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**Level 6 – 28th November, 2022**

## 'Hated' Australian bird dealing with invasive species

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

A bird that has been widely reviled in Australia for decades has undergone an image change. The reason is that it is helping to get rid of an even bigger nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed as a pest by many Australians because of its propensity to scavenge food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food right out of people's hands. People nickname them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. The birds are now being viewed in a positive light. They have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. As a result, Australia's natural habitat is benefitting.

Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help in eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to wreak havoc as they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the point of extinction. Their toxin is strong enough to kill most native animals that eat frogs and toads. They had no natural predators in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom and gulp them up. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "flick them about". The stress of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash them in water and gobble them down.

Sources: <https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/ibis-birds-eating-poisonous-cane-toads/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-63699884>  
<https://junquee.com/ibis-eating-cane-toads/345141>

# WARM-UPS

**1. INVASIVE SPECIES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about invasive species. 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?

bird / Australia / image change / nuisance / indigenous / scavenge / garbage bags / sugar / farmers / beetle / toads / crops / havoc / extinction / predators / poison

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

**3. ERADICATION:** Students A **strongly** believe governments need to work on eradicating invasive species from their natural habitats; Students B **strongly** believe this would be cruel. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. "REVILED" CREATURES:** What do you know about these creatures? Why are they reviled? What do you think of them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What i Know	Why Reviled?	What I Think
Crows			
Cockroaches			
Rats			
Slugs			
Mosquitos			
Snakes			

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

**6. BIRDS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best birds at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Ibises
- Emus
- Seagulls
- Chickens
- Pigeons
- Eagles
- Peacocks
- Parrots

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |                                                                      |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. reviled     | a. A person or thing causing inconvenience or annoyance.             |
| 2. undergone   | b. Search for and collect anything usable from waste.                |
| 3. nuisance    | c. Criticized in an abusive or insulting manner.                     |
| 4. indigenous  | d. Experienced or was subjected to something.                        |
| 5. propensity  | e. Originating or happening naturally in a particular place; native. |
| 6. scavenge    | f. An inclination or tendency to behave in a particular way.         |
| 7. destructive | g. Causing great and irreparable damage.                             |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. eradicating  | h. The state or process of completely dying out.                                                  |
| 9. devastating  | i. Destroying completely; putting an end to.                                                      |
| 10. crops       | j. Cause a large amount of damage or harm.                                                        |
| 11. wreak havoc | k. A poisonous substance from animals such as snakes, spiders, and scorpions.                     |
| 12. extinction  | l. Highly destructive or damaging.                                                                |
| 13. venom       | m. Eat something hurriedly and noisily.                                                           |
| 14. gobble      | n. Plants that are grown on a large scale commercially, especially a cereal, fruit, or vegetable. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

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

1. The white ibis is bedevilled in Australia. **T / F**
2. The white ibis is now helping to rid Australia of a deadly frog. **T / F**
3. Many people in Australia think the white ibis is a nuisance and a pest. **T / F**
4. The article says the white ibis looks great in the light. **T / F**
5. Cane toads arrived in Australia on trading ships 200 years ago. **T / F**
6. Farmers thought cane toads could help them get rid of a beetle. **T / F**
7. There were no animals in Australia that naturally kill the cane toad. **T / F**
8. White ibises wash the cane toads before eating them. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>reviled</b>     | a. dying out     |
| 2. <b>nuisance</b>    | b. rubbish       |
| 3. <b>propensity</b>  | c. exterminating |
| 4. <b>trash</b>       | d. anxiety       |
| 5. <b>poisonous</b>   | e. run down      |
| 6. <b>eradicating</b> | f. pest          |
| 7. <b>havoc</b>       | g. swallow       |
| 8. <b>extinction</b>  | h. toxic         |
| 9. <b>gulp</b>        | i. destruction   |
| 10. <b>stress</b>     | j. tendency      |

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

- |                                        |                             |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. A bird that has been widely         | a. of extinction            |
| 2. helping to get rid of an even       | b. positive light           |
| 3. indigenous to                       | c. eradicating a beetle     |
| 4. now being viewed in a               | d. bigger nuisance          |
| 5. Australia's natural habitat is      | e. release all their poison |
| 6. help in                             | f. benefitting              |
| 7. the toads soon began to wreak       | g. reviled in Australia     |
| 8. to the point                        | h. predators                |
| 9. They had no natural                 | i. Australia                |
| 10. The stress of this makes the toads | j. havoc                    |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

A bird that has been widely (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia for decades has undergone an image (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The reason is that it is helping to get rid of an even bigger (3) \_\_\_\_\_ - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed as a pest by many Australians because of its propensity to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food (5) \_\_\_\_\_ out of people's hands. People nickname them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash (6) \_\_\_\_\_. The birds are now being viewed in a positive (7) \_\_\_\_\_. They have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. As a result, Australia's natural (8) \_\_\_\_\_ is benefitting.

