

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Scientists closer to cure for cold

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0902/090215-cold.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

15th February, 2009

THE ARTICLE

Scientists are a step closer to finding a cure for the common cold. The simple colds we all get several times a year are one of science's mysteries. Researchers have worked for centuries to find a remedy. All have failed so far. However, new research from the USA has unlocked the genetic code for 99 different types of cold. Researchers at the University of Maryland and the J. Craig Venter Institute organized their data to produce a family tree of colds. They separated the 99 types of cold into 15 different branches. The next step is to identify the things these branches have in common. Once scientists have done this, they can work on producing anti-cold drugs. And once we have anti-cold drugs, there is one less excuse to take a day off work or school.

The researchers warned we should not expect to have a cure or a drug in the near future. They said the cold is still one of the most complicated viruses known to man. Scientists say the cold becomes more complex the more they find out about it. One of the researchers, Dr. Ann Palmenberg, was quite pessimistic about a cure. "There's not going to be a vaccine for the common cold," she said. However, there could be cold-fighting drugs in the future for cold sufferers. This is good news for us all. Adults get around four colds a year and children average ten. There is a multi-billion-dollar industry based around medicines for colds. Everyone also has their favourite remedy. Sleep seems to be the most popular way of fighting a cold.

WARM-UPS

1. COLDS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about colds. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

steps closer / the common cold / genetic code / family tree / branches / days off / researchers / cures / viruses / pessimistic / cold sufferers / medicines / remedies

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

3. REMEDIES: What are your remedies for these complaints? Complete the table below. Talk with your partner. Change partners and share what you wrote.

Complaint	Remedy	How good is it?
Colds		
Being overweight		
Having no money		
Failing exams		
Nervousness		
Volcano		

4. CURES: Students A **strongly** believe scientists will find a cure for all viruses and diseases; Students B **strongly** believe scientists will never find cures for health problems. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. POOR ME: In pairs / groups, rank the following in order of which you think is worst to have.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| _____ a cold | _____ a computer virus |
| _____ a headache | _____ a toothache |
| _____ no money | _____ a lost passport |
| _____ a broken heart | _____ a stomach ache |

6. COLD: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'cold'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Colds are one of the great mysteries of science. | T / F |
| b. People have spent hundreds of years trying to find a cure for the cold. | T / F |
| c. Scientists have discovered the genetic code for 100 types of cold. | T / F |
| d. Finding a cure for colds means more excuses to take a day off work. | T / F |
| e. The cold virus is one of the most basic known to scientists. | T / F |
| f. The more scientists know about colds, the more complicated they are. | T / F |
| g. Children average four colds a year and adults get around ten. | T / F |
| h. Sleep appears to be the most common remedy for getting rid of colds. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. cure | a. catch |
| 2. mysteries | b. hope for |
| 3. unlocked | c. remedy |
| 4. data | d. combating |
| 5. excuse | e. opened |
| 6. expect | f. statistics |
| 7. complicated | g. trade |
| 8. get | h. unknowns |
| 9. industry | i. tricky |
| 10. fighting | j. reason |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Scientists are a step closer to | a. remedy |
| 2. find a | b. future |
| 3. produce a family tree | c. a day off work |
| 4. the things these branches have | d. in the near future |
| 5. one less excuse to take | e. a cold |
| 6. not expect to have a cure or a drug | f. colds a year |
| 7. one of the most complicated viruses | g. finding a cure |
| 8. there could be cold-fighting drugs in the | h. of colds |
| 9. Adults get around four | i. in common |
| 10. the most popular way of fighting | j. known to man |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Scientists are a step closer to finding a cure for the common cold. The simple colds we all get _____ times a year are one of science's mysteries. Researchers have worked for centuries to find a _____. All have failed so far. However, new research from the USA has _____ the genetic code for 99 different types of cold. Researchers at the University of Maryland and the J. Craig Venter Institute organized their _____ to produce a family tree of colds. They _____ the 99 types of cold into 15 different branches. The next step is to identify the things these _____ have in common. Once scientists have done this, they can work on _____ anti-cold drugs. And once we have anti-cold drugs, there is one less _____ to take a day off work or school.

