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Level 2 Scientists find gene that erases memories

25th September, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26-page Level 3 (harder).



THE READING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found a special gene in mice. It could help people with painful memories forget bad experiences. It could help soldiers, crime victims and people who survived natural disasters. Many of these people have memories that make them very stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Scientists hope to use their research to erase painful memories in humans. They want to replace stressful memories with positive thoughts and feelings. This would help millions of people with PTSD.

Scientists did tests to make mice forget their fear. They put the mice into a cage and gave them electric shocks. After many shocks, the mice were stressed and afraid of the cage. After the mice had "cage shock," the scientists put the mice in the cage again but with no electric shock. After some time, the mice no longer feared the cage. Their stress and fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at the brain activity of the mice. They were surprised to find the gene that replaced old memories with new ones. They will now try to find this gene in human brains.

Sources: http://www.**medicalnewstoday.com**/articles/266368.php http://**news.sky.com**/story/1145178/memory-erasing-gene-discovered-in-mice

MATCHING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- 1. a special gene 2 help people with painful memories b. 3. crime c. in mice d. 4. natural with PTSD 5. an illness called post-traumatic disasters e. 6. f. use their research 7. positive g. 8. help millions of people h. victims **PARAGRAPH TWO:** 1. tests to make mice in the cage again a.
- 2 electric
- 3. stressed and afraid
- 4. the scientists put the mice
- 5. brain
- 6. They were surprised
- 7. replaced old memories
- 8. human

- forget bad experiences a.
- to erase painful memories

- thoughts and feelings
- stress disorder (PTSD)

- b. with new ones
- c. forget their fear
- d. brains
- shocks e.
- f. activity
- to find the gene g.
- h. of the cage

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html

Researchers from the Massachusetts (1) have found a special gene in mice. It could help people with painful memories forget bad experiences. (2) _____, crime victims and (3) ______ natural disasters. Many of these people have memories that make them very stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic (4) ______. Scientists hope to use their research to (5) ______ in humans. They want to replace stressful memories with positive thoughts and feelings. This (6) ______ people with PTSD. Scientists did tests to (7) ______ their fear. They put the (8) ______ and gave them electric shocks. shocks, the mice were After many stressed and (9) _____. After the mice had "cage shock," the scientists put the mice in the cage again but with no electric shock. After some time, the mice (10) _____ the cage. Their stress and fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at (11) the mice. They were surprised to find the gene that replaced old memories with new ones. They will now try to (12) _____ human brains.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html

ResearchersfromtheMassachusettsInstituteofTechnologyhavefoundaspecialg eneinmice.Itcouldhelppeoplewithpainfulmemoriesforgetbadexperiences.Itco uldhelpsoldiers, crimevictims and people who survived natural disasters. Many oft hesepeoplehavememoriesthatmakethemverystressed. They have an ill ness call edpost-traumaticstressdisorder(PTSD).Scientistshopetousetheirresearch toerasepainfulmemories inhumans. They want to replace stress fulmemories with positivethoughtsandfeelings.ThiswouldhelpmillionsofpeoplewithPTSD.Scienti stsdidteststomakemiceforgettheirfear. Theyputthemice into a cage and gave the melectricshocks.Aftermanyshocks,themicewerestressedandafraidofthecage. Afterthemicehad"cageshock,"thescientistsputthemiceinthecageagainbutwith noelectricshock.Aftersometime,themicenolongerfearedthecage.Theirstressa ndfearchangedtogoodfeelings. Thescientistslookedatthebrainactivity of themic e.Theyweresurprisedtofindthegenethatreplacedoldmemorieswithnewones.Th eywillnowtrytofindthisgeneinhumanbrains.

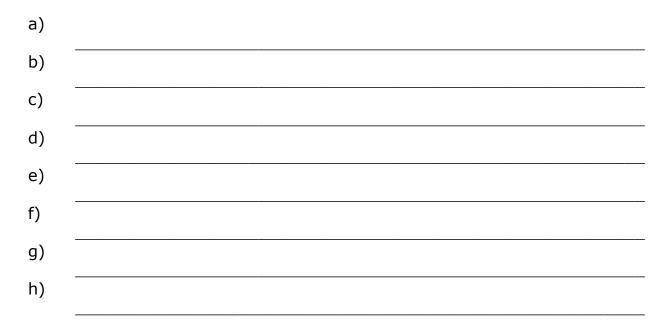
WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

Scientists find gene that erases memories – 25th September, 2013 More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).



WRITING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html

Write about **bad memories** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.