

# 12 Bed Bugs Panic

France in Grip of Bed Bug Panic

LIVE ESL – APIBECI

HEALTH NEWS

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# Bed Bug Panic

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## Pre – Test

Complete the set of pre-assessment activities given below. Read instructions carefully.

### PRE – 01 | True or False Not Given

Listen to the audio carefully and determine whether the statements provided are True, False or Not Given based on the information you hear. Mark **True** if the statement is **correct**, mark **False** if the statement is **incorrect**, and **Not Given** if the information is **not mentioned** in the audio.



|  | TRUE                     | FALSE                    | NOT GIVEN                |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The country is facing an invasion of bed bugs.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Bed bugs were supposed to have been killed off in the 1980s. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Cockroaches have been popping up everywhere.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 French authorities are not alarmed about the issue.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### PRE – 02 | Re-Tell

Listen to the audio carefully and **take notes** on the main points and key details. After the audio ends, **re-tell what you heard in your own words**. Focus on summarizing the main ideas, supporting details, and any examples mentioned.

## 01

## Reading



The country is facing an invasion. An invasion of bed bugs. The blood sucking insects are back in Paris and in other cities. Bed bugs were supposed to have been killed off in the 1950s but they're back with a **vengeance** in hotels, in trains and cinema halls. The little creatures have been popping up everywhere. Apparently French authorities are alarmed. They're trying to address this **outbreak** on a war footing. Emergency meetings are being held all over France. But the question is, Is this really a new phenomenon or has it become a big deal for different reasons? After all the Olympic games are coming to Paris next year and no country wants players to win bed bug bites instead of medals. Sofas, cushions, high speed trains, bed bugs seem to be everywhere like a **scourge** that has descended upon France. The French media is in a frenzy. They're pushing out one **doomsday** headline after the other and the people are panicking. This panic has spread to the lawmakers. The French Transportation Minister is holding meetings with transport operators. He says he wants to reassure and protect the public. The Paris city council is on high alert. A part of this panic revolves around the upcoming Paris Olympics next year. Tens of thousands of visitors are expected to come to Paris. They'll be put up in hotels around the city. Some will inevitably travel around the rest of France and the French people don't want their guests taking home bad memories and a bug infestation. Even though travelers may be part of the problem, the first reports of bed bug **infestations** are coming from

the big hotels, the Palaces, the five star hotels where there are no hygiene problems that's for sure. It's people who have traveled and brought back bed bugs and left them in the hotel. France was supposed to have gotten rid of bed bugs in the 1950s but people traveling to other parts of the world seem to have brought some back. Bed bugs can get into your luggage. They can make an overseas journey in your suitcase and then multiply once you get back home. But it's not just the foreign bugs that are infesting France. They have some tough homegrown varieties as well. After World War II, powerful insecticides like DDT was sprayed all over Europe. These did kill a lot of bed bugs but not all of them. Some insecticide **resistant** bugs survived and the ones you see today are their **descendants** making today's bugs very hard to kill. For years now bed bug numbers have been on the rise in France. Between 2017 and 2022, 11% of French homes had been infested. This is according to France's national health and sanitary body. They've been tracking this bedbug crisis for years. In fact in 2020, France even launched a bed bug information hotline to counter the **menace**. So why the sudden panic then? A bit media **hype** and social media videos are leading to the new wave of panic. There's no sudden invasion or infestation. It's a problem that's been decades in the making but that doesn't mean the new attention is unwelcome. Bed bugs may be relatively harmless but they are still pests. This new panic wave could finally lead to the bed bugs taking a long **dirt nap** AKA death.

