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Level 6

Sesame Street and IBM make vocabulary app

11th June, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 4 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Sesame Workshop (the company behind the hugely successful children's TV show Sesame Street) and IBM have teamed up to create a revolutionary new app for kids to learn vocabulary. The joint venture has created the first vocabulary learning app powered by IBM's artificial intelligence software. The app discovers for itself a child's current reading level and vocabulary range, and then uses its algorithms to challenge the child with appropriate, new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. It personalizes the learning experience for children. As the child continues to use the app, it will ensure he or she has learnt and understood the new words before introducing additional, tailored vocabulary items.

IBM says it has just completed a pilot program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice assessments given to kindergarteners over a two-week period. The researchers said the results were very promising. They said the kids learned words like "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are typically learned at a much later age. The children could also use these words in context. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We expect to develop the next generation of tailored learning tools....Educational technology like the platform we've created...is a promising new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it further."

Sources: <https://techcrunch.com/2017/06/07/sesame-workshop-and-ibm-team-up-to-test-a-new-a-i-powered-teaching-method/>
<http://kidscreen.com/2017/06/07/sesame-and-ibm-watson-test-vocab-app-in-us-schools/>
<https://techdigg.com/2017/06/07/ibm-and-sesame-street-join-forces-to-tackle-education/>

WARM-UPS

1. VOCABULARY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about vocabulary. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

Sesame Street / children's TV / IBM / vocabulary / artificial intelligence / learning / pilot / program / testing / context / channel / opportunities / classroom / explore

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

3. APPS: Students A **strongly** believe apps are the best way to learn a new language; Students B **strongly** believe they aren't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. LEARNING ENGLISH: What are the best ways to learn these aspects of English? How well do these ways work for you? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Ways	How well they work for you
Vocabulary		
Grammar		
Pronunciation		
Listening		
Speaking		
Writing		

5. TV SHOW: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "TV show". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. LEARNING VOCABULARY: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of learning vocabulary at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- apps
- flash cards
- vocab lists
- reading
- picture cards
- TV shows
- English lessons
- movies

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

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

- a. The company that makes Sesame Street is called Sesame Workshop. **T / F**
- b. The app uses IBM's artificial intelligence software. **T / F**
- c. The app personalizes vocabulary learning for each student. **T / F**
- d. The app cannot tailor vocabulary items for students. **T / F**
- e. IBM said it has tested the app with pilots. **T / F**
- f. Kids using the app learned words that were harder for their age. **T / F**
- g. The CEO of Sesame Workshop promised a new channel. **T / F**
- h. The CEO said there was no need to explore more opportunities. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. hugely | a. project |
| 2. team up | b. chances |
| 3. venture | c. relevant |
| 4. appropriate | d. encouraging |
| 5. additional | e. collaborate |
| 6. pilot | f. initiate |
| 7. promising | g. look into |
| 8. develop | h. really |
| 9. opportunities | i. experimental |
| 10. explore | j. extra |

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. the company behind the hugely successful | a. choice assessments |
| 2. create a revolutionary | b. venture |
| 3. joint | c. further |
| 4. artificial | d. experience |
| 5. It personalizes the learning | e. new app |
| 6. it has just completed a pilot | f. context |
| 7. It collected 18,000 multiple- | g. opportunities |
| 8. use these words in | h. children's TV show |
| 9. learning | i. program |
| 10. we're excited to explore it | j. intelligence |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Sesame Workshop (the company behind the (1) _____ successful children's TV show Sesame Street) and IBM have teamed up to create a (2) _____ new app for kids to learn vocabulary. The joint venture has created the first vocabulary learning app (3) _____ by IBM's artificial intelligence software. The app discovers for itself a child's current reading (4) _____ and vocabulary range, and then uses its algorithms to (5) _____ the child with appropriate, new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. It personalizes the learning (6) _____ for children. As the child continues to use the app, it will (7) _____ he or she has learnt and understood the new words before introducing additional, tailored vocabulary (8) _____.

revolutionary

challenge

hugely

items

level

ensure

powered

experience

IBM says it has just completed a (9) _____ program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice assessments given to kindergarteners over a two-week (10) _____. The researchers said the results were very (11) _____. They said the kids learned words like "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are (12) _____ learned at a much later age. The children could also use these words in (13) _____. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We expect to develop the next (14) _____ of tailored learning tools...Educational technology like the (15) _____ we've created...is a promising new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it (16) _____."

