
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Review

A solution to plastic pollution?

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BBC World Service

The story

US and British scientists have created a plastic-digesting enzyme that can help in the fight against plastic pollution. They've made an improved version of a natural enzyme that's evolved the ability to feed on plastic.

Tests show that the new engineered protein could break down one of the most popular forms of plastic widely used by the food and drinks industry.

Vocabulary

inadvertently
unintentionally

devour

eat eagerly

usher in

(here) cause an activity or process to start

Language challenge

Scientists have created a protein that can break down plastic. 'Break down' is a verb with many meanings. Which of the following is NOT a meaning of 'break down'?

- a) stop working or functioning
- b) lose control of one's feelings
- c) suddenly begin something
- d) separate into component parts

Answer

c) suddenly begin something