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Level 6

Consumers asked to throw away hoverboards

19th December, 2015

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

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Three of the UK's biggest retailers, including online giant Amazon, are advising customers to dispose of hoverboards amid safety concerns. There have been many online reports of the toy catching fire and exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers to address these safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using any physical effort. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the popular device. Electrical Safety First, a consumer protection group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping list in the run-up to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've suspended the sale of all hoverboards, both in stores and online, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been registered 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>

WARM-UPS

1. HOVERBOARDS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about hoverboards. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

retailers / online / giant / consumers / recycling / electronic / equipment / popular / protection / shopping / measure / dispose / understand / satisfaction / priority

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

3. GIFTS FOR KIDS: How good are these as gifts for kids? What are the good and bad things about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good	Bad
iPhone		
PlayStation		
Socks		
Hoverboards		
Books		
Music		

4. HOVERBOARDS: Students A **strongly** believe no child under the age of 16 should be allowed to use a hoverboard; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. DEVICES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- iPad
- iPhone
- PlayStation
- Smart watch
- GPS
- calorie counter
- step counter
- digital camera

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Four of the UK's top stores have told people to get rid of hoverboards. | T / F |
| b. There are reports that hoverboards have exploded and caught fire. | T / F |
| c. There will be no refunds for people who bought a hoverboard. | T / F |
| d. Hoverboards are now the top-selling Christmas gift. | T / F |
| e. Over a million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard. | T / F |
| f. Tesco is Britain's biggest bricks-and-mortar retailer. | T / F |
| g. Amazon apologised for the inconvenience the hoverboards caused. | T / F |
| h. Hoverboards are not registered to be used on the roads. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. biggest | a. makers |
| 2. dispose of | b. present |
| 3. manufacturers | c. postponed |
| 4. currently | d. throw away |
| 5. hoping | e. safety |
| 6. gift | f. largest |
| 7. run-up | g. prime concern |
| 8. suspended | h. wishing |
| 9. precautionary | i. presently |
| 10. priority | j. lead-in |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. amid safety | a. many kids |
| 2. reports of the toy catching | b. is our highest priority |
| 3. Stores have told consumers they will get | c. concerns |
| 4. without using any physical | d. protection group |
| 5. the retailers' decision will disappoint | e. measure |
| 6. a consumer | f. as vehicles |
| 7. as a precautionary | g. fire and exploding |
| 8. We regret the inconvenience | h. effort |
| 9. your safety and satisfaction | i. a refund |
| 10. they have not been registered | j. this may cause you |

GAP FILL

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

Three of the UK's biggest retailers, including online (1) _____ Amazon, are advising customers to (2) _____ of hoverboards amid safety (3) _____. There have been many online reports of the toy (4) _____ fire and exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a (5) _____ if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers to (6) _____ these safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using any physical (7) _____. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the popular (8) _____.

refund
concerns
giant
device
effort
catching
dispose
address

Electrical Safety First, a (9) _____ protection group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard as a Christmas (10) _____. Another million people have put it on their shopping list in the (11) _____ - up to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've (12) _____ the sale of all hoverboards, both in stores and online, as a precautionary (13) _____." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but (14) _____ you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest (15) _____." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been registered as (16) _____.

measure
priority
gift
vehicles
suspended
consumer
trust
run

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) advising customers to dispose of hoverboards _____
 - a. amid safety concerns
 - b. a mid safety concerns
 - c. rabid safety concerns
 - d. armed safety concerns
- 2) There have been many online reports of the toy _____ exploding
 - a. catch in fire and
 - b. catching fire and
 - c. catching in fire and
 - d. caught in fire and
- 3) They have asked manufacturers to address _____
 - a. these safety issue
 - b. these safe tea issues
 - c. these safety issues
 - d. these safely issues
- 4) scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using _____
 - a. any physically effort
 - b. any physical efforts
 - c. any physical effort
 - d. any physical effortless
- 5) the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for _____
 - a. the popularity device
 - b. the popular devices
 - c. the popular device
 - d. the populate device
- 6) around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard _____ gift
 - a. as a Christmas
 - b. has a Christmas
 - c. was a Christmas
 - d. is a Christmas
- 7) Another million people have put it on their shopping list in _____ Christmas Day
 - a. the run-up too
 - b. the run-up to
 - c. the run-up two
 - d. the run-up through
- 8) We regret the inconvenience this may cause you _____ understand
 - a. but trusts you will
 - b. but trust you will
 - c. but trusty you will
 - d. but trussed you will
- 9) understand that your safety and satisfaction is _____
 - a. our highest priority
 - b. our highest prioritise
 - c. our highest priorities
 - d. our highest prior tea
- 10) cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been _____
 - a. registered as vehicular
 - b. registered as vehicle
 - c. registered as beer cals
 - d. registered as vehicles

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Three (1) _____ biggest retailers, including online giant Amazon, are advising customers (2) _____ hoverboards amid safety concerns. There have been many online reports of the toy (3) _____ exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers (4) _____ safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using (5) _____. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping (6) _____ device.