# 02

## Activity

### A1 | Pair Me Up

Match the words on the first column to its corresponding meaning on the second column.

|             |          |          |  |
|-------------|----------|----------|--|
| VENGEANCE   | 1 _____  | <b>A</b> | a large number of animals and insects that carry a disease |
| OUTBREAK    | 2 _____  | <b>B</b> | action against someone in form of revenge                  |
| DOOMSDAY    | 3 _____  | <b>C</b> | a person or thing that causes great trouble                |
| INFESTATION | 4 _____  | <b>D</b> | not harmed or affected by something                        |
| RESISTANT   | 5 _____  | <b>E</b> | intensive publicity or promotion; exaggerated promotion    |
| DESCENDANTS | 6 _____  | <b>F</b> | a person or living being that developed from an ancestor   |
| SCOURGE     | 7 _____  | <b>G</b> | threat or danger   |
| MENACE      | 8 _____  | <b>H</b> | death  |
| HYPE        | 9 _____  | <b>I</b> | a sudden appearance of something                           |
| DIRT NAP    | 10 _____ | <b>J</b> | end of the world   |

### A2 | Right Words

Complete the sentence by choosing the word that fits the context. Choose from the box below.

|          |           |           |         |          |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| multiply | operators | supposed  | luggage | outbreak |
| doomsday | held      | vengeance | frenzy  | reassure |

- Bed bugs were \_\_\_\_\_ to have been killed off in the 1950s but they're back with a \_\_\_\_\_ in hotels, trains and cinema halls.
- They're trying to address this \_\_\_\_\_ on a war footing. Emergency meetings are being \_\_\_\_\_ all over France.
- The French media is in a \_\_\_\_\_. They're pushing out one \_\_\_\_\_ headline after the other and the people are panicking.
- The France Transportation Minister is holding meetings with transport \_\_\_\_\_. He says he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ and protect the public.
- Bed bugs can get into your \_\_\_\_\_. They can make an overseas journey in your suitcase and then \_\_\_\_\_ once you get back home.

## 03

## Speak Up

You are welcome to authentically share your thoughts as you go through the following questions.

**1** What do you think would be the best solution for the bed bug infestation in France?

**3** In your opinion, what could be the reasons behind this outbreak in France?

**2** Should people panic about this infestation?

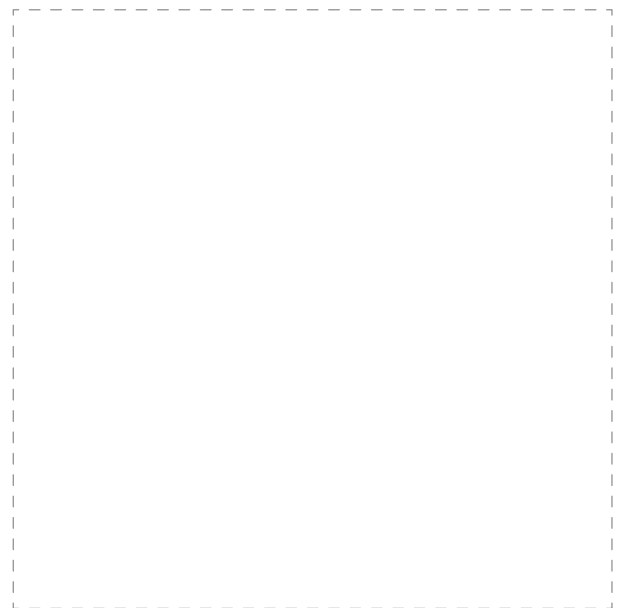
**4** What is your advice for travellers who are planning to visit France?




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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What you ignore today will knock on your doors tomorrow.



The Creative Box; Draw something, write something, do anything to this box – let yourself be free with the box. 

## KEY ANSWERS

1B 2I 3J 4A 5D 6F 7C 8G 9E 10H

1 supposed  
vengeance

2 outbreak  
held

3 frenzy  
doomsday

4 operators  
reassure

5 luggage  
multiply

LESSON SUMMARY

**READING + LISTENING + SPEAKING**

**1HR**

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ASSESSMENT PROFICIENCY INFORMATION

**STUDENT**

**SCORE**

**DATE**



SCAN FOR EDUCARE.

