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Sleeping next to pets can make you sick

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

New research suggests that sleeping next to your pet increases your risk of getting sick. Researchers from the University of California-Davis believe pet owners have a greater chance of catching diseases as serious as the bubonic plague, an infection that killed 75 million people across Europe in the fourteenth century. Professor Bruno Chamel did, however, say that although this is extremely rare, it does happen. He said people are safer if they keep Kitty and Fido next to their bed, not on it. He wrote in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*: "There are private places in the household, and I think our pets should not go beyond next to the bed....Having a stuffed animal in your bed is fine, not a real one."

This research will upset many people who love cuddling up to their pet or getting their face licked by them. Professor Chamel reckons that because people are having fewer children, pets have become replacements. More than 60 per cent of American households have a pet and up to 62 per cent of pet owners let their animals sleep with them, according to Chamel's research. Chamel has already received many e-mails strongly disagreeing with his research. They say they have slept with their pets throughout their lives and are as healthy as anyone else. Larry Kornegay, president of the American Veterinary Association, agreed, saying: "The benefits of having a pet, whether or not you sleep with it, far outweigh the negatives."

WARM-UPS

1. PETS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about pets. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

research / getting sick / infection / extremely rare / private places / stuffed animals / upset people / cuddling / fewer children / households / pet owners / negatives

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. GOOD PETS: What are the pros and cons of these? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	Pros	Cons
Dog		
Cat		
Snake		
Rabbit		
Parrot		
Goldfish		

4. PETS ON BED: Students A **strongly** believe sleeping with pets is not healthy; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. PET USES: Why are pets useful? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most useful at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Companionship
- They teach kids responsibility
- They guard the house
- They're cute
- They're fun
- They're good to show friends
- They can keep you warm at night
- They teach us to love animals

6. SICK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'sick'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A new study says you could catch bubonic plague sleeping next to pets. T / F
- b. The bubonic plague killed 7.5 million Europeans 700 years ago. T / F
- c. A researcher said it's OK to keep a pet near your bed. T / F
- d. The researcher said sleeping with a stuffed animal is OK. T / F
- e. The article says pet owners got upset when pets licked their face. T / F
- f. The article says people nowadays are having pets instead of children. T / F
- g. People told the professor that sleeping with their pet prolongs their life. T / F
- h. A top vet said the negatives of pet ownership outweighed the positives. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. increases | a. occur |
| 2. getting | b. homes |
| 3. chance | c. snuggling |
| 4. happen | d. risk |
| 5. beyond | e. passionately |
| 6. cuddling | f. raises |
| 7. replacements | g. positives |
| 8. households | h. substitutes |
| 9. strongly | i. becoming |
| 10. benefits | j. farther than |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. increases your risk | a. catching diseases |
| 2. have a greater chance of | b. else |
| 3. an infection that killed | c. up to their pet |
| 4. this is extremely | d. to Chamel's research |
| 5. a stuffed | e. replacements |
| 6. people who love cuddling | f. of getting sick |
| 7. pets have become | g. negatives |
| 8. according | h. 75 million people |
| 9. as healthy as anyone | i. animal |
| 10. far outweigh the | j. rare |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

New research (1) _____ that sleeping next to your pet increases your risk of getting sick. Researchers from the University of California-Davis believe pet owners have a (2) _____ chance of catching diseases as (3) _____ as the bubonic plague, an infection that killed 75 million people across Europe in the fourteenth century. Professor Bruno Chamel did, (4) _____, say that although this is (5) _____ rare, it does happen. He said people are safer if they keep Kitty and Fido next to their bed, not on it. He wrote in the (6) _____ Emerging Infectious Diseases: "There are private places in the household, and I think our pets should not go (7) _____ next to the bed....Having a (8) _____ animal in your bed is fine, not a real one."

journal
however
beyond
greater
stuffed
suggests
extremely
serious

This research will (9) _____ many people who love cuddling up to their pet or getting their face (10) _____ by them. Professor Chamel reckons that because people are having (11) _____ children, pets have become replacements. More than 60 per cent of American households have a pet and up to 62 per cent of pet owners let their animals sleep with them, (12) _____ to Chamel's research. Chamel has already received many e-mails (13) _____ disagreeing with his research. They say they have slept with their pets throughout their lives and are as healthy as (14) _____ else. Larry Kornegay, president of the American Veterinary Association, agreed, saying: "The (15) _____ of having a pet, whether or not you sleep with it, far (16) _____ the negatives."

benefits
according
licked
anyone
outweigh
upset
strongly
fewer

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

New research suggests that sleeping next to your pet _____ getting sick. Researchers from the University of California-Davis believe pet owners _____ catching diseases as serious as the bubonic plague, _____ 75 million people across Europe in the fourteenth century. Professor Bruno Chamel did, however, say that although _____, it does happen. He said people are safer if they keep Kitty and Fido next to their bed, not on it. He wrote in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*: "There are private places in the household, and I think our pets should _____ to the bed.... _____ in your bed is fine, not a real one."

