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## Level 6

### Half of life on Earth gone since humans arrived

24th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Humans represent a tiny fraction of all life on Earth, but are responsible for the destruction of 83 per cent of all wild mammals and half of our plant life. This is the analysis of a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation into the weight of every class of creature and life form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what instigated the research. He said: "I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide, "a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity now plays on Earth".

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they represent just 0.01% of all living things. Scientists say that is the same percentage as for termites. However, since we began walking on this planet, we have managed to cause the loss of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed poultry (mostly chickens) makes up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of birds being wild. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his study, "as part of their world view [and] of how they consume" He said he hopes people will eat less meat.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/21/human-race-just-001-of-all-life-but-has-destroyed-over-80-of-wild-mammals-study>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/humans-are-just-0-01-of-life-earth-but-we-annihilated-rest-biomass-animals-mammals-plants>  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/plants-outweigh-all-other-life-earth>

# WARM-UPS

**1. LIFE ON EARTH:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about life on Earth. 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?

humans / fraction / destruction / plant life / planet / biomass / perspective / role / living things / termites / species / livestock / wild animals / poultry / cattle / meat

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

**3. REVERSE:** Students A **strongly** believe we can reverse the damage done to our planet; Students B **strongly** believe that's impossible. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. DAMAGE:** What do you know about the damage done to the following things? How can we reverse it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Damage done	How to reverse it
Forests		
Ice caps		
Atmosphere		
Coral		
Mammal species		
Rivers		

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

**6. SAVE THE PLANET:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of saving the planet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- eating less meat
- planting trees
- recycling more
- ban hunting
- ban logging
- end fossil-fuel use
- countryside living
- hybrid cars

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. represent       | a. A small or tiny part, amount, or proportion of something.   |
| 2. fraction        | b. Warm-blooded animals that have a backbone, hair or fur, milk from females for their young, and the birth of live young. |
| 3. destruction     | c. The total amount and volume of living things in a given area.   |
| 4. mammals         | d. The action or process of killing or being killed.   |
| 5. ground-breaking | e. Complete; including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.   |
| 6. comprehensive   | f. Is; equal to; constitute; amount to.  |
| 7. biomass         | g. Innovative; pioneering.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8. termites   | h. A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.                                   |
| 9. species    | i. The relation between two amounts showing the number of times one value contains or is contained within the other (e.g.. 8 to 1, 3:100, etc.). |
| 10. ratio     | j. Use up or eat.  |
| 11. livestock | k. Large grass-chewing animals with horns and hoofs, domesticated for meat or milk (e.g. cows).  |
| 12. cattle    | l. Farm animals regarded as an asset and for profit.   |
| 13. poultry   | m. Small, ant-like insects that live in large colonies inside a tall mound of cemented earth they build themselves. Many kinds feed on wood.     |
| 14. consume   | n. Domestic birds we keep or breed for food, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

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

- a. Humans represent a large fraction of all life on Earth. **T / F**
- b. A study reported human activity has killed 83% of Earth's wild animals. **T / F**
- c. Researchers estimated the weight of all different types of life forms. **T / F**
- d. The study is one of many to estimate the biomass weight of species. **T / F**
- e. Scientists have the same biomass weight as termites. **T / F**
- f. Around 70% of all birds on Earth are on farms. **T / F**
- g. Around 40% of all mammals on Earth are wild animals. **T / F**
- h. A professor said he turned vegetarian after finishing the report. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>represent</b>       | a. innovative    |
| 2. <b>destruction</b>     | b. outlook       |
| 3. <b>ground-breaking</b> | c. elements      |
| 4. <b>instigated</b>      | d. devastation   |
| 5. <b>components</b>      | e. proportion    |
| 6. <b>cause</b>           | f. untamed       |
| 7. <b>ratio</b>           | g. constitute    |
| 8. <b>wild</b>            | h. eat           |
| 9. <b>view</b>            | i. create        |
| 10. <b>consume</b>        | j. brought about |

