

CHAPTER 4

Bedbugs



Preview Questions

- **Pests are animals that cause problems for people – for example, rats. What are some other examples of pests?**
- **Have you ever had a problem with a pest? Describe it.**

The tiny bedbug **has become** a huge problem for thousands of people in the United States. This rice-sized pest **has moved** into hotels, apartments, stores, and movie theaters around the country. Public health officials still **haven't found** a way to stop it.

From the 1950s until recently, people **hadn't had** a big problem with bedbugs. But that **has changed**. Why **have** the bugs **returned**? The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) **has been studying** the problem for the past few years and lists the following reasons: 1) People travel more today, increasing the chance that bedbugs will come home with them; 2) Most people **have never had** bedbugs, so they don't recognize the problem early; 3) Pesticides that **had worked** in the past don't work today; 4) Officials **haven't found** a successful pesticide yet.

The good news, says the CDC, is that the bugs **have not been spreading** disease—they usually just leave small bites that itch. The bad news is the bugs **have caused** psychological problems for people. Some people **have been** unable to sleep at night because bug bites. Others **have felt** embarrassed about the problem and don't want to invite friends to their house. And others **have experienced** money problems because they've **had** to replace furniture or even move out their homes. Until officials find an answer, this little bug will continue to be a big pest.

Reading Comprehension

Circle "T" for true and "F" for false.

1. Bedbugs only hide in beds.

T

F

2. The bedbug problem began in the 1950s.

T

F

3. Pesticides for bedbugs used to work, but they don't work now.

T

F

4. Bedbug bites itch, but they don't make you sick.

T

F

Welcome to the Neighborhood

1. Last year I moved into the Sunset Apartments. At first, I loved my new apartment. Then I found bedbugs in my bed and in my couch. I've tried many different pesticides, but they ____ worked.

a. hadn't

b. haven't

c. hasn't

2. I called the city health office. A worker told me they haven't ____ an effective pesticide yet

a. been finding

b. found

c. find

Welcome to the Neighborhood

3. I talked to my neighbor Ray. He ____ fighting bedbugs since last summer, he said.

- a. have been **b. has been** c. was

4. When Ray moved into the Sunset Apartments two years ago, the apartments were fine. The bedbugs ____ arrived yet.

- a. hadn't** b. haven't c. didn't

Welcome to the Neighborhood

5. The bedbugs have become a huge problem in our neighborhood. Even the movie theater on the corner ____ closed its doors recently because of them.

a. has

b. have

c. has been

6. I've ____ thinking about moving, but moving is expensive.

a. be

b. am

c. been

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