The researchers warned we should not _____ to have a cure or a drug in the near future. They said the cold is still one of the most complicated viruses _____ to man. Scientists say the cold becomes more _____ the more they find out about it. One of the researchers, Dr. Ann Palmenberg, was quite pessimistic about a cure. "There's not going to be a _____ for the common cold," she said. However, there could be cold-fighting drugs in the future for cold sufferers. This is _____ news for us all. Adults get around four colds a year and children _____ ten. There is a multi-billion-dollar _____ based around medicines for colds. Everyone also has their favourite remedy. Sleep seems to be the most popular way of _____ a cold.

separated

data

excuse

unlocked

several

branches

producing

remedy

good

complex

fighting

average

expect

vaccine

known

industry

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

Scientists _____ finding a cure for the common cold. The simple colds we all get several times a year are one of science's mysteries. Researchers have worked for centuries _____. All have failed so far. However, new research from the USA has unlocked the genetic code for 99 _____ cold. Researchers at the University of Maryland and the J. Craig Venter Institute organized their data to produce _____. They separated the 99 types of cold into 15 different branches. The next step is to identify the things these branches _____. Once scientists have done this, they can work on producing anti-cold drugs. And once we have anti-cold drugs, there is one _____ a day off work or school.

The researchers warned we _____ have a cure or a drug in the near future. They said the cold is still one of the most complicated _____. Scientists say the cold becomes more complex the more they find out about it. One of the researchers, Dr. Ann Palmenberg, _____ about a cure. "There's not going to be a vaccine for the common cold," she said. However, there could be cold-fighting drugs _____ sufferers. This is good news for us all. Adults get around four colds a year and _____. There is a multi-billion-dollar industry based around medicines for colds. Everyone also has their favourite remedy. Sleep _____ popular way of fighting a cold.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'common' and 'cold'.

common	cold
---------------	-------------

- 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">• step• several• code• data• once• excuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• expect• still• complex• news• industry• fighting
--	---

STUDENT COLDS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about colds 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.

COLDS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'cold'?
- c) How often do you catch a cold?
- d) Why do you think scientists have never found a cure for colds?
- e) What do you think the 99 different types of cold feel like?
- f) Would you like to do research into colds?
- g) What medicine do you take when you have a cold?
- h) What cold symptoms do you most hate?
- i) Have you ever taken time off work or school because of a cold?
- j) What are the differences between a cold and the flu?

Scientists closer to cure for cold – 15th February, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

COLDS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think could be so complicated about a cold virus?
- c) What was the worst cold you've ever had?
- d) Why do you think it is called the common cold?
- e) How will society / life change if scientists find a vaccine or a cure?
- f) Do you stay away from people with colds?
- g) How many cold symptoms can you name?
- h) What's your usual cold remedy? Does it always work?
- i) What three adjectives would you use to describe having a really bad cold?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Dr. Ann Palmenberg?

Scientists closer to cure for cold – 15th February, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright 2009

LANGUAGE

Scientists are a (1) _____ closer to finding a cure for the common cold. The simple colds we all get (2) _____ times a year are one of science's mysteries. Researchers have worked for centuries to find a remedy. All have failed so far. However, new research from the USA has unlocked the (3) _____ code for 99 different types of cold. Researchers at the University of Maryland and the J. Craig Venter Institute organized their data to produce a family (4) _____ of colds. They separated the 99 types of cold into 15 different branches. The next step is to identify the things these branches have (5) _____ common. Once scientists have done this, they can work on producing anti-cold drugs. And once we have anti-cold drugs, there is one less excuse to take a day (6) _____ work or school.