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

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Humans represent a tiny              | a. their world view              |
| 2. the weight of every                  | b. animals                       |
| 3. a comprehensive, holistic            | c. now plays                     |
| 4. all the different components         | d. (mostly cattle and pigs)      |
| 5. the very dominant role that humanity | e. estimate                      |
| 6. cause the loss of most of its living | f. class of creature             |
| 7. farmed poultry                       | g. fraction of all life on Earth |
| 8. while just 4% are wild               | h. (mostly chickens)             |
| 9. livestock                            | i. species                       |
| 10. use his study as part of            | j. of biomass                    |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Humans represent a tiny (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of all life on Earth, but are responsible for the destruction of 83 per cent of all wild (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and half of our plant life. This is the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation into the weight of every (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of creature and life form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the research. He said: "I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will (7) \_\_\_\_\_, "a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity now (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on Earth".

*analysis*  
*provide*  
*fraction*  
*instigated*  
*plays*  
*mammals*  
*estimate*  
*class*

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they (9) \_\_\_\_\_ just 0.01% of all living things. Scientists say that is the same (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as for termites. However, since we began walking on this (11) \_\_\_\_\_, we have managed to cause the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (mostly chickens) makes up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of birds being (14) \_\_\_\_\_. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his study, "as part of their world view [and] of how they (16) \_\_\_\_\_ " He said he hopes people will eat less meat.

*loss*  
*represent*  
*cattle*  
*planet*  
*wild*  
*consume*  
*percentage*  
*poultry*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

- 1) Humans represent a tiny \_\_\_\_\_ life
  - a. fraction of all
  - b. faction of all
  - c. fracture off all
  - d. fractious off all
- 2) the destruction of 83 per cent of all wild mammals and half of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. your plant life
  - b. their plant life
  - c. its plant life
  - d. our plant life
- 3) The ground-breaking report is the first investigation \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. onto the weight
  - b. into the weight
  - c. unto the weight
  - d. as to the weight
- 4) I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fantastic estimate
  - b. holistic estimate
  - c. elastic estimate
  - d. caustic estimate
- 5) provide a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. now plays
  - b. now pays
  - c. now ploys
  - d. now plaids
- 6) There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they represent just 0.01% \_\_\_\_\_ things
  - a. offer living
  - b. off all living
  - c. of all living
  - d. offal living
- 7) Scientists say that is the same percentage \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. has for termites
  - b. was for termites
  - c. that's for termites
  - d. as for termites
- 8) Humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. twiddle animals
  - b. two wild animals
  - c. too wild animals
  - d. to wild animals
- 9) 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly \_\_\_\_\_ )
  - a. rattle and pigs
  - b. tattle and pigs
  - c. cattle and pigs
  - d. battle and pigs
- 10) Milo hopes people will use his study as part of their world view and of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. how they assume
  - b. how they consume
  - c. how they resume
  - d. how they presume

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Humans represent a tiny (1) \_\_\_\_\_ life on Earth, but are responsible for the destruction of 83 per cent of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and half of our plant life. This is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation into the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ class of creature and life form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what instigated the research. He said: "I was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the (6) \_\_\_\_\_, "a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity now plays on Earth".

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 0.01% of all living things. Scientists say that is the same percentage as for termites. However, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ walking on this planet, we have managed to cause the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to wild animals. Today, farmed poultry (mostly chickens) makes up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his study, "as part of their world view [and] of (12) \_\_\_\_\_ " He said he hopes people will eat less meat.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

1. What fraction of all living things on Earth do humans represent?
2. What percentage of wild mammals have humans destroyed?
3. What did researchers find out for every class of creature on Earth?
4. What was a professor shocked not to find and estimate on?
5. What did a professor say plays a very dominant role on Earth?
6. What percentage of all living things on Earth are humans?
7. What do we share the same biomass percentage as?
8. What percentage of the world's birds is raised on farms?
9. What two animals form most of the world's livestock?
10. What does a professor hope we eat less of?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

