

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 3 – 1st January 2026**

### **Huge rise in household waste over holiday period**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

## **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

**X (Twitter)**



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

There are many holidays around the end of the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the giving of gifts. However, celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a lot of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases by 25 per cent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges us to carefully separate what we throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little extra time to put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin." Engineering professor Dan Hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in the first place.

Various experts have reported on how best to deal with holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg advised people to be aware of and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different rules. Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away things like electronics, toys, and Christmas lights. Other experts also offered great advice. One said it was good to think ahead to reduce waste. She said one idea was to buy "experiences over stuff". This means buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert, instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a cardboard box. She also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards.

Sources: <https://www.npr.org/2025/12/26/nx-s1-5649424/holiday-waste-recycling-tips-mistakes>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2025/dec/26/five-things-to-do-with-holiday-waste>  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/christmas-tree-holiday-garbage-disposal-tips/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. WASTE AND TRASH:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about waste and trash. 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?

holidays / end of the year / family get-togethers / celebrations / waste / recycling / experts / rules / electronics / toys / advice / experiences / concert / cardboard box

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

**3. PACKAGING:** Students A **strongly** believe all plastic packaging should be banned; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. HOLIDAYS:** What do you know about these holidays? What do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Christmas		
Hanukkah		
Kwanzaa		
Eid-al-Fitr		
Diwali		
Lunar New Year		

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

**6. WASTE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things to waste at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Packaging
- Food
- Electricity
- Time
- Our energy
- Skills
- Petrol
- Money

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. involve         | a. Guess a number or amount.   |
| 2. get-togethers   | b. Stay away from something.   |
| 3. celebrations    | c. Have something as a part of an activity or situation.                       |
| 4. estimate (verb) | d. Happy events to show joy for something special, like a birthday or wedding. |
| 5. increases       | e. Times when people meet and spend (a happy) time with each other.            |
| 6. separate (verb) | f. Becomes bigger or more.   |
| 7. avoid           | g. Put things apart or not together.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8. various       | h. People who know a lot (or everything) about something. |
| 9. experts       | i. Do something about a problem or situation.             |
| 10. deal with    | j. Things or objects.                                     |
| 11. be aware of  | k. Many different kinds.                                  |
| 12. experiences  | l. Said to be good or helpful.                            |
| 13. stuff (noun) | m. Things that happen to you in your life.                |
| 14. recommended  | n. Know about something.                                  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

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

1. The article says there are a dozen holidays around the end of the year. **T / F**
2. A US agency says we produce 25% more waste over the holiday period. **T / F**
3. A recycling expert says we should put cans in the green recycling bin. **T / F**
4. The article says the USA should be in first place for waste reduction. **T / F**
5. All towns have the same recycling policies. **T / F**
6. A professor urged caution when throwing away electronics. **T / F**
7. An expert said it was better to buy people experiences than stuff. **T / F**
8. The expert said it was a good idea to buy digital gifts. **T / F**

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

- |                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>involve</b>            | a. to begin with |
| 2. <b>estimates</b>          | b. regulations   |
| 3. <b>urges</b>              | c. container     |
| 4. <b>bin</b>                | d. reckons       |
| 5. <b>in the first place</b> | e. things        |
| 6. <b>experts</b>            | f. include       |
| 7. <b>rules</b>              | g. specialists   |
| 8. <b>throw away</b>         | h. wrapping      |
| 9. <b>stuff</b>              | i. encourages    |
| 10. <b>packaging</b>         | j. discard       |

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

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. There are many holidays around          | a. deal with holiday waste     |
| 2. family get-togethers and the giving     | b. possible in the first place |
| 3. household waste increases               | c. what we throw away          |
| 4. carefully separate                      | d. to reduce waste             |
| 5. avoid producing waste as much as        | e. rules                       |
| 6. experts have reported on how best to    | f. the end of the year         |
| 7. He said different places have different | g. in lots of packaging        |
| 8. be careful when they throw away things  | h. by 25 per cent              |
| 9. it was good to think ahead              | i. like electronics            |
| 10. a present that comes                   | j. of gifts                    |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

There are many holidays around the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of gifts. However, celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste (4) \_\_\_\_\_ by 25 per cent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges us to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ separate what we throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little (6) \_\_\_\_\_ time to put those boxes and those bottles and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in the blue bin." Engineering professor Dan Hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ place.

