ per cent of plastics ingested, they were responsible (5) _____ 40 per cent of seabird deaths. A researcher said: "Hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, but soft plastics are more likely to become compacted (6) _____ obstructions."

The study examined 1,733 dead seabirds. Researchers found that over a quarter of the deaths (7) _____ plastic, which is becoming an increasing (8) _____. A researcher said: "Marine debris ingestion is (9) _____ recognized threat....We suggest that reducing the presence of balloons (10) _____ in the ocean would directly (11) _____." There is 280,000 tons of marine debris worldwide. The researcher said about half of seabirds eat plastic daily. Seabirds will swallow balloons because they think they (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-5.html>

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BALLOONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190324-balloons-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about balloons 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) _____

