

‘BUG OFF!’

8th August 202X

Today must have been the creepiest day of my life—a day plagued by really horrifying creatures. Now, I’ve just settled myself on the

5 sofa after a long day of work and hours of non-stop cleaning, simply because of my awful morning encounter with some rodents and cockroaches. Rawr...the management office has turned a blind eye to my complaints! All my neighbours think we had better do some clean-up by

10 ourselves rather than wait for the snail-like management office to follow up on this matter..

I was really shocked and disgusted when I saw two giant rodents and a troop of cockroaches outside my flat when I left home for work. They fled in the direction of the backstairs as soon as I took a step closer. Even

15 more nauseating were the cockroach eggs and pellets of rodents that I spotted on the floor. They were really disgusting! I guess

I’m going to see more of these eggs and pellets during the summer, as the average temperature has been rising steadily these years, and pests just love hot and

20 humid weather! Back in the 1970s, when I was still in my teens, I had innumerable sleepless, sweaty nights as my family could not afford air-con, and I had been through a terrible time squeezing in a small subdivided flat, where the hygiene was so bad that terrifying pests like mosquitoes,

25 rodents, and cockroaches all went out, spreading different kinds of diseases. At that time, public health concerned us so much that everyone was very serious about the preventive measures against rat-bite fever and spotted fevers. Today, at one

30 point, I was scared that those horrifying days would return.

Let’s Think!

1. Have you ever got sick because of pests?
2. What measures would you take to reduce the number of pests at your home?



More to Take Away

In Hong Kong, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for health education, environmental hygiene services, food safety, hawker management and pest control in public areas.

To me, mosquitoes are definitely the most annoying pest of summer. I have quite a collection of beautiful potted plants on the balcony, but sometimes I forget to remove the stagnant water in the saucers under them, especially after rainy days. Then mosquitoes

35

40

would buzz in my ears, as if telling me they are enjoying their night-time feasts. My wife would then blame me for bringing so many mosquitoes in, being very apprehensive about getting infected with malaria, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and Zika virus...

45

I have to say my daughter Katy, who believes in pseudo-scientific beliefs like 'messy people are productive geniuses', is 'the pest of the pest'! In spite of my constant nagging and lecturing, she never tidies her bed, desk, or wardrobe...so unwanted visitors like bed bugs and dust mites have long been her companions. Crazy still, she snacks on her bed, so cockroaches are no strangers to her. I'm sure she knows that cockroaches carry pathogens and contaminate food. She must be their commander, or she would not have offered them a sanctuary to breed, right here in my flat! Summer is the peak season for these intruders on my territory to expand their power. I don't want my family to get food poisoning!

50

Seeing those filthy creatures moving about near my flat is distressing and infuriating enough, but seeing them in it, or in my daughter's bedroom, is much more so. Besides anger and unease, a crying shame is burning inside me. Why is my daughter so stubborn and inconsiderate? Why have I, as a father, failed again and again in parenting my own daughter? Enough is enough. I will make her participate in the upcoming weekly neighbourhood clean-up, one way or another...

60

~560 words



STEAM

Mosquitoes have a sophisticated system of thin needles that help them locate blood vessels. To suck blood out of them, each time they jab 6 needles into our skin. Aside from inflammation and itchy bumps, they can leave behind viruses and parasites that cause diseases.

Looking into Grammar

Adjectives are used to describe nouns and pronouns. They usually come right before a noun or follow a linking verb such as 'be' or 'seem'. Most adjectives are gradable and adverbs like 'very' or 'rather' can be used to modify these adjectives. Ungradable adjectives only take adverbs like 'really' and 'absolutely'.

✗ This story is a bit perfect. It has a very excellent plot.

✓ This story is absolutely perfect. It has a really excellent plot.

