

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210325-stink-bugs.html>

There are many things that farmers have to worry about. Some farmers worry about a lack of rain. Others worry about pests that eat the crops. Farmers in the UK have a new pest to worry about - stink bugs. For the first time, stink bugs have arrived in the UK and they are causing farmers trouble. The stink bugs came from either China, Japan or Korea. They are not native to the UK. The smelly insects are now posing a threat to fruit and vegetable crops in the south of England. The insects get their name from the bad smell they create when they feel they are in danger. Stink bugs were accidentally introduced to the USA in the mid-1990s and are now a problem for farmers in 44 states.

Stink bugs feed by piercing the surface of fruits and vegetables and then sucking out the juice. This makes the fruit rotten where the insects pierce the skin. It means farmers cannot sell the crops. The fruit quite often ends up as juice. Max Barclay, an insect expert, said there is no risk to human health from the insects feeding on fruit and vegetables. He said: "If you eat a damaged fruit, there's no risk to your health. The fruit just doesn't look beautiful, so the sale value is reduced." He said the species has a wide diet and can eat over one hundred different types of plants. He added that: "With climate change and global trade, these stories are going to become more frequent."

Sources: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2021/march/monitoring-stink-bugs-to-anticipate-the-future.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/01/uk-scientists-confirm-arrival-of-brown-marmorated-stink-bugs>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/stink-bugs-invasive-species-crops-b1809209.html>

WARM-UPS

1. STINK BUGS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about stink bugs. 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?

worry / farmers / rain / crops / pests / stink / bugs / fruit / danger / vegetables /
feed / juice / insect / expert / risk / human health / beautiful / plants / global trade

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

3. CONTROL: Students A **strongly** believe we should kill all pests; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PESTS: What do you know about these pests? How big a pest are they? What can we do to control them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How Big a Pest	How to Control Them
Stink bugs			
Pigeons			
Mice			
Weeds			
Cockroaches			
Elephants			

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

6. CROPS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important crops at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Wheat
- Corn
- Avocados
- Coffee
- Cocoa
- Rice
- Bananas
- Potatoes

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. lack | a. Smell really bad. |
| 2. pest | b. Being without something or not having enough of something. |
| 3. crops | c. Plants that are grown as food on farms, especially a grain, fruit, or vegetable. |
| 4. stink | d. By chance' not on purpose. |
| 5. native | e. Brought a new plant, animal, or disease to a place and establish it there. |
| 6. accidentally | f. An insect or other animal that attacks and damages plants growing on farms, food, farm animals, etc. |
| 7. introduced | g. A person or thing originally from a particular place. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 8. feed | h. Making something go into the mouth using a straw or other thing. |
| 9. piercing | i. Happening or done many times, in many cases, or in quickly together. |
| 10. surface | j. A situation where there is danger. |
| 11. sucking | k. The outside part or top layer of something. |
| 12. rotten | l. Of food becoming bad. |
| 13. risk | m. Give food to. |
| 14. frequent | n. Of something sharp going into or through something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210325-stink-bugs.html>

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

- a. The article says all farmers worry about a lack of rain. **T / F**
- b. The article says some farmers worry about pets eating their crops. **T / F**
- c. The stink bugs are causing problems for farmers in the north of England. **T / F**
- d. Stink bugs are causing problems for farmers in 44 American states. **T / F**
- e. Stink bugs feed by sucking the juice out of fruit. **T / F**
- f. Fruit that stink bugs eat often gets turned into juice. **T / F**
- g. Stink bugs can eat over 100 different types of plants. **T / F**
- h. The article says stink bugs really like climate change. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. worry | a. outside |
| 2. lack | b. creating |
| 3. trouble | c. lessened |
| 4. posing | d. problems |
| 5. feel | e. harmed |
| 6. surface | f. be anxious |
| 7. ends up | g. regular |
| 8. damaged | h. sense |
| 9. reduced | i. shortage |
| 10. frequent | j. finishes |

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. There are many things that farmers | a. introduced to the USA |
| 2. Some farmers worry about a lack | b. a threat to fruit |
| 3. Others worry about pests that | c. become more frequent |
| 4. The smelly insects are now posing | d. of rain |
| 5. Stink bugs were accidentally | e. the surface of fruits |
| 6. Stink bugs feed by piercing | f. risk to your health |
| 7. This makes the fruit | g. have to worry about |
| 8. If you eat a damaged fruit, there's no | h. types of plants |
| 9. eat over one hundred different | i. eat the crops |
| 10. these stories are going to | j. rotten |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210325-stink-bugs.html>

1. What do some farmers worry about a lack of?
2. Which three countries might the stink bugs have come from?
3. When do stink bugs release their smell?
4. When were stink bugs introduced into the USA?
5. In how many U.S. states are stink bugs posing a problem?
6. What do stink bugs pierce when they feed?
7. How much risk to human health did an insect expert say there was?
8. What did the insect expert say is reduced if a stink bug eats fruit?
9. How many types of plants can stink bugs eat?
10. What might make these stories more frequent besides climate change?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210325-stink-bugs.html>

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

stink	bug

- 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">• many• first• native• posing• name• 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• surface• skin• juice• risk• hundred• stories
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STINK BUGS 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 'stink'?
3. What do you know about pests?
4. What is the world's biggest pest?
5. Can a human be a pest?
6. What do you know about stink bugs?
7. How can farmers protect their crops against pests?
8. What are the most important crops in your country?
9. How can governments stop non-native pests from entering the country?
10. What is your favourite insect?

Stink bugs arrive in UK and threaten crops – 25th March, 2021
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STINK BUGS 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 'bug'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you want to know about stink bugs?
15. What would you do if you saw a stink bug?
16. What do you think of the name 'stink bug'?
17. Would you buy fruit that is 'not beautiful'?
18. How is climate change affecting farmers?
19. What is your most-hated insect?
20. What questions would you like to ask a farmer?