- 1) What fraction of all living things on Earth do humans represent?
  - a) a third
  - b) half
  - c) a tiny fraction
  - d) three-quarters
- 2) What percentage of wild mammals have humans destroyed?
  - a) 83%
  - b) 60%
  - c) 30%
  - d) 4%
- 3) What did researchers find out for every class of creature on Earth?
  - a) its Latin name
  - b) its biomass
  - c) its DNA
  - d) birth weights
- 4) What was a professor shocked not to find and estimate on?
  - a) the ratio of poultry to livestock
  - b) the number of creatures
  - c) the number of species
  - d) components of biomass
- 5) What did a professor say plays a very dominant role on Earth?
  - a) plant life
  - b) wild animals
  - c) humanity
  - d) livestock
- 6) What percentage of all living things on Earth are humans?
  - a) 0.001%
  - b) 0.01%
  - c) 0.1%
  - d) 1%
- 7) What do we share the same biomass percentage as?
  - a) bacteria
  - b) cattle
  - c) wild mammals
  - d) termites
- 8) What percentage of the world's birds is raised on farms?
  - a) 30%
  - b) 70%
  - c) 60%
  - d) 83%
- 9) What two animals form most of the world's livestock?
  - a) sheep and goats
  - b) cattle and pigs
  - c) sheep and pigs
  - d) goats and cattle
- 10) What does a professor hope we eat less of?
  - a) meat
  - b) beef
  - c) endangered animals
  - d) factory chickens

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

## **Role A – Eating Less Meat**

You think eating less meat is the best way to help save Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting trees, ending fossil-fuel use or countryside living.

## **Role B – Planting Trees**

You think planting trees is the best way to help save Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): eating less meat, ending fossil-fuel use or countryside living.

## **Role C – Ending Fossil-Fuel Use**

You think ending fossil-fuel use is the best way to help save Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting trees, eating less meat or countryside living.

## **Role D – Countryside Living**

You think countryside living is the best way to help save Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting trees, ending fossil-fuel use or eating less meat.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

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

life	Earth

- 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"><li>• tiny</li><li>• new</li><li>• weight</li><li>• find</li><li>• shocked</li><li>• role</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• billion</li><li>• walking</li><li>• greatly</li><li>• being</li><li>• study</li><li>• meat</li></ul>
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# LIFE ON EARTH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Write five GOOD questions about life on Earth 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.

# LIFE ON EARTH DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'life'?
3. How important are humans to this world?
4. What will future generations think of the destruction?
5. What do you think of nature?
6. What can we do to reverse the loss of biodiversity?
7. What role should humans play on Earth?
8. What are your favourite creatures?
9. What would Earth be like without humans?
10. What three adjectives best describe this article?

*Half of life on Earth gone since humans arrived – 24th May, 2018*  
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# LIFE ON EARTH 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 when you hear the word 'Earth'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What will happen if the human population increases?
15. What do you know about termites?
16. What have humans done to cause so much loss to nature?
17. Does it matter that most birds on Earth are on farms?
18. How will the numbers in the article change in the next 100 years?
19. Will you now reconsider what you eat?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

# 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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Humans represent a tiny (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of all life on Earth, but are responsible for the destruction of 83 per cent of all (2) \_\_\_\_\_ mammals and half of our plant life. This is the analysis of a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. The ground-(3) \_\_\_\_\_ report is the first investigation into the weight of every class of creature and life form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the research. He said: "I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide, "a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity now (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on Earth".

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they represent just 0.01% of all living things. Scientists say that is the same percentage (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for termites. However, since we began walking on this planet, we have managed to cause the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed poultry (mostly chickens) makes up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of birds (10) \_\_\_\_\_ wild. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his study, "as part of their world (12) \_\_\_\_\_ [and] of how they consume" He said he hopes people will eat less meat.