? Circle THREE ungradable adjectives in lines 1-8.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the blog entry. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. The writer of the blog entry is _____ the management office and _____ it.
- A. impressed by...appreciates
 B. satisfied with...wants help from
 C. angry with...does not want to seek help from
 D. displeased with...does not expect much from
2. The writer is in his _____.
- A. twenties B. forties
 C. sixties D. nineties
3. The writer thinks _____.
- I. the management office will not follow up on his complaints
II. he himself is responsible for his daughter's behaviour
III. mosquitoes are the most terrifying pest
IV. his daughter is a productive genius
- A. I and II
 B. I and III
 C. II and III
 D. II and IV
4. Which of the following is TRUE about Hong Kong five decades ago?
- A. There was no hygiene problem.
 B. Public health was not a concern.
 C. It was much hotter then than now.
 D. Not all families could afford air-con.
5. Read line 50. The word 'them' refers to _____.
- A. messy people
 B. different kinds of pests
 C. cockroaches
 D. pathogens
6. In general, the blog entry is about the writer's _____.
- I. unpleasant experiences with pests
II. neighbourhood
III. feelings and reflections
IV. family members
- A. I and II
 B. I and III
 C. I, II and IV
 D. I, III and IV



Strategy

6 Skim through each paragraph to identify its main idea first.

3 Note that the keywords in each statement may appear in different wording in the blog entry.

Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/✗)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4 Where in the entry does the writer mention about the past?

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the blog entry. For question 2, answer in a complete sentence.



1. Match the harmful impacts brought about by pests to the pests mentioned in the blog entry.

Pest concerned	Potential hazard
(i)	carry pathogens and may cause food contamination
(ii)	may spread malaria, dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis
(iii)	may spread rat-bite fever



2. Read line 17. Think of a pronoun that can replace the phrase ‘these eggs and pellets’.

2 Consider whether to use a subject pronoun or an object pronoun.

3. In paragraph 4, the writer uses the word ‘intruders’ to refer to the cockroaches. Find a phrase that the writer uses to refer to pests in general in the same paragraph.

4. Why is the writer’s daughter described as ‘the pest of the pest’?

- A. She is lazy as she never tidies her room.
- B. She does harm to the family by attracting pests to her room.
- C. She never feels guilty about being dirty and messy.
- D. all of the above

5. Complete the note by filling in ONE word in each blank.

5 Try to step into the writer’s shoes and understand his thoughts and expectations for Katy.

Katy,

I’ll be away for a short business trip. Please remember your promises to me. I’m writing this note to remind you that the (i) _____ clean-up is held every Saturday morning. Make sure you (ii) _____ in it.