period

generation

typically

pilot

further

context

platform

promising

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

- 1) teamed up to create a revolutionary new app for kids _____
 - a. too learn vocabulary
 - b. to learned vocabulary
 - c. to learn vocabulary
 - d. to learning vocabulary
- 2) the first vocabulary learning app powered by IBM's artificial _____
 - a. intelligent software
 - b. intelligentsia software
 - c. intelligences software
 - d. intelligence software
- 3) The app discovers for itself a child's current reading level _____
 - a. and vocabulary ranges
 - b. and vocabulary ranged
 - c. and vocabulary ranger
 - d. and vocabulary range
- 4) uses its algorithms to challenge the child with _____ vocabulary
 - a. appropriate, new
 - b. appropriately, new
 - c. appropriate, newly
 - d. appropriately, newly
- 5) understood the new words before introducing additional, tailored _____
 - a. vocabulary item
 - b. vocabulary items
 - c. vocabulary itemize
 - d. vocabulary itemized
- 6) IBM says it has just completed a pilot program _____
 - a. test in the app
 - b. testing the app
 - c. testing in the app
 - d. test in an app
- 7) It collected 18,000 multiple-choice assessments _____
 - a. given to kinder gardeners
 - b. given to kind are gardeners
 - c. given to kin and gardeners
 - d. given to kindergarteners
- 8) The children could also use these _____
 - a. words on context
 - b. words in contexts
 - c. words in context
 - d. words on contexts
- 9) We expect to develop the next generation of _____
 - a. tailored learn in tools
 - b. tailored learning tools
 - c. tailored learning in tools
 - d. tailored learning tool
- 10) opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to _____
 - a. explorer it further
 - b. explored it further
 - c. explores it further
 - d. explore it further

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Sesame Workshop (the company (1) _____ successful children's TV show Sesame Street) and IBM have teamed up to create a revolutionary (2) _____ kids to learn vocabulary. The joint venture has created the first vocabulary learning app powered by IBM's (3) _____ software. The app discovers for itself a child's current reading level and vocabulary (4) _____ its algorithms to challenge the child with appropriate, new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. It personalizes (5) _____ for children. As the child continues to use the app, it will ensure he or she has learnt and understood (6) _____ introducing additional, tailored vocabulary items.

IBM says it has (7) _____ pilot program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice assessments given to kindergarteners over (8) _____. The researchers said the results were very promising. They said the kids (9) _____ "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are typically learned at a much later age. The children could also use these (10) _____. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We expect to develop the (11) _____ tailored learning tools....Educational technology like the platform we've created...is a promising new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

1. What is the name of the company that is behind Sesame Street?
2. What IBM software is the learning app powered by?
3. What does the app use to challenge children with vocabulary?
4. What does the app personalize for children?
5. What kind of items does the app tailor for children?
6. What kind of program has IBM just completed?
7. How many multiple-choice assessments did the researchers collect?
8. How did the researchers say children could use newly-learned words?
9. What did researchers say was a promising new channel?
10. Where did researchers say learning opportunities existed?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

- 1) What is the name of the company that is behind Sesame Street?
 - a) IBM Workshop
 - b) Sesame IBM
 - c) IBM
 - d) Sesame Workshop
- 2) What IBM software is the learning app powered by?
 - a) electricity
 - b) artificial intelligence
 - c) money
 - d) revolutions
- 3) What does the app use to challenge children with vocabulary?
 - a) reading
 - b) intelligence
 - c) words
 - d) algorithms
- 4) What does the app personalize for children?
 - a) vocabulary
 - b) reading
 - c) the learning experience
 - d) skills
- 5) What kind of items does the app tailor for children?
 - a) learning items
 - b) understood items
 - c) listed items
 - d) vocabulary items
- 6) What kind of program has IBM just completed?
 - a) an app program
 - b) a tailored program
 - c) a pilot program
 - d) a testing program
- 7) How many multiple-choice assessments did the researchers collect?
 - a) 18,000
 - b) over 18,000
 - c) just fewer than 18,000
 - d) about 18,000
- 8) How did the researchers say children could use newly-learned words?
 - a) educationally
 - b) correctly
 - c) in context
 - d) carefully
- 9) What did researchers say was a promising new channel?
 - a) channel X5
 - b) educational technology
 - c) the BBC
 - d) MTV
- 10) Where did researchers say learning opportunities existed?
 - a) inside and outside the classroom
 - b) everywhere
 - c) in books
 - d) on the Internet

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Role A – Apps

You think apps are the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): flash cards, reading or watching movies.

