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## **Level 2**

### **New device can smells bombs and diseases**

**30th August, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170830-biotechnology-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170830-biotechnology-2.html>

A Nigerian scientist has made a revolutionary new computer that has artificial intelligence. Dr Oshi Agabi spent years trying to make a computer that can smell. He called his project Koniku. He has raised over \$1 million. Dr Agabi said his project has made profits of \$10 million. Technology companies like Google and Microsoft are interested in it. Security companies are also interested. Koniku will be in drones and smell bombs and explosives. It will also be in airport security systems. An additional use will be in hospitals to smell diseases in humans.

Dr Agabi did not base Koniku on silicon chips. He said silicon chips are not powerful enough for the maths needed to recognize smells. Agabi based his device on brain neurons from mice. Neurons are brain cells that share information. They use electricity and chemicals to send information. Using neurons in computers is called biotechnology. Agabi said: "Biology is technology. Bio is tech. Our deep learning networks are all copying the brain." He added: "We want to build a...system that has intelligence. We do not want to build a human brain. It's not science fiction."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-40935771>  
<http://www.nan.ng/tech/nigerian-agabi-makes-drones-smell-bombs/>  
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/nigerian-scientist-creates-neuron-based-ai-device-that-can-smell/story-6ra9sFunYGj8l6k1M24q8K.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170830-biotechnology-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. artificial                  | a. over \$1 million |
| 2. make a computer that can    | b. explosives       |
| 3. He has raised               | c. intelligence     |
| 4. made profits                | d. humans           |
| 5. Security companies are also | e. smell            |
| 6. bombs and                   | f. systems          |
| 7. airport security            | g. interested       |
| 8. smell diseases in           | h. of \$10 million  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. silicon                              | a. on brain neurons |
| 2. not powerful enough                  | b. has intelligence |
| 3. Agabi based his device               | c. biotechnology    |
| 4. Neurons are brain cells that share   | d. fiction          |
| 5. Using neurons in computers is called | e. chips            |
| 6. deep learning                        | f. information      |
| 7. a system that                        | g. for the maths    |
| 8. science                              | h. networks         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170830-biotechnology-2.html>

A Nigerian scientist (1) \_\_\_\_\_ revolutionary new computer that has (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Dr Oshi Agabi spent years trying to make a computer that can smell. He called his project Koniku. He (3) \_\_\_\_\_ \$1 million. Dr Agabi said his project has (4) \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 million. Technology companies like Google and Microsoft are interested in it. Security companies (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Koniku will be in drones and smell bombs and explosives. It will also be in airport security systems. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ will be in hospitals to smell diseases in humans.

Dr Agabi did not base Koniku (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He said silicon chips are not (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the maths needed to recognize smells. Agabi based (9) \_\_\_\_\_ brain neurons from mice. Neurons are brain cells that share information. They use electricity and chemicals to send information. Using neurons in computers (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Agabi said: "Biology is technology. Bio is tech. Our (11) \_\_\_\_\_ are all copying the brain." He added: "We want to build a...system that has intelligence. We do not (12) \_\_\_\_\_ human brain. It's not science fiction."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170830-biotechnology-2.html>

ANigerianscientisthasmadearevolutionarynewcomputerthathasartificialintelligence.DrOshiAgabispentyearstryingtomakeacomputerthaticansmell.HecalledhisprojectKoniku.Hehasraisedover\$1million.DrAgabisaidhisprojecthasmadeprofitsof\$10million.TechnologycompanieslikeGoogleandMicrosoftareinterestedinit.Securitycompaniesarealsointerested.Konikuwillbeindronesandsmellbombsandexplosives.Itwillalsobeinairportsecuritysystems.Anadditionalusewillbeinhospitalstosmelldiseasesinhumans.DrAgabididnotbaseKonikuonsiliconchips.Hesaidsiliconchipsarenotpowerfulenoughforthemathsneededtorecognizesmells.Agabibasedhisdeviceonbrainneuronsfrommice.Neuronsarebraincellsthatshareinformation.Theyuseelectricityandchemicalstosendinformation.Usingneuronsincomputersiscalledbiotechnology.Agabisaid:"Biologyistechonology.Bioistech.Ourdeeplearningnetworksareallcopyingthebrain."Headed:"Wewanttobuilda...systemthathasintelligence.Wedonottobuildahumanbrain.It'snotsciencefiction."

# BIOTECHNOLOGY SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170830-biotechnology-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about biotechnology 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