*increases*  
*extra*  
*giving*  
*first*  
*end*  
*cans*  
*create*  
*carefully*

Various experts have reported on how (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg advised people to be (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away things like electronics, (12) \_\_\_\_\_, and Christmas lights. Other experts also offered great advice. One said it was good to think ahead to reduce waste. She said one (13) \_\_\_\_\_ was to buy "experiences over (14) \_\_\_\_\_. This means buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert, (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a (16) \_\_\_\_\_ box. She also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards.

*toys*  
*cardboard*  
*stuff*  
*best*  
*instead*  
*rules*  
*aware*  
*idea*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

- 1) There are many holidays around the end \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. off the year
  - b. of the years
  - c. of then year
  - d. of the year
- 2) These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. given of gifts
  - b. give in of gifts
  - c. giving of gifts
  - d. giving oft gifts
- 3) celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lots of trash
  - b. lot of trash
  - c. lot of trashed
  - d. lot of thrash
- 4) take a little extra time to put those boxes and those bottles and cans in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the blue bin
  - b. the blue ban
  - c. the blue bun
  - d. the blue bon
- 5) we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the fist place
  - b. the third place
  - c. the fast place
  - d. the first place
- 6) Various experts have reported on how best to deal \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. wither holiday waste
  - b. with a holiday waste
  - c. with holiday waste
  - d. within holiday waste
- 7) Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. things like electricity
  - b. things like electrics
  - c. things like electricians
  - d. things like electronics
- 8) She said one idea was to buy \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. experiences under stuff
  - b. experiences over stuff
  - c. experiences over staff
  - d. experiences above stiff
- 9) instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a card bored box
  - b. a car board box
  - c. a card bald box
  - d. a cardboard box
- 10) She also recommended giving people digital cards \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and gift card
  - b. and gift cards
  - c. end gilt cards
  - d. end gift card

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

There are many holidays around (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. However, celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases by 25 per cent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges us to carefully (4) \_\_\_\_\_ throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little extra time to put those boxes and those (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the blue bin." Engineering professor Dan Hoornweg said (6) \_\_\_\_\_ producing waste as much as possible in the first place.

Various experts have reported on how (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg advised people to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different rules. Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw (9) \_\_\_\_\_ electronics, toys, and Christmas lights. Other experts also offered great advice. One said it was good to think (10) \_\_\_\_\_ waste. She said one idea was to buy "experiences over stuff". This means buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a present that comes in lots of packaging and a cardboard box. She also recommended giving people digital (12) \_\_\_\_\_ cards.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

1. When does the article say there are many holidays?
2. What does the article say celebrations can create a lot of?
3. How much more waste do we produce at the end of the year?
4. Where did an expert say we should place bottles and cans?
5. What did an engineering professor say we should avoid?
6. What did the professor say we needed to be aware of?
7. What did the professor say different places have?
8. What did an expert say it was important to do to reduce waste?
9. What did the expert recommend buying as gifts instead of "stuff"?
10. What did an expert say were good gifts?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

- 1) When does the article say there are many holidays?
  - a) all year round
  - b) at the end of the year
  - c) at the beginning of the year
  - d) in summer
- 2) What does the article say celebrations can create a lot of?
  - a) fun
  - b) anger
  - c) noise
  - d) trash
- 3) How much more waste do we produce at the end of the year?
  - a) 25% more
  - b) 35% more
  - c) 15% more
  - d) 45% more
- 4) Where did an expert say we should place bottles and cans?
  - a) in a green bin
  - b) on the red bin
  - c) in the blue bin
  - d) in a big bin
- 5) What did an engineering professor say we should avoid?
  - a) cardboard boxes
  - b) producing waste
  - c) microplastics
  - d) holiday celebrations
- 6) What did the professor say we needed to be aware of?
  - a) recycling policies
  - b) microplastics
  - c) pollution
  - d) dangers to animals
- 7) What did the professor say different places have?
  - a) holidays
  - b) plastics
  - c) rules
  - d) celebrations
- 8) What did an expert say it was important to do to reduce waste?
  - a) think ahead
  - b) not buy anything
  - c) use reusable shopping bags
  - d) buy many recycling bins
- 9) What did the expert recommend buying as gifts instead of "stuff"?
  - a) experiences
  - b) stocks and shares
  - c) property
  - d) food
- 10) What did an expert say were good gifts?
  - a) jogging shoes
  - b) rings and necklaces
  - c) recycling bins
  - d) digital cards and gift cards

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

## **Role A – Food**

You think food is the worst thing to waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as bad for their things to be wasted. Also, tell the others which is most acceptable of these (and why): time, money or water.

