

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Brazil fury over Britain's toxic waste

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0907/090718-toxic_waste.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE ARTICLE

Brazilians are furious over 1,400 tonnes of British garbage arriving at its ports. The stinking waste included toilet seats, dirty diapers, leaking batteries and used syringes. The rotting cargo arrived in 64 different containers at three Brazilian ports earlier this year. It was destined for Brazilian waste recycling companies. The recyclers were angry over the contents as they were expecting only recyclable plastic. Brazil has demanded that Britain take back its rubbish. Roberto Messias of Brazil's environment protection agency said: "We will ask for the repatriation of this garbage....Clearly, Brazil is not the rubbish dump of the world." Messias made it clear the importing companies would receive heavy fines.

The British Embassy in Brasilia released a statement saying it was investigating the case. Officials said Britain "would not hesitate to act" if any British company had broken international laws. Both Brazil and Britain signed up to the Basel Convention on the movement of hazardous and toxic waste in 1992. The embassy said: "The UK takes a strong global lead on protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human health, and will do all it can to stamp out the illegal trade in waste." Public anger over the issue increased when the police found thousands of dirty toys in a container with a note in Portuguese that said: "These toys should be washed before being given to poor Brazilian children."

WARM-UPS

1. BRAZIL: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Brazil. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

fury / garbage / toilet seats / recycling companies / environment protection / fines / investigations / breaking laws / toxic waste / illegal trade / public anger / toys

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WASTE: What are your views on waste? Complete this table. Talk with your partner(s) about what you wrote. Change again and share what you heard.

Kind of waste	Does this affect me?	How do we reduce it?
Nuclear waste		
Toxic waste		
Household waste		
Waste of time		
Waste of money		
Waste of talent		

4. WASTE DISPOSAL: Students A **strongly** believe people must pay to throw away their waste; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BEING FURIOUS: What makes you furious? Rate these and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = this makes me steaming mad; 1 = no problem. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- waste
- my country's leader
- drivers
- computers
- myself
- my neighbouring country
- sales assistants
- English

6. TOXIC: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'toxic'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Brazil is unhappy with Britain for sending harmful garbage to its ports. T / F
- b. The rubbish arrived at 64 different ports around Brazil. T / F
- c. Brazilian authorities have requested Britain take back its trash. T / F
- d. Brazilian companies that imported the waste will escape punishment. T / F
- e. Britain's embassy in Brazil refused to comment on the matter. T / F
- f. Neither Britain nor Brazil signed a convention regarding toxic waste. T / F
- g. The U.K. says it takes a strong stand on the illegal trade in waste. T / F
- h. Brazilians are angry over shipments of toys sent for Brazilian children. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. furious | a. return |
| 2. garbage | b. protecting |
| 3. destined | c. dangerous |
| 4. repatriation | d. rubbish |
| 5. fines | e. issued |
| 6. released | f. angry |
| 7. hesitate | g. stop |
| 8. hazardous | h. headed |
| 9. safeguarding | i. penalties |
| 10. stamp out | j. delay |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. 1,400 tonnes of | a. take back its rubbish |
| 2. It was destined for Brazilian waste | b. and toxic waste |
| 3. Brazil has demanded that Britain | c. dump of the world |
| 4. Brazil is not the rubbish | d. of human health |
| 5. companies would receive | e. British garbage |
| 6. The British Embassy in Brasilia | f. to act |
| 7. Britain would not hesitate | g. heavy fines |
| 8. the movement of hazardous | h. increased |
| 9. the safeguarding | i. recycling companies |
| 10. Public anger over the issue | j. released a statement |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Brazilians are furious over 1,400 tonnes of British garbage arriving at its ports. The _____ waste included toilet seats, dirty diapers, _____ batteries and used syringes. The rotting cargo arrived in 64 different _____ at three Brazilian ports earlier this year. It was destined for Brazilian waste recycling companies. The recyclers were angry over the _____ as they were expecting only recyclable plastic. Brazil has _____ that Britain take back its rubbish. Roberto Messias of Brazil's environment protection _____ said: "We will ask for the repatriation of this garbage....Clearly, Brazil is not the rubbish _____ of the world." Messias made it clear the importing companies would receive _____ fines.

