

“Reading Series 2 - Fracking” @ <http://www.youtube.com/ESL4free>

The word “defy” in this context is closest in meaning to..

- A. include.
- B. resist.
- C. follow.
- D. exclude.

**Reading Text - Fracking:**

States and local government all over the world are under pressure to allow fracking, a new and controversial method of gas extraction. However, there is often inadequate time to carry out a thorough investigation of the health risks involved. Up until now authorities have relied on the gas industry's blanket assurances of safety. Many consider this an unwise course of action because the energy industry routinely tries to conflate the safety of vertical gas drilling (in use for over a century) with horizontal fracking (in use for a little over a decade), a method which deploys a potent arsenal of chemicals so hazardous they **defy** known waste treatment methods.

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**SOME WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS IN THE TEXT**

**Blanket assurances:** promises or pledges that covers all possibilities.  
**Conflate:** join two or more things into one complete whole.  
**Controversial:** opinions or events that causes a lot of debate and disagreement.

**Deploys:** uses; puts into position.  
**Potent arsenal:** powerful methods of achieving something.