Electrical Safety First, a (7) _____ group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK (8) _____ hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping list (9) _____ to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've suspended the sale of all hoverboards, both (10) _____, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you (11) _____ understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not (12) _____ vehicles.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many of the UK's biggest retailers advised customers?

2. According to online reports, what happened to some hoverboards?

3. What kind of centre should customers take hoverboards back to?

4. How many wheels do hoverboards have?

5. Who does the article say will be disappointed this Christmas?

6. What is Electrical Safety First?

7. How many people have a hoverboard on their Christmas list?

8. What is the name of the largest brick-and-mortar store in Britain?

9. Which company regrets inconvenience to customers?

10. Why can't hoverboards be used on public roads in Britain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. How many of the UK's biggest retailers advised customers?
 - a) 2
 - b) 3
 - c) 4
 - d) 5
2. According to online reports, what happened to some hoverboards?
 - a) they won a race
 - b) they broke a speed record
 - c) they caught fire
 - d) they snapped in two
3. What kind of centre should customers take hoverboards back to?
 - a) a shopping mall
 - b) a children's centre
 - c) a racing centre
 - d) a recycling centre
4. How many wheels do hoverboards have?
 - a) 4
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 5
5. Who does the article say will be disappointed this Christmas?
 - a) kids
 - b) Amazon
 - c) Santa Claus
 - d) manufacturers
6. What is Electrical Safety First?
 - a) a consumer protection group
 - b) a hoverboard manufacturer
 - c) Britain's largest computer store
 - d) a college
7. How many people have a hoverboard on their Christmas list?
 - a) half-a-million
 - b) a billion
 - c) 100,000
 - d) a million
8. What is the name of the largest brick-and-mortar store in Britain?
 - a) Rosco
 - b) Al Fresco
 - c) Tesco
 - d) Telesco
9. Which company regrets inconvenience to customers?
 - a) Harrods
 - b) Hoverboard Inc.
 - c) eBay
 - d) Amazon
10. Why can't hoverboards be used on public roads in Britain?
 - a) they have no seats
 - b) they are not vehicles
 - c) the roads are too dangerous
 - d) their wheels are too small

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – iPads

You think iPads are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): PlayStations, digital cameras or calorie counters.

Role B – PlayStations

You think PlayStations are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): iPads, digital cameras or calorie counters.

Role C – Digital cameras

You think digital cameras are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): PlayStations, iPads or calorie counters.

Role D – Calorie counters

You think calorie counters are the best devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their devices aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): PlayStations, digital cameras or iPads.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'online' and 'giant'.

online	giant
---------------	--------------

- 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">• giant• safety• amid• special• two• children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• half• another• sale• call• highest• vehicles
--	---

HOVERBOARDS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1512/151219-hoverboards.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.

HOVERBOARDS DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Amazon'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) What do you know about hoverboards?
- 5) What do you think of the retailers for promising refunds?
- 6) How dangerous do you think hoverboards are?
- 7) What gift would you really like?
- 8) What kind of compensation should the makers pay?
- 9) Do you think shopping malls should ban hoverboards?
- 10) Where would you use a hoverboard?

Consumers asked to throw away hoverboards – 19th December, 2015
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HOVERBOARDS DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What do you think of the online store Amazon?
- 13) How much fun do you think hoverboards are? Why?
- 14) How successful have you been at getting refunds?
- 15) Do you prefer bricks-and-mortar stores or online stores?
- 16) What problems would hoverboards create on the roads?
- 17) Would you like a board that can truly hover?
- 18) How much are hoverboards like science fiction come true?
- 19) What should be the age limit for kids to start using hoverboards?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the boss of Amazon?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Three of the UK's biggest retailers, (1) _____ online giant Amazon, are advising customers to dispose of hoverboards amid (2) _____ concerns. There have been many online reports of the toy catching fire and exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a (3) _____ if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers to (4) _____ these safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without (5) _____ any physical effort. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the (6) _____ device.