Role B – Flash Cards

You think flash cards are the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): apps, reading or watching movies.

Role C – Reading

You think reading is the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): flash cards, apps or watching movies.

Role D – Watching Movies

You think watching movies is the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): flash cards, reading or apps.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

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

vocabulary	app
-------------------	------------

- 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">• teamed• joint• itself• challenge• continues• items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pilot• period• amplify• context• tools• excited
---	--

VOCABULARY SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vocabulary 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.

VOCABULARY DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'vocabulary'?
3. What do you think of Sesame Street?
4. How good is a tie-up between Sesame Street and IBM?
5. What's the best way to learn vocabulary?
6. Do small children need different ways of learning?
7. How will artificial intelligence change the way we learn language?
8. How happy are you with your level of English vocabulary?
9. What new words have you learned recently?
10. Would you like to use the new app?

Sesame Street and IBM make vocabulary app – 11th June, 2017
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VOCABULARY DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'app'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of multiple-choice assessments?
15. What are your three favourite English words, and why?
16. What are your three least-favourite English words?
17. Do you prefer learning inside or outside the classroom?
18. What will the next generation of educational technology look like?
19. What technology do you use to learn English?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Sesame Workshop (the company (1) _____ the hugely successful children's TV show Sesame Street) and IBM have teamed (2) _____ to create a revolutionary new app for kids to learn vocabulary. The joint (3) _____ has created the first vocabulary learning app powered by IBM's artificial intelligence software. The app discovers for (4) _____ a child's current reading level and vocabulary range, and then uses its algorithms to challenge the child with appropriate, new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. It personalizes the learning experience for children. (5) _____ the child continues to use the app, it will ensure he or she has learnt and understood the new words before introducing additional, (6) _____ vocabulary items.

IBM says it has just completed a (7) _____ program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice assessments given to kindergarteners (8) _____ a two-week period. The researchers said the results were very (9) _____. They said the kids learned words like "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are (10) _____ learned at a much later age. The children could also use these words in context. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We (11) _____ to develop the next generation of tailored learning tools...Educational technology like the platform we've created...is a (12) _____ new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it further."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) behest | (b) behind | (c) bequest | (d) beneath |
| 2. | (a) on | (b) up | (c) in | (d) along |
| 3. | (a) vulture | (b) vintage | (c) vantage | (d) venture |
| 4. | (a) themselves | (b) itself | (c) oneself | (d) selfie |
| 5. | (a) Is | (b) Has | (c) Was | (d) As |
| 6. | (a) tailor | (b) tailoring | (c) tailored | (d) tailors |
| 7. | (a) pilot | (b) driver | (c) captain | (d) operator |
| 8. | (a) along | (b) under | (c) over | (d) though |
| 9. | (a) promissory | (b) promises | (c) promised | (d) promising |
| 10. | (a) typically | (b) typify | (c) typifies | (d) typical |
| 11. | (a) expect | (b) except | (c) excerpt | (d) exact |
| 12. | (a) promising | (b) promissory | (c) promised | (d) promises |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Paragraph 1

1. create a arntroovulyei new app
2. joint tuevrne
3. ctfliiaari intelligence
4. uses its osglmihrat to challenge the child
5. aotpiaerrpp, new vocabulary
6. additional, taderlio vocabulary items

Paragraph 2

7. 18,000 multiple-choice esssmastnes
8. "amplify," "camouflage," and "ppluaaes,"
9. ytlpcyail learned at a much later age
10. develop the next aienoetgnr
11. learning riptuooenstip
12. we're excited to exexprlo it further