## **Role B – Time**

You think time is the worst thing to waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as bad for their things to be wasted. Also, tell the others which is most acceptable of these (and why): food, money or water.

## **Role C – Money**

You think money is the worst thing to waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as bad for their things to be wasted. Also, tell the others which is most acceptable of these (and why): time, food or water.

## **Role D – Water**

You think water is the worst thing to waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as bad for their things to be wasted. Also, tell the others which is most acceptable of these (and why): time, money or food.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'holiday' and 'waste'.

<b>holiday</b>	<b>waste</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>• end</li><li>• involve</li><li>• estimates</li><li>• carefully</li><li>• just</li><li>• avoid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• deal</li><li>• follow</li><li>• toys</li><li>• ahead</li><li>• present</li><li>• cards</li></ul>
--	--

# WASTE AND TRASH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

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

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

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

# WASTE AND TRASH 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 'holiday'?
3. What do you think of the end-of-the-year holidays?
4. What do you do at the end of the year?
5. How has this year been for you?
6. How much trash do you produce?
7. What difference does separating trash make?
8. What extra waste do you create over the holiday period?
9. How can we avoid producing waste?
10. What is your advice regarding recycling?

*Huge rise in household waste over holiday period – 1st January 2026*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# WASTE AND TRASH 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 'trash'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the recycling policies in your town?
15. What are your New Year resolutions?
16. How good are you at recycling?
17. Would you rather be given an experience or stuff?
18. What do you think of cardboard boxes?
19. What do you think of digital gifts and gift cards?
20. What questions would you like to ask a waste expert?

## DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2026

---

## 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/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

There are many holidays (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the end of the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of gifts. However, celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases by 25 per cent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges us to carefully (4) \_\_\_\_\_ what we throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little extra time to put (5) \_\_\_\_\_ boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin." Engineering professor Dan Hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the first place.

Various experts have reported on (7) \_\_\_\_\_ best to deal with holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg advised people to be aware (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different rules. Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away things like (9) \_\_\_\_\_, toys, and Christmas lights. Other experts also offered great advice. One said it was good (10) \_\_\_\_\_ think ahead to reduce waste. She said one idea was to buy "experiences over stuff". This (11) \_\_\_\_\_ buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert, instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ box. She also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards.

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

- |     |                 |                  |                 |               |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) around      | (b) abound       | (c) about       | (d) a rout    |
| 2.  | (a) given       | (b) gives        | (c) giving      | (d) give      |
| 3.  | (a) allot       | (b) lots         | (c) lot         | (d) loads     |
| 4.  | (a) separates   | (b) separation   | (c) separating  | (d) separate  |
| 5.  | (a) those       | (b) them         | (c) they        | (d) there     |
| 6.  | (a) of          | (b) in           | (c) at          | (d) to        |
| 7.  | (a) that        | (b) which        | (c) what        | (d) how       |
| 8.  | (a) at          | (b) of           | (c) on          | (d) as        |
| 9.  | (a) electricity | (b) electricians | (c) electronics | (d) electrics |
| 10. | (a) for         | (b) to           | (c) at          | (d) up        |
| 11. | (a) mean        | (b) meaning      | (c) meanie      | (d) means     |
| 12. | (a) boarded     | (b) cardboard    | (c) board       | (d) carded    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. These nvliove parties
2. family get-gerhotets
3. ilaoesrebcnt for Christmas
4. carefully eartsepa what we throw away
5. eirenegignn professor
6. we should odvai producing waste

## Paragraph 2

7. various texreps
8. follow the celiynrgc policies
9. different places have different eslur
10. licoterescn, toys, and Christmas lights
11. She said one idea was to buy execsreiepn
12. lots of packaging and a bcadrdras box