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

- |     |                  |               |                |                 |
|-----|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) fracture     | (b) fractious | (c) fractal    | (d) fraction    |
| 2.  | (a) wilderness   | (b) wilds     | (c) wildly     | (d) wild        |
| 3.  | (a) breached     | (b) breaking  | (c) breaching  | (d) broken      |
| 4.  | (a) investigated | (b) instilled | (c) instigated | (d) institution |
| 5.  | (a) holy         | (b) holdall   | (c) holistic   | (d) holdout     |
| 6.  | (a) plays        | (b) does      | (c) is         | (d) makes       |
| 7.  | (a) was          | (b) as        | (c) has        | (d) is          |
| 8.  | (a) loss         | (b) lost      | (c) lose       | (d) loose       |
| 9.  | (a) ratings      | (b) ratios    | (c) ratifies   | (d) rations     |
| 10. | (a) were         | (b) been      | (c) being      | (d) are         |
| 11. | (a) reptiles     | (b) assets    | (c) livestock  | (d) portfolio   |
| 12. | (a) gaze         | (b) watch     | (c) look       | (d) view        |



# SPELLING

## Paragraph 1

1. a tiny otrncifa of all life
2. the esirodtntuc of 83 per cent
3. the lsiyanas of a new study
4. every class of reutacr
5. a comprehensive, holistic iaemestt
6. the study will provide a epvepsrteci

## Paragraph 2

7. the same tnceeperga
8. most of its living pcesies
9. farmed ytpolru
10. 60% of all mlmamsa
11. sieokltcv (mostly cattle and pigs)
12. of how they unoecms

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) on the very dominant role that humanity now plays on Earth".
- ( ) study, "as part of their world view [and] of how they consume" He said he hopes people will eat less meat.
- ( ) in Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation into the weight of every class of creature and life
- ( ) form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what instigated the research. He said: "I was
- ( ) shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate
- ( ) There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they represent just 0.01% of all living
- ( ) livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his
- ( ) things. Scientists say that is the same percentage as for termites. However, since we began walking on this
- ( ) planet, we have managed to cause the loss of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly
- ( **1** ) Humans represent a tiny fraction of all life on Earth, but are responsible for the destruction of 83 per cent of all wild
- ( ) mammals and half of our plant life. This is the analysis of a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science
- ( ) up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of birds being wild. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are
- ( ) of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide, "a perspective
- ( ) changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed poultry (mostly chickens) makes

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

1. tiny fraction life . represent a all Humans of
2. report is The the first investigation . ground-breaking
3. weight of creature . The of every class
4. all different the holistic A components . of estimate
5. The humanity that now role very dominant plays .
6. just represent all living things . 0.01% of They
7. say same that is the percentage . Scientists
8. have also ratios . Humans greatly changed the
9. their part view . of as study his Use world
10. said people eat less . will He hopes he

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Humans represent a *tiny / tinny* fraction of all life on Earth, but are responsible for *a / the* destruction of 83 per cent of all wild mammals and half of our plant life. This is the *analysis / analyse* of a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science *in / on* Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation *onto / into* the weight of every class of creature and life form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo *explanation / explained* what instigated the research. He said: "I was *shocking / shocked* to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, *holy / holistic* estimate of all the different components of biomass." He *hoping / hopes* the study will provide, "a perspective on the very dominant role that *humanity / humane* now plays on Earth".

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they *represent / representative* just 0.01% of all living things. Scientists say that is the *same / sane* percentage as for termites. However, since *they / we* began walking on this planet, we have managed to *case / cause* the loss of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the *ratios / rations* of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed *paltry / poultry* (mostly chickens) makes up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of birds being *wild / wilds*. Similarly, 60% of *every / all* mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his study, "as part of their world *viewer / view* [and] of how they consume" He said he hopes people will eat *less / lest* meat.