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () up to create a revolutionary new app for kids to learn vocabulary. The joint venture has created the first
- () understood the new words before introducing additional, tailored vocabulary items.
- () for itself a child's current reading level and vocabulary range, and then uses its algorithms to challenge the child
- () channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it further."
- () of tailored learning tools....Educational technology like the platform we've created...is a promising new
- () IBM says it has just completed a pilot program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice
- () with appropriate, new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. It personalizes the learning
- () context. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We expect to develop the next generation
- () "applause," which are typically learned at a much later age. The children could also use these words in
- () assessments given to kindergarteners over a two-week period. The researchers said the results were very
- (**1**) Sesame Workshop (the company behind the hugely successful children's TV show Sesame Street) and IBM have teamed
- () promising. They said the kids learned words like "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and
- () experience for children. As the child continues to use the app, it will ensure he or she has learned and
- () vocabulary learning app powered by IBM's artificial intelligence software. The app discovers

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

1. company children's behind TV the show hugely The successful .
2. app Teamed create new kids to revolutionary for up a .
3. IBM's by powered app Learning software intelligence artificial .
4. children personalizes learning for It the experience .
5. she has learned and understood the new words Ensure he or .
6. program app just pilot the has a testing It completed .
7. promising very were results the said researchers The .
8. these children words could in also context use The .
9. Develop tools learning tailored of generation next the .
10. created for a learning promising opportunities new We've channel .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

Sesame Workshop (the company behind the *hugely / huge* successful children's TV show Sesame Street) and IBM have teamed *up / with* to create a revolutionary new app for *kids / kid* to learn vocabulary. The joint venture has created the first vocabulary learning app *powered / powerful* by IBM's artificial intelligence software. The app discovers *in / for* itself a child's current reading level and vocabulary *ranging / range*, and then uses its algorithms to challenge the child with *appropriateness / appropriate*, new vocabulary to improve the *child's / child* skills. It personalizes the learning experience for children. As the child continues to use the app, it will *sure / ensure* he or she has learnt and understood the new words before introducing additional, *tailored / tailoring* vocabulary items.

IBM says it has just completed a *pilots / pilot* program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice *assessments / assesses* given to kindergarteners *over / along* a two-week period. The researchers said the results were very *promised / promising*. They said the kids learned words like "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are *typical / typically* learned at a much later age. The children could also use these words *in / on* context. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We *except / expect* to develop the next generation of *tailored / tailor* learning tools....Educational technology like the platform we've created...is a *promised / promising* new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it *further / farther*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

S_s_m_ W_rksh_p (th_ c_m_p_ny b_h_nd th_ h_g_ly
s_cc_ssf_l ch_ldr_n's TV sh_w S_s_m_ Str__t) _nd _BM
h_v_t__m_d_p_t_cr__t__r_v_l_t__n_ry_n_w_pp_f_r
k_ds_t__l__rn_v_c_b_l_ry. Th_ j__nt_v_nt_r_h_s
cr__t_d th_ f_rst_v_c_b_l_ry l__rn_ng __pp_p_w_r_d by
_BM's __rt_f_c__l__nt_ll_g_nc__s_ftw_r_. Th_ __pp
d_sc_v_rs_f_r__ts_lf__ch_ld's_c_rr_nt_r__d_ng_l_v_l
_nd_v_c_b_l_ry_r_ng_, _nd th_n_s_s__ts_lg_r_thms_t__
ch_ll_ng__th__ch_ld_w_th__ppr_pr__t_, n_w_v_c_b_l_ry
t__m_p_r_v__th__ch_ld's_sk_lls. __t_p_r_s_n_l_z_s th_
l__rn_ng__xp_r__nc__f_r_ch_ldr_n. __s th__ch_ld
c_nt_n__s_t__s th__pp, __t_w_ll_n_s_r_h__r_sh_h_s
l__rnt__nd__nd_rst__d th__n_w_w_rds_b_f_r__
_ntr_d_c_ng__dd_t__n_l, t__l_r_d_v_c_b_l_ry__t_ms.