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

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

- ( ) a play or concert, instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a cardboard
- ( ) aware of and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different
- ( ) box. She also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards.
- ( ) by 25 per cent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges us to carefully
- ( ) lights. Other experts also offered great advice. One said it was good to think ahead to reduce
- ( ) of gifts. However, celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a lot
- ( ) of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases
- ( ) professor Dan Hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in the first place.
- ( ) rules. Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away things like electronics, toys, and Christmas
- ( ) separate what we throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little extra
- ( **1** ) There are many holidays around the end of the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the giving
- ( ) time to put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin." Engineering
- ( ) Various experts have reported on how best to deal with holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg advised people to be
- ( ) waste. She said one idea was to buy "experiences over stuff". This means buying someone a ticket to see

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

1. around Holidays end the the of year .
2. increases Waste by 25% the over period holiday .
3. We separate carefully we what away throw .
4. It does really a make difference big .
5. Avoid waste producing much as possible as .
6. He different said have places rules different .
7. Be when careful throw they things away .
8. One was idea buy to over experiences stuff .
9. someone Buying ticket a see to play a .
10. She recommended also people giving cards digital .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

There are many holidays *about / around* the end of the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the *give / giving* of gifts. However, celebrations *for / to* Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a *lot / lots* of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases *for / by* 25 per cent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges *us / as* to carefully separate what *we / they* throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little *bit / extra* time to put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue *bin / ban*." Engineering professor Dan Hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in the *second / first* place.

Various experts have *repeated / reported* on how best to deal *to / with* holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg *advised / advice* people to be aware of and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different *rule / rules*. Ms Holsinger asked people to be *carefully / careful* when they throw away things like *electronics / electricity*, toys, and Christmas lights. Other experts also offered great *advice / advise*. One said it was good to think ahead to reduce waste. She said one idea was to buy "experiences *under / over* stuff". This means buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert, instead *to / of* buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a cardboard box. She also recommended giving people *digital / digitally* cards and gift cards.

**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)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

Th\_r\_ \_r\_ m\_ny h\_l\_d\_ys \_r\_\_nd th\_ \_nd \_f th\_ y\_\_r.  
Th\_s\_ \_nv\_lv\_ p\_rt\_\_s, f\_m\_ly g\_t-t\_g\_th\_rs, \_nd th\_  
g\_v\_ng \_f g\_fts. H\_w\_v\_r, c\_l\_br\_t\_\_ns f\_r Chr\_stm\_s,  
H\_n\_kk\_h, Kw\_nz\_\_, \_nd th\_ N\_w Y\_\_r c\_n cr\_\_t\_ \_  
l\_t\_ \_f tr\_sh. Th\_ \_S\_'s \_nv\_r\_nm\_nt\_l Pr\_t\_ct\_\_n  
\_g\_ncy \_st\_m\_t\_s th\_t h\_\_s\_h\_ld w\_st\_ \_ncr\_\_s\_s by  
25 p\_r c\_nt \_v\_r th\_ h\_l\_d\_y p\_r\_\_d. M\_r\_\_m  
H\_ls\_ng\_r, c\_-pr\_s\_d\_nt \_f \_\_r\_k\_ R\_cycl\_ng, \_rg\_s \_s  
t\_ c\_r\_f\_lly s\_p\_r\_t\_ wh\_t w\_ thr\_w \_w\_y. Sh\_ s\_\_d:  
"\_t r\_\_lly d\_\_s m\_k\_ \_ d\_ff\_r\_nc\_ \_f y\_\_ j\_st t\_k\_ \_  
l\_ttl\_ \_xtr\_ t\_m\_ t\_ p\_t th\_s\_ b\_x\_s \_nd th\_s\_ b\_ttl\_s  
\_nd c\_ns \_n th\_ bl\_\_ b\_n." \_ng\_n\_\_r\_ng pr\_f\_ss\_r D\_n  
H\_\_rnw\_g s\_\_d w\_ sh\_\_ld \_v\_\_d pr\_d\_c\_ng w\_st\_ \_s  
m\_ch \_s p\_ss\_bl\_ \_n th\_ f\_rst pl\_c\_.