Electrical Safety First, a consumer (7) _____ group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping (8) _____ in the run-up to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've (9) _____ the sale of all hoverboards, both in stores and online, as a (10) _____ measure." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our (11) _____ priority." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been registered as (12) _____.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) include | (b) including | (c) inclusive | (d) includes |
| 2. | (a) safe | (b) safety | (c) safely | (d) safer |
| 3. | (a) foundation | (b) fund | (c) funding | (d) refund |
| 4. | (a) mail | (b) address | (c) post | (d) upload |
| 5. | (a) uses | (b) using | (c) used | (d) use |
| 6. | (a) popularity | (b) popularise | (c) popular | (d) poplar |
| 7. | (a) production | (b) prevention | (c) protection | (d) protein |
| 8. | (a) paper | (b) sheet | (c) list | (d) writing |
| 9. | (a) hovered | (b) decorated | (c) hung | (d) suspended |
| 10. | (a) precautionary | (b) precaution | (c) precautions | (d) caution |
| 11. | (a) highest | (b) high | (c) height | (d) heightens |
| 12. | (a) hoverboards | (b) hovers | (c) vehicles | (d) cars |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. the UK's biggest rtieeaslr
2. catching fire and opnglxdie
3. a special ieyclcgnr centre
4. electronic imnupqeet
5. ipiontaspd many kids
6. the popular cieevd

Paragraph 2

7. a consumer roinctotep group
8. edsnsedpu the sale of all hoverboards
9. a raetrioncyaup measure
10. We regret the cieinnecoven
11. our highest rryoitp
12. registered as svichlee

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers to address these safety issues. Hoverboards are self-
()	Electrical Safety First, a consumer protection group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have
()	of hoverboards amid safety concerns. There have been many online reports of the toy catching
()	used on public roads in Britain because they have not been registered as vehicles.
()	fire and exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling
()	balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using any physical
()	effort. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers'
()	up to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've suspended the sale
()	to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will
(1)	Three of the UK's biggest retailers, including online giant Amazon, are advising customers to dispose
()	bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping list in the run-
()	understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority." Hoverboards cannot be
()	of all hoverboards, both in stores and online, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said of the call
()	decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the popular device.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. toy the of reports online many been have There fire catching .

2. told will refund have they a Stores consumers get .

3. a centre take to recycling They hoverboard special their .

4. most the of one currently are They children for gifts popular .

5. will decision retailers' The kids many disappoint .

6. group protection consumer A UK the in .

7. put it on their shopping list Another million people have .

8. sale the suspended We've hoverboards all of .

9. you inconvenience this We may regret cause the .

10. in Hoverboards used roads be public Britain cannot on .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Three of the UK's biggest *retails / retailers*, including online giant Amazon, are advising customers to dispose of hoverboards *avid / amid* safety concerns. There have been many online reports of the toy *caught / catching* fire and exploding. Stores have told *consumers / consumer* they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a *specially / special* recycling centre for electronic *equipment / equipped*. They have asked manufacturers to address these safety *issues / issuance*. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport *usages / users* like a skateboard, but without using any physical *effort / effect*. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids *hoping / hopping* for the popular device.

Electrical Safety First, a consumer *protective / protection* group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard *as / has* a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping *listing / list* in the *run-up / run-down* to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've *suspension / suspended* the sale of all hoverboards, both in stores and online, as a precautionary *measure / measured*." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the *incontinence / inconvenience* this may cause you but trust you will understand that your *safe / safety* and satisfaction is our highest *priority / prioritise*." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been *registered / registration* as vehicles.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Thr__ _f th_ _K's b_gg_st r_t__l_rs, _ncl_d_ng _nl_n_ g__nt _m_z_n, _r_ _dv_s_ng c_st_m_rs t_d_sp_s_ _f h_v_rb__rds _m_d_s_f_ty c_nc_rns. Th_r_ h_v_ b__n m_ny _nl_n_ r_p_rts _f th_ t_y c_tch_ng f_r_ _nd _xpl_d_ng. St_r_s h_v_ t_ld c_ns_m_rs th_y w_ll g_t _r_f_nd _f th_y t_k_ th__r h_v_rb__rd t_ _sp_c__l r_cycl_ng c_ntr_ f_r_l_ctr_n_c_q__pm_nt. Th_y h_v_ _sk_d m_n_f_ct_r_rs t_ _ddr_ss th_s_ s_f_ty _ss_s. H_v_rb__rds _r_ s_lf-b_l_nc_ng, tw_-wh__l_d sc__t_rs th_t c_n tr_nsp_rt _s_rs l_k_ _sk_t_b__rd, b_t w_th__t _s_ng _ny phys_c_l_ff_rt. Th_y r_c_rr_ntly _n_ _f th_ m_st p_p_l_r g_fts f_r ch_ldr_n th_s Chr_stm_s _nd th_ r_t__l_rs' d_c_s__n w_ll d_s_pp__nt m_ny k_ds h_p_ng f_r th_ p_p_l_r d_v_c_.