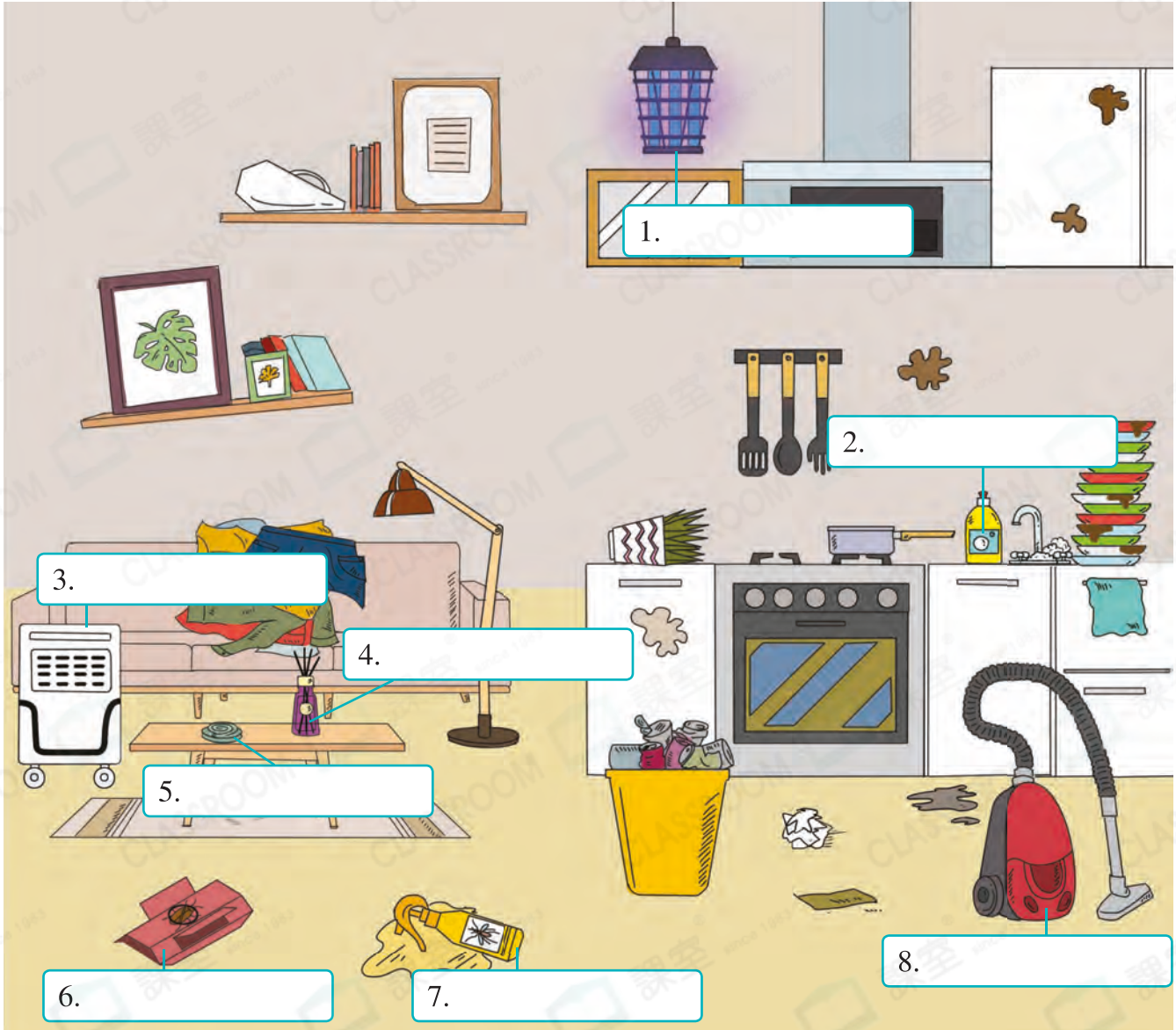
You should not feel like being pushed to do something that is not your (iii) _____, as public hygiene concerns the public, including you and me, and so we are all (iv) _____ for it. I’m not expecting to see (v) _____ creatures like rodents and cockroaches again. Can’t wait to see your effort.

Dad

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the items below with the names of household products from the word box.

mosquito coil bug zapper insect repellent
cockroach bait vacuum cleaner fragrance dispenser
dehumidifier detergent



Let's Discuss!

1. Do you clean up your home regularly?
2. How long does it take each time and what household products do you use?

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the diary entry below with the appropriate names of household products introduced on the previous page.

18th March, 20XX (Sunday)



Today, I finally moved into my new flat. Although I'm quite excited by the idea of spending many comfortable days in it, there're many little things that need tidying up before I could do that. After all, it hasn't been occupied for a long time: I'm the first person to live there in many years.

So I spent most of the day doing chores. After washing the new dishes with (1) _____, I threw all my old clothes into the washing machine. But the house's just too damp for laundry: they're still pretty wet at the end of the long day. I'm considering getting myself a (2) _____, but let's see if it'll get better with the change of season.

Thinking that sweeping the floor would be a good way to kill the time needed for the laundry to dry, I ended up doing that the whole afternoon. Still, the house didn't seem any cleaner to me. Do I need a (3) _____? Ugh, how much more do I have to spend on these machines?

Meanwhile, it's been raining all day. This may account for the laundry issue, and—most annoying of all—the presence of the insects! I could not see them, but I heard them buzzing beside my ears. Not only did the (4) _____ I set burning not work, it also gave out a strong smoky smell that would not go away even after all the windows were opened. I think it will stay forever unless I use a (5) _____!

I guess I need something stronger for those insects: a (6) _____ that shocks the life out of them, or an (7) _____ that sends them lying on their back with curled-up legs. That's how much I hate them. And, just to make sure that those most disgusting insects will have no place in my dream house, I will place a (8) _____ in every corner of it.

Phew! So many things to do, just for a change of scene! I hope there won't be a second time.