**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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

H\_m\_n\_s r\_p\_r\_s\_n\_t \_ t\_n\_y f\_r\_c\_t\_\_n \_f \_l\_l l\_f\_  
\_n E\_r\_t\_h, b\_t \_r\_r\_s\_p\_n\_s\_b\_l\_f\_r t\_h\_d\_s\_t\_r\_c  
t\_\_n \_f 83 p\_r\_c\_n\_t \_f \_l\_l w\_l\_d m\_m\_m\_l\_s \_n  
d\_h\_l\_f \_f \_\_r\_p\_l\_n\_t l\_f\_. T\_h\_s \_s t\_h\_\_n\_l\_y\_s\_s  
\_f \_n\_w\_s\_t\_d\_y f\_r\_m t\_h\_W\_\_z\_m\_n\_n I\_n\_s\_t\_t\_t\_  
\_f S\_c\_\_n\_c\_\_n I\_s\_r\_\_l. T\_h\_g\_r\_\_n\_d-b\_r\_\_k\_n\_g  
r\_p\_r\_t \_s t\_h\_f\_r\_s\_t\_n\_v\_s\_t\_g\_t\_\_n \_n\_t t\_h\_w\_\_  
g\_h\_t \_f \_v\_r\_y c\_l\_s\_s \_f c\_r\_\_t\_r\_\_n\_d l\_f\_f\_r\_m  
\_n \_\_r\_p\_l\_n\_t. L\_\_d\_r\_s\_\_r\_c\_h\_r P\_r\_f\_s\_s\_r R\_n  
M\_l\_\_x\_p\_l\_\_n\_d w\_h\_t \_n\_s\_t\_g\_t\_d t\_h\_r\_s\_\_r\_c\_h.  
H\_s\_\_d: "I\_w\_s\_s\_h\_c\_k\_d t\_f\_n\_d t\_h\_r\_w\_s\_n  
't\_l\_r\_\_d\_y \_c\_m\_p\_r\_h\_n\_s\_v\_, h\_l\_s\_t\_c\_s\_t\_m\_t\_  
\_f \_l\_l t\_h\_d\_f\_f\_r\_n\_t c\_m\_p\_n\_n\_t\_s \_f b\_\_m\_s\_s."  
H\_h\_p\_s t\_h\_s\_t\_d\_y w\_l\_l p\_r\_v\_d\_, "\_p\_r\_s\_p\_c  
t\_v\_\_n t\_h\_v\_r\_y d\_m\_n\_n\_t r\_l\_t\_h\_t h\_m\_n\_t\_y  
n\_w\_p\_l\_y\_s \_n E\_r\_t\_h".

T\_h\_r\_\_r\_7.6 b\_l\_l\_\_n p\_\_p\_l\_\_n E\_r\_t\_h, b\_t t  
h\_y r\_p\_r\_s\_n\_t j\_s\_t 0.01% \_f \_l\_l l\_v\_n\_g t\_h\_n  
g\_s. S\_c\_\_n\_t\_s\_t\_s s\_y t\_h\_t \_s t\_h\_s\_m\_p\_r\_c\_n  
t\_g\_\_s f\_r t\_r\_m\_t\_s. H\_w\_v\_r, s\_n\_c\_w\_b\_g\_n  
w\_l\_k\_n\_g \_n t\_h\_s p\_l\_n\_t, w\_h\_v\_m\_n\_g\_d t\_  
c\_\_s t\_h\_l\_s\_s \_f m\_s\_t\_f\_t\_s l\_v\_n\_g s\_p\_c\_\_s.  
H\_m\_n\_s h\_v\_\_l\_s\_g\_r\_\_t\_l\_y c\_h\_n\_g\_d t\_h\_r\_t\_\_s  
\_f l\_v\_s\_t\_c\_k t\_w\_l\_d \_n\_m\_l\_s. T\_d\_y, f\_r\_m\_d  
p\_\_l\_t\_r\_y (m\_s\_t\_l\_y c\_h\_c\_k\_n\_s) m\_k\_s \_p 70%  
\_f \_l\_l b\_r\_d\_s \_n t\_h\_p\_l\_n\_t, w\_t\_h j\_s\_t 30%  
\_f b\_r\_d\_s b\_\_n\_g w\_l\_d. S\_m\_l\_r\_l\_y, 60% \_f \_l  
l\_m\_m\_m\_l\_s \_n E\_r\_t\_h \_r\_l\_v\_s\_t\_c\_k (m\_s\_t\_l\_y  
c\_t\_t\_l\_\_n\_d p\_g\_s), w\_h\_l\_j\_s\_t 4% \_r\_w\_l\_d  
\_n\_m\_l\_s. P\_r\_f\_s\_s\_r M\_l\_h\_p\_s p\_\_p\_l\_w\_l\_l \_s\_  
h\_s\_s\_t\_d\_y, "\_s\_p\_r\_t \_f t\_h\_\_r\_w\_r\_l\_d v\_\_w  
[\_n\_d] \_f h\_w\_t\_h\_y c\_n\_s\_m\_" H\_s\_\_d h\_h\_p\_s  
p\_\_p\_l\_w\_l\_l \_\_t l\_s\_s m\_\_t.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