*can*  
*change*  
*scavenge*  
*habitat*  
*reviled*  
*light*  
*right*  
*nuisance*

Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help in eradicating a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to wreak (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of extinction. Their toxin is strong enough to kill most (12) \_\_\_\_\_ animals that eat frogs and toads. They had no natural (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their (14) \_\_\_\_\_ and gulp them up. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "(15) \_\_\_\_\_ them about". The (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash them in water and gobble them down.

*venom*  
*predators*  
*stress*  
*point*  
*flick*  
*beetle*  
*havoc*  
*native*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

- 1) A bird that has been widely reviled in Australia for decades has undergone \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. an imaged change
  - b. an image chance
  - c. an image changer
  - d. an image change
- 2) The reason is that it is helping to get rid of an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. even bigger nuisance
  - b. even bigger nuance
  - c. even bigger new séance
  - d. even bigger news ants
- 3) The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. as at pest
  - b. dozen pest
  - c. as a pest
  - d. as the pest
- 4) The word "bin" is Australian and British \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. English for trash can
  - b. English for trashy can
  - c. English for trash scan
  - d. English for trash cam
- 5) As a result, Australia's natural \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. habitat is benefit thing
  - b. habitat is benefitting
  - c. habitat is benefit in
  - d. habitat is benefit ting
- 6) Sugar farmers thought they would help in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. eradicate in a beetle
  - b. eradicate inner beetle
  - c. eradiating a beetle
  - d. eradiate inner beetle
- 7) However, the toads soon began \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to wreck havoc
  - b. to reek havoc
  - c. to leak havoc
  - d. to wreak havoc
- 8) They ate many insects and small animals to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. point off extinction
  - b. pointer extinction
  - c. point of extinction
  - d. point oft extinction
- 9) no natural predators in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of their phoneme
  - b. of their vain
  - c. of their bemoan
  - d. of their venom
- 10) An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - a. flick them about
  - b. fleck them about
  - c. flack them about
  - d. flock them about

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

A bird that has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Australia for decades has undergone an image change. The reason is that it is helping to get rid of an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by many Australians because of its propensity to scavenge food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even (4) \_\_\_\_\_ out of people's hands. People nickname them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. The birds are now (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a positive light. They have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. As a result, Australia's (6) \_\_\_\_\_ benefitting.

Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help (7) \_\_\_\_\_ beetle that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Their toxin is strong enough to kill most native animals that eat frogs and toads. They had (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom and gulp them up. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "(11) \_\_\_\_\_". The stress of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash them in water and (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

1. For how long has the white ibis been reviled in Australia?
2. Where do the white ibises steal food from?
3. What is the nickname Australians give to the white ibis?
4. In what are the white ibises now being viewed?
5. What does the article say is benefitting as a result of the white ibis?
6. When did the cane toad first get to Australia?
7. What did the cane toads wreak across Australia?
8. What part of the cane toads can kill other animals?
9. What do the ibises do to the frogs after they pick them up?
10. What do the white ibises wash the cane toads with?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

- 1) For how long has the white ibis been reviled in Australia?
  - a) since October 13, 1852
  - b) a few years
  - c) not that long
  - d) decades
- 2) Where do the white ibises steal food from?
  - a) supermarkets
  - b) people's hands
  - c) farms
  - d) zoos
- 3) What is the nickname Australians give to the white ibis?
  - a) trash chicken
  - b) rubbish chicken
  - c) barn chicken
  - d) bin chicken
- 4) In what are the white ibises now being viewed?
  - a) a newspaper
  - b) a microscope
  - c) a positive light
  - d) a zoo
- 5) What does the article say is benefitting as a result of the white ibis?
  - a) cane toads
  - b) the black ibis
  - c) local economies
  - d) Australia's natural habitat
- 6) When did the cane toad first get to Australia?
  - a) last year
  - b) October 13, 1852
  - c) in the 1930s
  - d) a decade ago
- 7) What did the cane toads wreak across Australia?
  - a) havoc
  - b) vengeance
  - c) fury
  - d) calamity
- 8) What part of the cane toads can kill other animals?
  - a) their skin
  - b) their heart
  - c) their poison
  - d) their spittle
- 9) What do the ibises do to the frogs after they pick them up?
  - a) rub them in grass
  - b) flick them about
  - c) look at them
  - d) bang them on the floor
- 10) What do the white ibises wash the cane toads with?
  - a) water
  - b) soap
  - c) the sea
  - d) ponds

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

## **Role A – Emus**

You think emus are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): seagulls, eagles or parrots.