agency
leaking
contents
dump
stinking
heavy
containers
demanding

The British Embassy in Brasilia _____ a statement saying it was investigating the case. Officials said Britain "would not hesitate to _____" if any British company had _____ international laws. Both Brazil and Britain signed up to the Basel Convention on the _____ of hazardous and toxic waste in 1992. The embassy said: "The UK takes a strong global _____ on protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human health, and will do all it can to stamp out the illegal _____ in waste." Public anger over the issue increased when the police found thousands of dirty toys in a container with a _____ in Portuguese that said: "These toys should be washed before being given to _____ Brazilian children."

lead
poor
broken
released
note
trade
act
movement

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the gaps.

Brazilians _____ 1,400 tonnes of British garbage arriving at its ports. The stinking waste included toilet seats, dirty diapers, leaking batteries _____. The rotting cargo arrived in 64 different containers at three Brazilian ports earlier this year. _____ Brazilian waste recycling companies. The recyclers were angry over the contents as they were expecting only _____. Brazil has demanded that Britain take back its rubbish. Roberto Messias of Brazil's environment _____ said: "We will ask for the repatriation of this garbage....Clearly, Brazil is not the rubbish dump of the world." Messias made it clear the importing companies would _____.

The British Embassy in Brasilia _____ saying it was investigating the case. Officials said Britain "would _____" if any British company had broken international laws. Both Brazil and Britain _____ Basel Convention on the movement of hazardous and toxic waste in 1992. The embassy said: "The UK takes a _____ on protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human health, and will do all it can to stamp out the illegal trade in waste." Public anger over _____ when the police found thousands of dirty toys in a container with a note in Portuguese that said: "These toys should be washed before _____ poor Brazilian children."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'toxic' and 'waste'.

toxic	waste

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,400• leaking• 64• expecting• demanded• heavy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• statement• act• signed• lead• stamp• increased
---	---

STUDENT WASTE SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about waste 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.

WASTE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'waste'?
- c) Are you wasteful?
- d) What do you think of British companies sending British waste to Brazil?
- e) How would you feel if Britain sent its waste to your country?
- f) Do you think this could have been an honest mistake?
- g) Is your country good at recycling?
- h) What do you do with hazardous products such as old batteries?
- i) What should the world do with its waste?
- j) What kind of fines should the importing companies receive?

Brazil fury over Britain's toxic waste – 18th July, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

WASTE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think Britain will do the right thing?
- c) What's your opinion of the British Embassy?
- d) Do you have the impression that Britain is a global leader on protecting the environment?
- e) What does your country do to protect the environment?
- f) What other illegal trades need to be stamped out?
- g) Has your country ever been angry with Britain?
- h) When was the last time you were furious and why?
- i) What do you think about the note with the toys?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Roberto Messias?

LANGUAGE

Brazilians are (1) _____ over 1,400 tonnes of British garbage arriving at its ports. The stinking waste included toilet seats, dirty diapers, leaking batteries and (2) _____ syringes. The rotting cargo arrived in 64 different containers at three Brazilian ports earlier this year. It was destined (3) _____ Brazilian waste recycling companies. The recyclers were angry (4) _____ the contents as they were expecting only recyclable plastic. Brazil has demanded that Britain (5) _____ back its rubbish. Roberto Messias of Brazil's environment protection agency said: "We will ask for the repatriation of this garbage....Clearly, Brazil is not the rubbish dump of the world." Messias made it clear the importing companies would (6) _____ heavy fines.

