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Level 5

Scientists close to influenza vaccine

27th August, 2015

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150827-influenza_-5.html

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150827-influenza_-5.html

Scientists are getting closer to developing a vaccine that will give life-long protection against influenza. This is good news for millions of people around the world who go to the doctor for their annual flu jab. Two research teams tested new drugs on animals and both had promising results. Trials will soon begin on humans to test the new vaccine. A flu expert told the BBC that: "This is a leap forward compared to anything done recently. They have good animal data, not just in mice but in ferrets and monkeys too." He added that: "It's a very good stepping stone."

Influenza kills up to half a million people every year. Finding a vaccine is difficult because the virus is always changing. Doctors have to guess which types of the virus are likely to cause the most infections, and then create a new version of the vaccine to fight it. The success rate of most flu vaccines is very low because there is so much guesswork. Vaccines in the U.S. reduced the risk of catching flu by just 23 per cent last year. The website Inverse.com said the research could help create vaccines for, "other viruses that mutate rapidly, like HIV or the common cold".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-34038808>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3209469/Scientists-one-step-closer-creating-universal-flu-vaccine-New-jab-protect-against-strains-virus.html>
<https://www.inverse.com/article/5587-could-we-get-a-universal-flu-vaccine>

MATCHING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150827-influenza_-5.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. closer to developing | a. jab |
| 2. give life-long protection | b. on humans |
| 3. flu | c. recently |
| 4. Trials will soon begin | d. against influenza |
| 5. A flu | e. stone |
| 6. This is a leap | f. a vaccine |
| 7. compared to anything done | g. forward |
| 8. It's a very good stepping | h. expert |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Influenza kills up to half | a. changing |
| 2. Finding a vaccine | b. a million people |
| 3. the virus is always | c. rapidly |
| 4. Doctors have to guess | d. most infections |
| 5. likely to cause the | e. is difficult |
| 6. create a new version | f. much guesswork |
| 7. there is so | g. of the vaccine |
| 8. mutate | h. which types |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150827-influenza_-5.html

Scientists are (1) _____ developing a vaccine that will give life-long protection against influenza. This (2) _____ millions of people around the world (3) _____ doctor for their annual flu jab. Two research teams tested new drugs on animals and both had promising results. Trials (4) _____ humans to test the new vaccine. A flu expert told the BBC that: "This is a leap forward (5) _____ done recently. They have good animal data, not just in mice but in ferrets and monkeys too." He added that: "It's (6) _____ stone."

Influenza (7) _____ a million people every year. Finding a vaccine is difficult because (8) _____ changing. Doctors have to guess which types of the virus are (9) _____ the most infections, and then create a new version of the vaccine to fight it. The success rate of (10) _____ is very low because there is so much guesswork. Vaccines in the U.S. (11) _____ of catching flu by just 23 per cent last year. The website Inverse.com said the research could help create vaccines for, "other (12) _____ rapidly, like HIV or the common cold".

INFLUENZA SURVEY

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150827-influenza_-5.html

Write five GOOD questions about influenza 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

FREE WRITING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150827-influenza_-5.html

Write about **influenza** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.