## **Role B – Seagulls**

You think seagulls are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): emus, eagles or parrots.

## **Role C – Eagles**

You think eagles are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): seagulls, emus or parrots.

## **Role D – Parrots**

You think parrots are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): seagulls, eagles or emus.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

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

<b>cane</b>	<b>toad</b>
-------------	-------------

- 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>• widely</li><li>• viewed</li><li>• scavenge</li><li>• nickname</li><li>• light</li><li>• result</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• help</li><li>• wreak</li><li>• small</li><li>• natural</li><li>• venom</li><li>• wash</li></ul>
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# INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

Write five GOOD questions about invasive species 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.

# INVASIVE SPECIES 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 'bin'?
3. What do you know about invasive species?
4. What do you know about toads?
5. Are there any birds in your country that are unpopular?
6. What do you think of birds that scavenge for food?
7. What useful scavengers are in the animal kingdom?
8. What are the biggest pests in your country?
9. What do you think of your country's natural habitat?
10. What Australian creatures do you like?

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# INVASIVE SPECIES 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 'chicken'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What damage do invasive species do?
15. What animals have wreaked havoc in your country?
16. How can we stop creatures from becoming extinct?
17. Should all countries rid their habitats of invasive species?
18. What are your hopes for the white ibises in Australia?
19. How else could Australia deal with the invasive cane toads?
20. What questions would you like to ask a cane toad expert?

# 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/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

A bird that has been widely (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia for decades has undergone an image change. The reason is that it is helping to get (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of an even bigger nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed as a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by many Australians because of its propensity to scavenge food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food (4) \_\_\_\_\_ out of people's hands. People nickname them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. The birds are now being (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in a positive light. They have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. As (6) \_\_\_\_\_ result, Australia's natural habitat is benefitting.

Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help (7) \_\_\_\_\_ eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to wreak (8) \_\_\_\_\_ as they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of extinction. Their toxin is strong enough to kill most native animals that eat frogs and toads. They had no natural predators in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ them up. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ them about". The stress of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash them in water and gobble them (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- |     |              |              |              |             |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) rivalled | (b) revelled | (c) revealed | (d) reviled |
| 2.  | (a) hid      | (b) bid      | (c) lid      | (d) rid     |
| 3.  | (a) nest     | (b) pest     | (c) jest     | (d) nest    |
| 4.  | (a) left     | (b) up       | (c) right    | (d) down    |
| 5.  | (a) viewed   | (b) looked   | (c) watched  | (d) scanned |
| 6.  | (a) a        | (b) this     | (c) that     | (d) the     |
| 7.  | (a) out      | (b) on       | (c) to       | (d) in      |
| 8.  | (a) havoc    | (b) bivouac  | (c) crevice  | (d) crave   |
| 9.  | (a) sharp    | (b) point    | (c) gesture  | (d) gest    |
| 10. | (a) pulp     | (b) bulb     | (c) gulp     | (d) sump    |
| 11. | (a) fleck    | (b) flack    | (c) flick    | (d) flock   |
| 12. | (a) along    | (b) down     | (c) through  | (d) over    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. A bird that has been widely dveirel
2. Get rid of an even bigger neuniacs
3. The white ibis, which is gnuosienid to Australia
4. ecnsgvae food from garbage bags.
5. the poisonous and cvttrieudes cane toad
6. Australia's natural aabtth is benefitting

## Paragraph 2

7. They would help in cigaadtienr a beetle
8. the toads soon began to rwkea\_oavhc
9. to the point of icnieotxnt
10. They had no natural tesdorrapp in Australia
11. rid them of their mnevo
12. wash them in water and beobgl them down

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

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

- ( ) is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed as a pest by many Australians because of its propensity to scavenge
- ( ) havoc as they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the point of
- ( ) extinction. Their toxin is strong enough to kill most native animals that eat frogs and toads. They had no natural
- ( ) them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash
- ( ) Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help in
- ( ) change. The reason is that it is helping to get rid of an even bigger nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which
- ( ) predators in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom and gulp
- ( ) them up. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "flick them about". The stress
- ( ) food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food right out of people's hands. People nickname
- ( ) eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to wreak
- ( ) and destructive cane toad. As a result, Australia's natural habitat is benefitting.
- ( ) of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibises then wash them in water and gobble them down.
- ( ) can. The birds are now being viewed in a positive light. They have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous
- ( **1** ) A bird that has been widely reviled in Australia for decades has undergone an image