_BM_s_ys__t_h_s_j_st_c_mpl_t_d__p_l_t_pr_gr_m
t_st_ng th__pp. __t_c_ll_ct_d 18,000 m_lt_pl__ch__c__
__ss_ssm_nts_g_v_n_t__k_nd_rg_rt_n_rs__v_r__tw__
w__k_p_r__d. Th_r_s__rch_rs_s__d th_r_s_lts_w_r__
v_ry_p_r_m_s_ng. Th_y_s__d th_k_ds_l__rn_d_w_rds
l_k__"r_chn_d," __mpl_fy," __c_m__fl_g_, __nd
"__ppl__s_, " wh_ch__r__typ_c_lly_l__rn_d__t__m_ch
l_t_r_g_. Th_ch_ldr_n_c__ld__ls__s th_s_w_rds__n
c_nt_xt. S_s_m_ W_rksh_p C__J_ffr_y D_nn_s__d: "W__
__xp_ct_t__d_v_l_p th__n_xt_g_n_r_t_n__f_t__l_r_d
l__rn_ng__t__ls..._d_c_t__n_l_t_chn_l_gy_l_k__th__
pl_tf_rm_w_'v__cr__t_d..._s__p_r_m_s_ng_n_w_ch_nn_l
f_r_l__rn_ng__pp_r_t_n_t__s__ns_d__nd__ts_d th__
cl_ssr__m, __nd_w_'r__xc_t_d_t__xp_l_r__t_f_rth_r."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

sesame workshop (the company behind the hugely successful children's tv show sesame street) and ibm have teamed up to create a revolutionary new app for kids to learn vocabulary the joint venture has created the first vocabulary learning app powered by ibm's artificial intelligence software the app discovers for itself a child's current reading level and vocabulary range and then uses its algorithms to challenge the child with appropriate new vocabulary to improve the child's skills it personalizes the learning experience for children as the child continues to use the app it will ensure he or she has learnt and understood the new words before introducing additional tailored vocabulary items

ibm says it has just completed a pilot program testing the app it collected 18000 multiple-choice assessments given to kindergarteners over a two-week period the researchers said the results were very promising they said the kids learned words like "arachnid" "amplify" "camouflage" and "applause" which are typically learned at a much later age the children could also use these words in context sesame workshop ceo jeffrey dunn said "we expect to develop the next generation of tailored learning tools...educational technology like the platform we've created...is a promising new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom and we're excited to explore it further"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

SesameWorkshop(thecompanybehindthehugelysuccessfulchildren'sTVshowSesameStreet)andIBMhaveteameduptocreatearevolutionarynewappforkidstolearnvocabulary.ThejointventurehascreatedthefirstvocabularylearningapppoweredbyIBM'sartificialintelligencesoftware.Theappdiscoversforitselfachild'scurrentreadinglevelandvocabularyrange,andthenusesitsalgorithmstochallengethechildwithappropriate,newvocabularytoimprovethethechild'sskills.Itpersonalizesthelearningexperienceforchildren.Asthechildcontinuestouseetheapp,itwillensureheorshehaslearnedandunderstoodthenewwordsbeforeintroducingadditional,tailoredvocabularyitems.IBMsaysithasjustcompletedapilotprogramtestingtheapp.Itcollected18,000multiple-choiceassessmentsgiventokindergartenersoveratwo-weekperiod.Theresearcherssaidtheresultswereverypromising.They said the kids learned words like "arachnid," "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are typically learned at a much later age. The children could also use these words in context. Sesame Workshop CEO Jeffrey Dunn said: "We expect to develop the next generation of tailored learning tools.... Educational technology like the platform we've created... is a promising new channel for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it further."

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app.html>

What are the best three ways to learn vocabulary? Why are they good?

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 this news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. APP: Write a magazine article about apps being the best way to learn vocabulary. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this and with those who do not believe it.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on vocabulary. Ask him/her three questions about the best ways to learn vocabulary. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to learn vocabulary. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. hugely | a. really |
| 2. team up | b. collaborate |
| 3. venture | c. project |
| 4. appropriate | d. relevant |
| 5. additional | e. extra |
| 6. pilot | f. experimental |
| 7. promising | g. encouraging |
| 8. develop | h. initiate |
| 9. opportunities | i. chances |
| 10. explore | j. look into |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Sesame Workshop
2. Artificial intelligence
3. Algorithms
4. The learning experience
5. Vocabulary items
6. A pilot program
7. 18,000
8. In context
9. Educational technology
10. Inside and outside the classroom

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)