_l_ctr_c_l S_f_ty F_rst, _c_ns_m_r pr_t_ct__n gr__p _n th_ _K, s__d th_t _r__nd h_lf_-m_ll__n p__pl_ _n th_ _K h_v_ b__ght _h_v_rb__rd_s_ Chr_stm_s g_ft. _n th_r m_ll__n p__pl_ h_v_ p_t_t _n th__r sh_pp_ng l_st _n th_r n-p_t_ Chr_stm_s D_y. Br_t__n's l_rg_st br_cks-_nd-m_rt_r_r_t__l_r T_sc_ s__d: "W_'v_ s_sp_nd_d th_s l_ _f ll h_v_rb__rds, b_th _n st_r_s _nd _nl_n_, _s_ pr_c__t__n_ry m__s_r_." _m_z_n s__d _f th_ c_ll t_d_sp_s_ _f th_ h_v_rb__rds: "W_r_gr_t th_ _nc_nv_n__nc_ th_s m_y c__s_ y__ b_t tr_st_y__ w_ll _nd_rst_nd th_t y__r s_f_ty _nd s_tsf_ct__n _s_ _r_h_gh_st pr__r_ty." H_v_rb__rds c_nn_t b__s_d _n p_b_l_c_r__ds _n Br_t__n b_c__s_ th_y h_v_ n_t b__n r_g_st_r_d_s v_h_cl_s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

three of the uk's biggest retailers including online giant amazon are advising customers to dispose of hoverboards amid safety concerns there have been many online reports of the toy catching fire and exploding stores have told consumers they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling centre for electronic equipment they have asked manufacturers to address these safety issues hoverboards are self-balancing two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard but without using any physical effort they are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the popular device

electrical safety first a consumer protection group in the uk said that around half-a-million people in the uk have bought a hoverboard as a christmas gift another million people have put it on their shopping list in the run-up to christmas day britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer tesco said "we've suspended the sale of all hoverboards both in stores and online as a precautionary measure" amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards "we regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority" hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in britain because they have not been registered as vehicles

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Three of the UK's biggest retailers, including online giant Amazon, are advising customers to dispose of hoverboards amid safety concerns. There have been many online reports of the toys catching fire and exploding. Stores have told consumers they will get a refund if they take their hoverboard to a special recycling centre for electronic equipment. They have asked manufacturers to address these safety issues. Hoverboards are self-balancing, two-wheeled scooters that can transport users like a skateboard, but without using any physical effort. They are currently one of the most popular gifts for children this Christmas and the retailers' decision will disappoint many kids hoping for the popular device. Electrical Safety First, a consumer protection group in the UK, said that around half-a-million people in the UK have bought a hoverboard as a Christmas gift. Another million people have put it on their shopping list in the run-up to Christmas Day. Britain's largest bricks-and-mortar retailer Tesco said: "We've suspended the sale of all hoverboards, both in stores and online, as a precautionary measure." Amazon said of the call to dispose of the hoverboards: "We regret the inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand that your safety and satisfaction is our highest priority." Hoverboards cannot be used on public roads in Britain because they have not been registered as vehicles.

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 hoverboards. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HOVERBOARDS: Make a poster about hoverboards. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SAFETY CONCERNS: Write a magazine article about the safety concerns regarding hoverboards. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against them.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the boss of a hoverboard company. Ask him/her three questions about hoverboards. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to market and sell them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. biggest | a. largest |
| 2. dispose of | b. throw away |
| 3. manufacturers | c. makers |
| 4. currently | d. presently |
| 5. hoping | e. wishing |
| 6. gift | f. present |
| 7. run-up | g. prime concern |
| 8. suspended | h. postponed |
| 9. precautionary | i. safety |
| 10. priority | j. lead-in |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Three
2. They caught fire and exploded
3. A recycling centre for electronic equipment
4. Two
5. Kids (children)
6. A consumer protection group
7. A million
8. Tesco
9. Amazon
10. They have not been registered as vehicles

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)