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Level 5 – 6th January 2025

500-kg space debris crashes into Kenya village

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-5.html>

The problem of space debris is getting bigger. It could become a danger to people. Earlier this week, a huge metal ring crashed into a Kenyan village 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The object was about 2.5 metres wide, and weighed 500 kilograms. It could have caused significant loss of life and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the hunk of metal was probably the separation ring from a rocket. An official said: "Our experts will...keep the public informed." It said this was "an isolated case".

More companies and countries are launching rockets into space. The space race is heating up. Many satellites from the USA, China and India are now orbiting Earth and going into deep space. Commercial companies, such as SpaceX and Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into low-Earth orbit. Europe's space agency estimated that there are over 14,000 tons of debris circling our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into our atmosphere.

Sources: <https://www.euronews.com/2025/01/03/kenya-investigates-giant-piece-of-space-debris-that-crash-landed-in-a-village>
<https://www.livescience.com/space/massive-piece-of-space-junk-crashes-into-village-in-kenya-and-officials-still-have-no-idea-where-it-came-from>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/space/kenya-space-debris-rocket-crash-b2673612.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The problem of space debris | a. informed |
| 2. a huge metal | b. life |
| 3. 116 km southeast | c. ring |
| 4. loss of | d. case |
| 5. it landed | e. is getting bigger |
| 6. the separation ring | f. in a small wood |
| 7. keep the public | g. from a rocket |
| 8. It said this was an isolated | h. of the capital |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. countries are launching | a. deep space |
| 2. The space race | b. burn up |
| 3. orbiting | c. is heating up |
| 4. going into | d. planet |
| 5. sent dozens of rockets | e. rockets |
| 6. debris circling our | f. into space |
| 7. Most of these harmlessly | g. into low-Earth |
| 8. upon re-entry into our atmosphere | h. Earth |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-5.html>

The (1) _____ debris is getting bigger. It could become a (2) _____. Earlier this week, a huge metal ring crashed into a Kenyan village 116 km southeast of the capital Nairobi. The object was about 2.5 metres (3) _____ 500 kilograms. It could have caused significant (4) _____ and damage to property. Fortunately, it landed in a small wood. Kenya's Space Agency said the hunk of metal was (5) _____ ring from a rocket. An official said: "Our experts will...keep the public informed." It said this was "(6) _____".

More companies and countries (7) _____ into space. The space race is heating up. Many satellites from the USA, China and India (8) _____ Earth and going into deep space. Commercial companies, such as SpaceX and Blue Origin have sent (9) _____ into low-Earth orbit. Europe's space (10) _____ there are over 14,000 tons of debris (11) _____. This includes over 170 million pieces that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-5.html>

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SPACE DEBRIS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about space debris in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250106-space-debris-5.html>

Write about **space debris** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