This research will upset many people who love _____ pet or getting _____ them. Professor Chamel reckons that because people are _____, pets have become replacements. More than 60 per cent of American households have a pet and up to 62 per cent of pet owners let their animals sleep with them, according to Chamel's research. Chamel has already received many e-mails _____ his research. They say they have slept with their pets throughout their lives and are as _____. Larry Kornegay, president of the American Veterinary Association, agreed, saying: "The benefits of having a pet, whether or not you sleep with it, _____."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'pet' and 'owner'.

pet	owner
------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• suggests• greater• killed• extremely• safer• stuffed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cuddling• fewer• 62• strongly• throughout• far
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STUDENT PETS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pets in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

PETS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pet'?
- c) What do you think of pets?
- d) Do you think it's OK to sleep with animals?
- e) What do you think of Bruno Chamel's research?
- f) Why do people have pets?
- g) What animals make the best pets?
- h) Is it better to sleep with a stuffed animal (cuddly toy) than a real animal?
- i) Is it OK for pets to sleep with children?
- j) Have you heard of a pet making its owner sick?

Sleeping next to pets can make you sick – 25th January, 2011
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PETS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you like animals licking your face?
- c) What do you think of people replacing having children with getting pets?
- d) Are you surprised that 60% of American homes have pets?
- e) Should health authorities tell people not to sleep with pets?
- f) Is there a difference between pet owners and people who don't want a pet?
- g) Is having a pet cruel to animals?
- h) What are the advantages of having a pet?
- i) What are the downsides of having a pet?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Professor Bruno Chamel?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

New research suggests that sleeping next to your pet increases your risk (1) _____ getting sick. Researchers from the University of California-Davis believe pet owners have a greater chance (2) _____ catching diseases as serious as the bubonic plague, an infection that (3) _____ 75 million people across Europe in the fourteenth century. Professor Bruno Chamel did, however, say that although this is (4) _____ rare, it does happen. He said people are safer if they keep Kitty and Fido next to their bed, not on it. He wrote in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*: "There are private places in the household, and I think our pets should not go (5) _____ next to the bed....Having a (6) _____ animal in your bed is fine, not a real one."

This research will upset many people who love cuddling (7) _____ to their pet or getting their face licked by (8) _____. Professor Chamel reckons that because people are having fewer children, pets (9) _____ become replacements. More than 60 per cent of American households have a pet and up to 62 per cent of pet owners let their animals sleep with them, (10) _____ to Chamel's research. Chamel has already received many e-mails strongly disagreeing with his research. They say they have slept with their pets throughout their lives and are as healthy as anyone (11) _____. Larry Kornegay, president of the American Veterinary Association, agreed, saying: "The benefits of having a pet, whether or not you sleep with it, (12) _____ outweigh the negatives."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) to | (d) at |
| 2. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) in | (d) so |
| 3. | (a) kills | (b) killing | (c) killed | (d) killer |
| 4. | (a) extreme | (b) extremity | (c) extremes | (d) extremely |
| 5. | (a) behind | (b) beneath | (c) beside | (d) beyond |
| 6. | (a) stuffing | (b) stuffs | (c) stuffed | (d) stuff |
| 7. | (a) up | (b) down | (c) in | (d) out |
| 8. | (a) these | (b) them | (c) they | (d) those |
| 9. | (a) are | (b) do | (c) have | (d) be |
| 10. | (a) according | (b) accord | (c) accordingly | (d) accordion |
| 11. | (a) more | (b) person | (c) healthily | (d) else |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) far | (c) fir | (d) fur |

WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1101/110125-pets.html>

Write about **pets** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner’s paper.

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. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about sleeping with pets. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PETS: Make a poster about pets. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. RESEARCH: Write a magazine article about this research. Include imaginary interviews with a pet owner and his/her pet.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to an animal expert. Ask him/her three questions about sleeping with pets. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. T d. T e. F f. T g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. increases | a. raises |
| 2. getting | b. becoming |
| 3. chance | c. risk |
| 4. happen | d. occur |
| 5. beyond | e. farther than |
| 6. cuddling | f. snuggling |
| 7. replacements | g. substitutes |
| 8. households | h. homes |
| 9. strongly | i. passionately |
| 10. benefits | j. positives |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. increases your risk | a. of getting sick |
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| 3. an infection that killed | c. 75 million people |
| 4. this is extremely | d. rare |
| 5. a stuffed | e. animal |
| 6. people who love cuddling | f. up to their pet |
| 7. pets have become | g. replacements |
| 8. according | h. to Chamel's research |
| 9. as healthy as anyone | i. else |
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GAP FILL:

Sleeping next to pets can make you sick

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This research will (9) **upset** many people who love cuddling up to their pet or getting their face (10) **licked** by them. Professor Chamel reckons that because people are having (11) **fewer** children, pets have become replacements. More than 60 per cent of American households have a pet and up to 62 per cent of pet owners let their animals sleep with them, (12) **according** to Chamel's research. Chamel has already received many e-mails (13) **strongly** disagreeing with his research. They say they have slept with their pets throughout their lives and are as healthy as (14) **anyone** else. Larry Kornegay, president of the American Veterinary Association, agreed, saying: "The (15) **benefits** of having a pet, whether or not you sleep with it, far (16) **outweigh** the negatives."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a 2 - b 3 - c 4 - d 5 - d 6 - c 7 - a 8 - b 9 - c 10 - a 11 - d 12 - b

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