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## **Level 5**

### **Half of world population will be short-sighted**

**24th February, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness-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/1602/160224-short-sightedness-5.html>

Researchers predicted in a new report that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical name for this condition is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when it becomes difficult to see things that are far away from us. Around 4.8 billion people will have myopia in 2050 – seven times more than in the year 2000. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of young Chinese have trouble seeing faraway objects. Up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

The researchers did not give definite reasons for this. They said it was a combination of factors. They said looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a big cause. The sudden rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination of decreased time outdoors". A science journalist said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces the onset of myopia". A co-author of the report, gave some advice: "You could spend a long time [on] computers and screens, but also spend two hours outdoors."

Sources: <http://www.sciencealert.com/half-the-world-s-population-will-be-short-sighted-by-2050>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myopia>  
<http://www.treehugger.com/family/remarkable-reason-why-nearsightedness-has-more-doubled-50-years.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The medical name for this        | a. times more             |
| 2. It is also known                 | b. seeing faraway objects |
| 3. difficult to see things that are | c. year 2000              |
| 4. seven                            | d. 95% of teenagers       |
| 5. in the                           | e. as near-sightedness    |
| 6. 15 per cent of                   | f. condition is myopia    |
| 7. have trouble                     | g. the Chinese population |
| 8. Up to                            | h. far away from us       |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                          |                         |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The researchers did not give definite | a. be a big cause       |
| 2. They said it was a combination        | b. author of the report |
| 3. mobile phones could                   | c. childhood            |
| 4. The sudden rise                       | d. of factors           |
| 5. decreased time                        | e. time on computers    |
| 6. especially in early                   | f. outdoors             |
| 7. A co-                                 | g. reasons for this     |
| 8. spend a long                          | h. in myopia            |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness-5.html>

Researchers predicted (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical name (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when it becomes difficult to see things that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ us. Around (4) \_\_\_\_\_ will have myopia in 2050 – (5) \_\_\_\_\_ than in the year 2000. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of young Chinese have trouble (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

The researchers did (7) \_\_\_\_\_ reasons for this. They said it was a (8) \_\_\_\_\_. They said looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a big cause. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes (10) \_\_\_\_\_ combination of decreased time outdoors". A science journalist said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of myopia". A (12) \_\_\_\_\_ report, gave some advice: "You could spend a long time [on] computers and screens, but also spend two hours outdoors."

# SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about short-sightedness 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Half of world population will be short-sighted – 24th February, 2016*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

