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Level 2 – 20th February 2025

Noise-cancelling headphones may cause hearing problems

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-2.html>

Today, we see many young people wearing headphones or earbuds everywhere. They are becoming very popular. However, a report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing problems. The BBC interviewed doctors and hearing specialists at five UK hospitals. The doctors told the BBC that many young patients are finding it more difficult to process sounds. The patients say they can hear sounds, but they're not sure where they are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could be the problem.

Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at a college in London, said more and more young people are complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many kinds of sounds. This is to help us focus on and decide which sounds are important. Our ears must filter out unimportant sounds. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. She said headphones may cause problems in hearing spoken words.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgkjvr7x5x6o>
<https://nypost.com/2025/02/17/health/doctors-link-noise-canceling-headphones-to-rising-brain-condition/>
<https://www.ndtv.com/feature/are-noise-cancelling-headphones-causing-hearing-issues-in-young-people-report-reveals-7736886>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. many young people wearing | a. specialists |
| 2. They are becoming very | b. the BBC |
| 3. a report from | c. are coming from |
| 4. earphones could lead to hearing | d. headphones |
| 5. hearing | e. be the problem |
| 6. more difficult to | f. problems |
| 7. they're not sure where they | g. process sounds |
| 8. earphones could | h. popular |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. complaining about poor | a. are suffering |
| 2. This is to help us | b. are important |
| 3. decide which sounds | c. hearing |
| 4. filter out | d. words |
| 5. a difference between hearing | e. focus |
| 6. We can see that listening skills | f. beeping |
| 7. cars | g. and listening |
| 8. hearing spoken | h. unimportant sounds |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-2.html>

Today, we see many (1) _____ headphones or earbuds everywhere. They are (2) _____. However, a report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead (3) _____. The BBC interviewed doctors and hearing specialists at five UK hospitals. The doctors told the BBC that (4) _____ are finding it more difficult to process sounds. The patients say they can hear sounds, but they're (5) _____ they are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could (6) _____.

Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist (7) _____ in London, said more and more young people are complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many (8) _____. This is to help us focus on and decide which sounds are important. Our ears (9) _____ unimportant sounds. Dr Almeida said: "There is (10) _____ hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist said we can (11) _____ important sounds, like cars beeping. She said headphones may cause problems in (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-2.html>

Today, we see many young people wearing headphones or earbuds everywhere. They are becoming very popular. However, a report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing problems. The BBC interviewed doctors and hearing specialists at five UK hospitals. The doctor told the BBC that many young patients are finding it more difficult to process sounds. The patients say they can hear sounds, but they're not sure where they are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could be the problem. Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at a college in London, said more and more young people are complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many kinds of sounds. This is to help us focus on and decide which sounds are important. Our ears must filter out unimportant sounds. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. She said headphones may cause problems in hearing spoken words.

HEADPHONES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Headphones 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) _____

