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**Level 4** – 25th December, 2019

## Head transplants possible by 2030, say doctors

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

A doctor said head transplants could be possible by 2030. Organ, face and other transplant surgery is now like science fiction. The doctor explained why he believes head transplants could be possible. He was working with an author on a science fiction novel. He said: "Initially, our intention was just to brainstorm an idea and it seemed rather silly, but then I realised, it actually isn't. If you transplant the brain and spinal cord together, it's not impossible."

The doctor said head transplants would only be possible if the head was accompanied by its spinal cord. Advances in spinal cord technology mean this could be possible before 2030. The doctor said: "Keeping the spinal cord in one piece has always been totally daunting." He also believes consciousness could move with the head from one body to another. The technology could treat spinal cord injuries and diseases like muscular dystrophy.

Sources: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10607168/frankenstein-like-head-transplants-happen-by-2030/>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/human-head-transplant-spinal-cord-nhs-chrysalis-bruce-mathew-canavero-neurosurgeon-a9256841.html>  
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/human-head-transplants-just-decade-21147648>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Organ, face and other        | a. spinal cord together |
| 2. The doctor explained         | b. fiction novel        |
| 3. he believes head transplants | c. transplant surgery   |
| 4. a science                    | d. impossible           |
| 5. our intention was just to    | e. silly                |
| 6. it seemed rather             | f. why                  |
| 7. transplant the brain and     | g. brainstorm an idea   |
| 8. it's not                     | h. could be possible    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Advances in spinal cord | a. injuries           |
| 2. this could be possible  | b. technology         |
| 3. Keeping the spinal cord | c. muscular dystrophy |
| 4. totally                 | d. before 2030        |
| 5. consciousness could     | e. to another         |
| 6. from one body           | f. daunting           |
| 7. treat spinal cord       | g. move with the head |
| 8. diseases like           | h. in one piece       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

A doctor said head transplants could (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2030.

Organ, face and other transplant surgery is now (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

The doctor explained (3) \_\_\_\_\_ head transplants could be possible. He was working with an author on a science fiction novel. He said:

"Initially, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ just to brainstorm an idea and it seemed rather silly, but then I realised, (5) \_\_\_\_\_. If you transplant the brain and spinal cord together, (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The doctor said head transplants would (7) \_\_\_\_\_ if the head was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ spinal cord. Advances in spinal cord technology mean this (9) \_\_\_\_\_ before 2030. The doctor said: "Keeping the spinal cord in one piece has always (10) \_\_\_\_\_." He also believes consciousness could move with the head (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to another. The technology could treat spinal cord injuries and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ dystrophy.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

A doctor said head transplants could be possible by 2030. Organ, face and other transplant surgery is now like science fiction. The doctor explained why he believes head transplants could be possible. He was working with an author on a science fiction novel. He said: "Initially, our intention was just to brainstorm an idea and it seemed rather silly, but then I realised, it actually isn't. If you transplant the brain and spinal cord together, it's not impossible." The doctor said head transplants would only be possible if the head was accompanied by its spinal cord. Advances in spinal cord technology mean this could be possible before 2030. The doctor said: "Keeping the spinal cord in one piece has always been totally daunting." He also believes consciousness could move with the head from one body to another. The technology could treat spinal cord injuries and diseases like muscular dystrophy.

# HEAD TRANSPLANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about head transplants 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) \_\_\_\_\_