The researchers warned we should not expect (7) _____ have a cure or a drug in the near future. They said the cold is still one of the most complicated viruses (8) _____ to man. Scientists say the cold becomes more complex the more they find out about (9) _____. One of the researchers, Dr. Ann Palmenberg, was quite pessimistic about a cure. "There's not going to be a vaccine (10) _____ the common cold," she said. However, there could be cold-fighting drugs in the future for cold sufferers. This is good news for us all. Adults get around four colds a year and children (11) _____ ten. There is a multi-billion-dollar industry based around medicines for colds. Everyone also has their favourite remedy. Sleep seems to be the most popular way of (12) _____ a cold.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) staircase | (b) ladder | (c) stair | (d) step |
| 2. | (a) genes | (b) genetic | (c) jeans | (d) gender |
| 3. | (a) injured | (b) injure | (c) injury | (d) injures |
| 4. | (a) tree | (b) bush | (c) flower | (d) forest |
| 5. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) in | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) on | (b) with | (c) by | (d) off |
| 7. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) for | (d) with |
| 8. | (a) known | (b) knows | (c) knowing | (d) knew |
| 9. | (a) them | (b) it | (c) now | (d) they |
| 10. | (a) to | (b) in | (c) for | (d) at |
| 11. | (a) average | (b) averaging | (c) averages | (d) averaged |
| 12. | (a) opposing | (b) struggling | (c) punching | (d) fighting |

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 the common cold. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. REMEDIES: Make a poster about the different remedies around the world for colds. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CURE: Write a magazine article about the effects on society of a cure for the cold. Include imaginary interviews with a drug company and a parent with children who get many colds.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to Dr. Ann Palmenberg. Ask her three questions about the common cold. Give her your three suggestions on what people should do to fight a cold. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. cure | a. remedy |
| 2. mysteries | b. unknowns |
| 3. unlocked | c. opened |
| 4. data | d. statistics |
| 5. excuse | e. reason |
| 6. expect | f. hope for |
| 7. complicated | g. tricky |
| 8. get | h. catch |
| 9. industry | i. trade |
| 10. fighting | j. combating |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Scientists are a step closer to | a. finding a cure |
| 2. find a | b. remedy |
| 3. produce a family tree | c. of colds |
| 4. the things these branches have | d. in common |
| 5. one less excuse to take | e. a day off work |
| 6. not expect to have a cure or a drug | f. in the near future |
| 7. one of the most complicated viruses | g. known to man |
| 8. there could be cold-fighting drugs in the | h. future |
| 9. Adults get around four | i. colds a year |
| 10. the most popular way of fighting | j. a cold |

GAP FILL:

Scientists closer to cure for cold

Scientists are a step closer to finding a cure for the common cold. The simple colds we all get **several** times a year are one of science's mysteries. Researchers have worked for centuries to find a **remedy**. All have failed so far. However, new research from the USA has **unlocked** the genetic code for 99 different types of cold. Researchers at the University of Maryland and the J. Craig Venter Institute organized their **data** to produce a family tree of colds. They **separated** the 99 types of cold into 15 different branches. The next step is to identify the things these **branches** have in common. Once scientists have done this, they can work on **producing** anti-cold drugs. And once we have anti-cold drugs, there is one less **excuse** to take a day off work or school.

The researchers warned we should not **expect** to have a cure or a drug in the near future. They said the cold is still one of the most complicated viruses **known** to man. Scientists say the cold becomes more **complex** the more they find out about it. One of the researchers, Dr. Ann Palmenberg, was quite pessimistic about a cure. "There's not going to be a **vaccine** for the common cold," she said. However, there could be cold-fighting drugs in the future for cold sufferers. This is **good** news for us all. Adults get around four colds a year and children **average** ten. There is a multi-billion-dollar **industry** based around medicines for colds. Everyone also has their favourite remedy. Sleep seems to be the most popular way of **fighting** a cold.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d