The British Embassy in Brasilia released a statement saying it was (7) _____ the case. Officials said Britain "would not hesitate to (8) _____" if any British company had broken international laws. Both Brazil and Britain signed (9) _____ to the Basel Convention on the movement of hazardous and toxic waste in 1992. The embassy said: "The UK takes a (10) _____ global lead on protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human health, and will do all it can to stamp out the illegal trade in waste." Public (11) _____ over the issue increased when the police found thousands of dirty toys in a container with a note in Portuguese that said: "These toys should be washed before being (12) _____ to poor Brazilian children."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) furious | (b) fury | (c) furry | (d) furiously |
| 2. | (a) using | (b) used | (c) users | (d) use |
| 3. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) for | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) so | (b) from | (c) for | (d) over |
| 5. | (a) give | (b) have | (c) do | (d) take |
| 6. | (a) there | (b) their | (c) they're | (d) they are |
| 7. | (a) investigating | (b) investigated | (c) investigate | (d) investigation |
| 8. | (a) action | (b) act | (c) actor | (d) acts |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) up | (c) to | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) strong | (b) strongest | (c) strength | (d) strongly |
| 11. | (a) angry | (b) angered | (c) angers | (d) anger |
| 12. | (a) gave | (b) given | (c) gives | (d) give |

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about toxic waste and how countries dispose of it. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TOXIC WASTE: Make a poster about toxic waste. List the most common kinds. State how we should throw it away safely. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. WASTE DISPOSAL: Write a magazine article about toxic waste. Include imaginary interviews with an environmentalist who is worried about the amount of waste we produce and someone who believes waste is not their problem.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Roberto Messias. Ask him three questions about Britain's waste. Give him three suggestions on what he should tell Britain. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. T d. F e. F f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. furious | a. angry |
| 2. garbage | b. rubbish |
| 3. destined | c. headed |
| 4. repatriation | d. return |
| 5. fines | e. penalties |
| 6. released | f. issued |
| 7. hesitate | g. delay |
| 8. hazardous | h. dangerous |
| 9. safeguarding | i. protecting |
| 10. stamp out | j. stop |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. 1,400 tonnes of | a. British garbage |
| 2. It was destined for Brazilian waste | b. recycling companies |
| 3. Brazil has demanded that Britain | c. take back its rubbish |
| 4. Brazil is not the rubbish | d. dump of the world |
| 5. companies would receive | e. heavy fines |
| 6. The British Embassy in Brasilia | f. released a statement |
| 7. Britain would not hesitate | g. to act |
| 8. the movement of hazardous | h. and toxic waste |
| 9. the safeguarding | i. of human health |
| 10. Public anger over the issue | j. increased |

GAP FILL:

Brazil fury over Britain's toxic waste

Brazilians are furious over 1,400 tonnes of British garbage arriving at its ports. The **stinking** waste included toilet seats, dirty diapers, **leaking** batteries and used syringes. The rotting cargo arrived in 64 different **containers** at three Brazilian ports earlier this year. It was destined for Brazilian waste recycling companies. The recyclers were angry over the **contents** as they were expecting only recyclable plastic. Brazil has **demande**d that Britain take back its rubbish. Roberto Messias of Brazil's environment protection **agency** said: "We will ask for the repatriation of this garbage....Clearly, Brazil is not the rubbish **dump** of the world." Messias made it clear the importing companies would receive **heavy** fines.

The British Embassy in Brasilia **released** a statement saying it was investigating the case. Officials said Britain "would not hesitate to **act**" if any British company had **broken** international laws. Both Brazil and Britain signed up to the Basel Convention on the **movement** of hazardous and toxic waste in 1992. The embassy said: "The UK takes a strong global **lead** on protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human health, and will do all it can to stamp out the illegal **trade** in waste." Public anger over the issue increased when the police found thousands of dirty toys in a container with a **note** in Portuguese that said: "These toys should be washed before being given to **poor** Brazilian children."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a 2 - b 3 - c 4 - d 5 - d 6 - c 7 - a 8 - b 9 - c 10 - a 11 - d 12 - b