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

1. bird Australian widely has An reviled . that been
2. to rid of nuisance . get a Helping bigger
3. many viewed pest a It's by Australians . as
4. of even people's hands . It out food steals
5. Australia's benefitting . is habitat a result, natural As
6. a crops . beetle their was Eradicating devastating that
7. Their is to toxin kill animals . strong enough
8. to them It of rid learnt their venom .
9. the This release poison . makes all their toads
10. Wash and them water in gobble down . them

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

A bird that has been widely *revelled* / *reviled* in Australia for decades has *undergone* / *overcome* an image change. The reason is that it is helping to get *rid* / *riddance* of an even bigger nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is *ingenious* / *indigenous* to Australia. It is viewed as a *best* / *pest* by many Australians because of its *propensity* / *prosperity* to scavenge food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food *left* / *right* out of people's hands. People nickname them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English *for* / *by* trash can. The birds are now being viewed *in* / *at* a positive light. They have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. As *the* / *a* result, Australia's natural habitat is benefitting.

Cane toads were introduced to Australia *at* / *in* the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help *in* / *to* eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to *wreck* / *wreak* havoc as they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the *point* / *sharp* of extinction. Their *toxic* / *toxin* is strong enough to kill most *native* / *naive* animals that eat frogs and toads. They had no natural predators in Australia, until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom and gulp them *out* / *up*. An Australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and "flick them about". The stress of this makes the toads release all their *passion* / *poison*. The ibises then wash them in water and *giblet* / *gobble* them down.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

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

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\_ b\_r\_d th\_t h\_s b\_\_n w\_d\_ly r\_v\_l\_d \_n \_\_str\_l\_\_ f\_r  
d\_c\_d\_s h\_s \_nd\_rgn\_ \_n \_m\_g\_ ch\_ng\_. Th\_ r\_\_s\_n  
\_s th\_t \_t \_s h\_lp\_ng t\_ g\_t r\_d \_f \_n \_v\_n b\_gg\_r  
n\_\_s\_nc\_ - th\_ \_nv\_s\_v\_ c\_n\_ t\_\_d. Th\_ b\_r\_d \_s th\_  
wh\_t\_ \_b\_s, wh\_ch \_s \_nd\_g\_n\_\_s t\_ \_\_str\_l\_\_. \_t \_s  
v\_\_w\_d \_s \_ p\_st by m\_ny \_\_str\_l\_\_ns b\_c\_\_s\_ \_f \_ts  
pr\_p\_ns\_ty t\_ sc\_v\_ng\_ f\_\_d fr\_m g\_rb\_g\_ b\_gs \_nd  
tr\_sh c\_ns. \_t \_v\_n st\_\_ls f\_\_d r\_ght \_\_t \_f p\_\_pl\_'s  
h\_nds. P\_\_pl\_ n\_ckn\_m\_ th\_m th\_ "b\_n ch\_ck\_n". Th\_  
w\_r\_d "b\_n" \_s \_\_str\_l\_\_n \_nd Br\_t\_sh \_ngl\_sh f\_r  
tr\_sh c\_n. Th\_ b\_rds \_r\_ n\_w b\_\_ng v\_\_w\_d \_n \_  
p\_s\_t\_v\_ l\_ght. Th\_y h\_v\_ \_d\_pt\_d \_nd l\_\_rnt h\_w t\_  
\_\_t th\_ p\_\_s\_n\_\_s \_nd d\_strct\_v\_ c\_n\_ t\_\_d. \_s \_  
r\_s\_lt, \_\_str\_l\_\_'s n\_t\_r\_l h\_b\_t\_t \_s b\_n\_f\_t\_t\_ng.