V\_r\_\_s \_xp\_rts h\_v\_ r\_p\_r\_t\_d \_n h\_w b\_st t\_ d\_\_l  
w\_th h\_l\_d\_y w\_st\_. Pr\_f\_ss\_r H\_\_rnw\_g \_dv\_s\_d p\_\_pl\_  
t\_ b\_ \_w\_r\_ \_f \_nd f\_ll\_w th\_ r\_cycl\_ng p\_l\_c\_\_s \_n  
th\_\_r t\_wn. H\_ s\_\_d d\_ff\_r\_nt pl\_c\_s h\_v\_ d\_ff\_r\_nt  
r\_l\_s. Ms H\_ls\_ng\_r \_sk\_d p\_\_pl\_ t\_ b\_ c\_r\_f\_l wh\_n  
th\_y thr\_w \_w\_y th\_ngs l\_k\_ \_l\_ctr\_n\_cs, t\_ys, \_nd  
Chr\_stm\_s l\_ghts. \_th\_r \_xp\_rts \_ls\_ \_ff\_r\_d gr\_\_t  
\_dv\_c\_. \_n\_ s\_\_d \_t w\_s g\_\_d t\_ th\_nk \_h\_\_d t\_  
r\_d\_c\_ w\_st\_. Sh\_ s\_\_d \_n\_ \_d\_\_ w\_s t\_ b\_y  
"\_xp\_r\_\_nc\_s \_v\_r st\_ff". Th\_s m\_\_ns b\_y\_ng s\_m\_\_n\_  
\_ t\_ck\_t t\_ s\_\_ \_ pl\_y \_r c\_nc\_rt, \_nst\_\_d \_f b\_y\_ng  
\_ pr\_s\_nt th\_t c\_m\_s \_n l\_ts \_f p\_ck\_g\_ng \_nd \_  
c\_rdb\_\_rd b\_x. Sh\_ \_ls\_ r\_c\_mm\_nd\_d g\_v\_ng p\_\_pl\_  
d\_g\_t\_l c\_rds \_nd g\_ft c\_rds.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

there are many holidays around the end of the year these involve parties family gettogethers and the giving of gifts however celebrations for christmas hanukkah kwanzaa and the new year can create a lot of trash the usas environmental protection agency estimates that household waste increases by 25 per cent over the holiday period miriam holsinger copresident of eureka recycling urges us to carefully separate what we throw away she said it really does make a difference if you just take a little extra time to put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin engineering professor dan hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in the first place

various experts have reported on how best to deal with holiday waste professor hoornweg advised people to be aware of and follow the recycling policies in their town he said different places have different rules ms holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away things like electronics toys and christmas lights other experts also offered great advice one said it was good to think ahead to reduce waste she said one idea was to buy experiences over stuff this means buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a cardboard box she also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

There are many holidays around the end of the year. These involve parties, family get-togethers, and the giving of gifts. However, celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year can create a lot of trash. The USA's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases by 25 percent over the holiday period. Miriam Holsinger, co-president of Eureka Recycling, urges us to carefully separate what we throw away. She said: "It really does make a difference if you just take a little extra time to put those boxes and those bottles and cans in the blue bin." Engineering professor Dan Hoornweg said we should avoid producing waste as much as possible in the first place. Various experts have reported on how best to deal with holiday waste. Professor Hoornweg advised people to be aware of and follow the recycling policies in their town. He said different places have different rules. Ms Holsinger asked people to be careful when they throw away things like electronics, toys, and Christmas lights. Other experts also offered great advice. One said it was good to think ahead to reduce waste. She said one idea was to buy "experiences over stuff". This means buying someone a ticket to see a play or concert, instead of buying a present that comes in lots of packaging and a cardboard box. She also recommended giving people digital cards and gift cards.

## FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

Write about **waste and trash** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]



# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260101-holiday-waste.html>

We should all buy fewer things. Discuss.

[illegible]

# 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. WASTE AND TRASH:** Make a poster about waste and trash. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. BUYING LESS:** Write a magazine article about all of us buying less so that we can reduce waste and trash. 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 waste and trash. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can reduce it. 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. e    3. d    4. a    5. f    6. g    7. b  
8. k    9. h    10. i    11. n    12. m    13. j    14. l

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- At the end of the year
- Trash
- Twenty-five per cent more
- In the blue bin
- Producing waste
- Recycling policies
- Rules
- Think ahead
- Experiences
- Digital cards and gift cards

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

- Holidays around the end of the year.
- Waste increases by 25% over the holiday period.
- We carefully separate what we throw away.
- It really does make a big difference.
- Avoid producing waste as much as possible.
- He said different places have different rules.
- Be careful when they throw away things.
- One idea was to buy experiences over stuff.
- Buying someone a ticket to see a play.
- She also recommended giving people digital cards.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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