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The dirtiest places in the office

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

25th May, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

Where do you think the dirtiest place in the office is? The toilet? The kitchen? Wrong. A new report says the place with the most germs and bacteria is the staff room. The place where we go to take a coffee break or have lunch or a chat. The report is from the company Kimberly-Clark. It checked all the rooms in buildings that had more than 3,000 employees. The researchers found that the dirtiest place in most buildings was the handle on the sink tap or faucet. This was where there were most germs.

Three other staff room areas were in the top five of the most unhygienic things to touch. The others are the water cooler button and the handles on the refrigerator and microwave oven. Also in the top five was the computer keyboard. Dr Charles Gerba told MSN: "The break room is really the center of germ transfer in the office.... Everything is shared in the break room." He added that the sponge many people use to clean their mug may be full of bacteria so they might be passing germs onto their own mug.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A new report | a. on the sink |
| 2. staff | b. or a chat |
| 3. have lunch | c. most germs |
| 4. buildings that had more than | d. says... |
| 5. the handle | e. 3,000 employees |
| 6. where there were | f. room |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the most unhygienic things | a. of bacteria |
| 2. microwave | b. to touch |
| 3. the computer | c. onto their own mug |
| 4. the center of germ | d. oven |
| 5. full | e. transfer |
| 6. passing germs | f. keyboard |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

Where do you think the dirtiest place _____? The toilet? The kitchen? Wrong. A new report _____ with the most _____ is the staff room. The place where we go to take a coffee break _____ a chat. The report is from the company Kimberly-Clark. It checked all the rooms in buildings that had more than _____. The researchers found that the dirtiest place in most buildings was the handle _____ or faucet. This was where there were most germs.

Three other staff room areas were _____ of the most unhygienic things to touch. The others are the water cooler _____ handles on the refrigerator and microwave oven. Also in the top five was the _____. Dr Charles Gerba told MSN: "The break room is _____ of germ transfer in the office.... Everything is shared in the break room." He added that _____ people use to clean their mug may be full of bacteria so they might be _____ onto their own mug.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

Where do you think the dirtiest place in the office is? The toilet? The kitchen? (1) _____. A new report says the place with the most germs and bacteria is the staff room. The place where we go to take a coffee (2) _____ or have lunch or a (3) _____. The report is from the company Kimberly-Clark. It checked (4) _____ the rooms in buildings that had more than 3,000 employees. The researchers found that the dirtiest place in most buildings was the handle on the (5) _____ tap or faucet. This (6) _____ where there were most germs.

Three other staff room areas were in the (7) _____ five of the most unhygienic things (8) _____ touch. The (9) _____ are the water cooler button and the handles on the refrigerator and microwave oven. Also in the top five was the computer keyboard. Dr Charles Gerba told MSN: "The break room is (10) _____ the center of germ transfer in the office.... Everything is (11) _____ in the break room." He added that the sponge many people use to clean their mug may be full of bacteria so they might be passing germs onto their (12) _____ mug.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) Bad | (b) Wrong | (c) Incorrectly |
| 2. | (a) break | (b) broken | (c) breakdown |
| 3. | (a) chart | (b) chant | (c) chat |
| 4. | (a) whole | (b) all | (c) every |
| 5. | (a) sink | (b) wink | (c) rink |
| 6. | (a) were | (b) be | (c) was |
| 7. | (a) high | (b) top | (c) up |
| 8. | (a) to | (b) as | (c) of |
| 9. | (a) another | (b) others | (c) other |
| 10. | (a) really | (b) realistic | (c) real |
| 11. | (a) shared | (b) shaved | (c) shamed |
| 12. | (a) possess | (b) have | (c) own |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the most germs and ibtearc
2. coffee rebka
3. It echdcek all the rooms
4. more than 3,000 meyoeslp
5. the dirtiest place in most dlusbiing
6. the sink tap or tcafue

Paragraph 2

7. fstaf room
8. unhygienic things to htcuo
9. arowmviec oven
10. computer dboaeykr
11. Everything is erdsah
12. psisagn germs onto their own mug

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120525-germs.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () chat. The report is from the company Kimberly-Clark. It checked all the rooms in buildings that had more
- () oven. Also in the top five was the computer keyboard. Dr Charles Gerba told MSN: "The break room is really
- () shared in the break room." He added that the sponge many people use to clean
- () than 3,000 employees. The researchers found that the dirtiest place in most
- () buildings was the handle on the sink tap or faucet. This was where there were most germs.
- () the center of germ transfer in the office.... Everything is
- () room. The place where we go to take a coffee break or have lunch or a
- (**1**) Where do you think the dirtiest place in the office is? The toilet? The kitchen?
- () Wrong. A new report says the place with the most germs and bacteria is the staff
- () their mug may be full of bacteria so they might be passing germs onto their own mug.
- () Three other staff room areas were in the top five of the most unhygienic things to
- () touch. The others are the water cooler button and the handles on the refrigerator and microwave

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. and with bacteria the most The germs place.

2. coffee break or have lunch or a chat Take a.

3. 3,000 Buildings employees more that than had.

4. faucet the sink The tap handle or on.

5. was germs were where This most there.

6. other staff room areas were in the top five Three.

7. touch most unhygienic Five things of to the.

8. center the of office germ transfer The in.

9. many to mug sponge use their The people clean.

10. mug might germs own They passing their be onto.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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. GERMS: Search the Internet and find more information about germs. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about germs. Include an imaginary interview with a germ. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a germs expert. Ask him/her three questions about germs. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.