C\_n\_ t\_\_ds w\_r\_ \_ntr\_d\_c\_d t\_ \_\_str\_l\_\_ \_n th\_  
1930s. S\_g\_r f\_rm\_rs th\_\_ght th\_y w\_\_ld h\_lp \_n  
\_r\_d\_c\_t\_ng \_ b\_\_tl\_ th\_t w\_s d\_v\_st\_t\_ng th\_\_r cr\_ps.  
H\_w\_v\_r, th\_ t\_\_ds s\_\_n b\_g\_n t\_ wr\_\_k h\_v\_c \_s  
th\_y r\_p\_dly spr\_\_d \_cr\_ss th\_ c\_\_ntrys\_d\_. Th\_y \_t\_  
m\_ny \_ns\_cts \_nd sm\_ll \_n\_m\_ls t\_ th\_ p\_\_nt \_f  
\_xt\_nct\_\_n. Th\_\_r t\_x\_n \_s str\_ng \_n\_\_gh t\_ k\_ll m\_st  
n\_t\_v\_ \_n\_m\_ls th\_t \_\_t fr\_gs \_nd t\_\_ds. Th\_y h\_d n\_  
n\_t\_r\_l pr\_d\_t\_rs \_n \_\_str\_l\_\_, \_nt\_l th\_ wh\_t\_ \_b\_s  
l\_\_rnt t\_ r\_d th\_m \_f th\_\_r v\_n\_m \_nd g\_lp th\_m \_p.  
\_n \_\_str\_l\_\_n j\_\_rn\_l\_st s\_\_d th\_ \_b\_s\_s p\_ck th\_  
t\_\_ds \_p \_nd "fl\_ck th\_m \_b\_\_t". Th\_ str\_ss \_f th\_s  
m\_k\_s th\_ t\_\_ds r\_l\_\_s\_ \_ll th\_\_r p\_\_s\_n. Th\_ \_b\_s\_s  
th\_n w\_sh th\_m \_n w\_t\_r \_nd g\_bbl\_ th\_m d\_wn.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

a bird that has been widely reviled in australia for decades has undergone an image change the reason is that it is helping to get rid of an even bigger nuisance the invasive cane toad the bird is the white ibis which is indigenous to australia it is viewed as a pest by many australians because of its propensity to scavenge food from garbage bags and trash cans it even steals food right out of peoples hands people nickname them the bin chicken the word bin is australian and british english for trash can the birds are now being viewed in a positive light they have adapted and learnt how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad as a result australian's natural habitat is benefitting

cane toads were introduced to australia in the 1930s sugar farmers thought they would help in eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops however the toads soon began to wreak havoc as they rapidly spread across the countryside they ate many insects and small animals to the point of extinction their toxin is strong enough to kill most native animals that eat frogs and toads they had no natural predators in australia until the white ibis learnt to rid them of their venom and gulp them up an australian journalist said the ibises pick the toads up and flick them about the stress of this makes the toads release all their poison the ibises then wash them in water and gobble them down

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221128-invasive-species.html>

A bird that has been widely reviled in Australia for decades has undergone an image change. The reason is that it is helping to get rid of an even bigger nuisance - the invasive cane toad. The bird is the white ibis, which is indigenous to Australia. It is viewed as a pest by many Australians because of its propensity to scavenge food from garbage bags and trash cans. It even steals food right out of people's hands. People nickname them the "bin chicken". The word "bin" is Australian and British English for trash can. The birds are now being viewed in a positive light. They have adapted and learned how to eat the poisonous and destructive cane toad. As a result, Australia's natural habitat is benefitting. Cane toads were introduced to Australia in the 1930s. Sugar farmers thought they would help in eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops. However, the toads soon began to wreak havoc as they rapidly spread across the countryside. They ate many insects and small animals to the point of extinction. Their toxin is strong enough to kill most native animals that eat frogs and toads. They had no natural predators in Australia, until the white ibis learned to rid them of their venom and gulp them up. An Australian journalist said the ibis pick the toads up and "flick them about". The stress of this makes the toads release all their poison. The ibis then wash them in water and gobble them down.







# 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. INVASIVE SPECIES:** Make a poster about invasive species. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. REMOVAL:** Write a magazine article about governments doing all they can to remove all invasive species. 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 invasive species. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to deal with them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 F    5 F    6 T    7 T    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. e	2. f	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. i	8. a	9. g	10. d

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Decades
- People's hands
- Bin chicken
- A positive light
- Australia's natural habitat
- In the 1930s
- Havoc
- Their poison
- Flick them about
- Water

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- An Australian bird that has been widely reviled.
- Helping to get rid of a bigger nuisance.
- It's viewed as a pest by many Australians.
- It even steals food out of people's hands.
- As a result, Australia's natural habitat is benefitting.
- Eradicating a beetle that was devastating their crops.
- Their toxin is strong enough to kill animals.
- It learnt to rid them of their venom.
- This makes the toads release all their poison.
- Wash them in water and gobble them down.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d    2. b    3. d    4. c    5. d    6. c    7. a    8. c    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 ;-)