humans represent a tiny fraction of all life on earth but are responsible for the destruction of 83 per cent of all wild mammals and half of our plant life this is the analysis of a new study from the weizmann institute of science in israel the groundbreaking report is the first investigation into the weight of every class of creature and life form on our planet lead researcher professor ron milo explained what instigated the research he said i was shocked to find there wasnt already a comprehensive holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass he hopes the study will provide a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity now plays on earth

there are 76 billion people on earth but they represent just 001 of all living things scientists say that is the same percentage as for termites however since we began walking on this planet we have managed to cause the loss of most of its living species humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals today farmed poultry mostly chickens makes up 70 of all birds on the planet with just 30 of birds being wild similarly 60 of all mammals on earth are livestock mostly cattle and pigs while just 4 are wild animals professor milo hopes people will use his study as part of their world view and of how they consume he said he hopes people will eat less meat.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Humans represent a tiny fraction of all life on Earth, but are responsible for the destruction of 83 percent of all wild mammals and half of all plant life. This is the analysis of a new study from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation into the weight of every class of creature and life form on our planet. Lead researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what instigated the research. He said: "I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide "a perspective on the very dominant role that humanity now plays on Earth". There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, but they represent just 0.01% of all living things. Scientists say that is the same percentage as for termites. However, since we began walking on this planet, we have managed to cause the loss of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed poultry (mostly chickens) makes up 70% of all birds on the planet, with just 30% of birds being wild. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will use his study, "as part of their worldview [and] of how they consume" He said he hopes people will eat less meat.

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth.html>

Write about **life on Earth** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. LIFE ON EARTH:** Make a poster about life on Earth. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. WILD ANIMALS:** Write a magazine article about all governments spending lots of money on increasing the number of wild animals on Earth. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 an expert on life on Earth. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can better protect our planet. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. f    2. a    3. d    4. b    5. g    6. e    7. c  
8. m    9. h    10. i    11. l    12. k    13. n    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. represent       | a. constitute    |
| 2. destruction     | b. devastation   |
| 3. ground-breaking | c. innovative    |
| 4. instigated      | d. brought about |
| 5. components      | e. elements      |
| 6. cause           | f. create        |
| 7. ratio           | g. proportion    |
| 8. wild            | h. untamed       |
| 9. view            | i. outlook       |
| 10. consume        | j. eat           |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A tiny fraction
2. 83%
3. Its biomass
4. Components of biomass
5. Humanity
6. 0.01%
7. Termites
8. 70%
9. Cattle and pigs
10. Meat

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Humans represent a tiny fraction of all life.
2. The ground-breaking report is the first investigation.
3. The weight of every class of creature.
4. A holistic estimate of all the different components.
5. The very dominant role that humanity now plays.
6. They represent just 0.01% of all living things.
7. Scientists say that is the same percentage.
8. Humans have also greatly changed the ratios.
9. Use his study as part of their world view.
10. He said he hopes people will eat less.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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