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Level 4 – 3rd April, 2020

Computer translates brainwaves into sentences

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-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/2004/200403-brainwaves-4.html>

Scientists may be able to interpret what someone is saying by analysing their brainwaves. This could help millions suffering from communication problems and neurological disorders. Algorithms in the scientists' software can translate brainwaves into text on a screen in real time. The scientists are from the University of California. They say their algorithms are 97 per cent accurate at translating. They are working hard to improve this.

The scientists are in the early stages of their testing. Their software matched frequently-repeated features of speech to shapes of the mouth. These features included vowels, consonants and commands. The scientists used just 40 short and simple spoken sentences. They said: "Although we should like the decoder to learn and exploit the regularities of the language, it remains to show how many data would be required to expand...to a more general form of English."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52094111>
<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/30/scientists-develop-ai-that-can-turn-brain-activity-into-text>
<https://www.inverse.com/innovation/brain-to-text>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. interpret what someone | a. disorders |
| 2. analysing their | b. at translating |
| 3. This could help | c. time |
| 4. neurological | d. to improve this |
| 5. translate brainwaves | e. millions |
| 6. in real | f. is saying |
| 7. 97 per cent accurate | g. into text |
| 8. They are working hard | h. brainwaves |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. in the early stages of their | a. and commands |
| 2. frequently- | b. be required |
| 3. vowels, consonants | c. to learn |
| 4. short and simple spoken | d. testing |
| 5. we should like the decoder | e. of English |
| 6. exploit the regularities of | f. sentences |
| 7. data would | g. repeated features |
| 8. a more general form | h. the language |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-4.html>

Scientists may be (1) _____ what someone is saying by analysing their brainwaves. This (2) _____ suffering from communication problems and neurological disorders. Algorithms in the scientists' (3) _____ brainwaves into text on a screen in real time. The (4) _____ the University of California. They say their algorithms are 97 per cent (5) _____. They are (6) _____ improve this.

The scientists are in the (7) _____ their testing. Their software matched frequently-repeated (8) _____ to shapes of the mouth. These (9) _____, consonants and commands.

The scientists used just 40 (10) _____ spoken sentences.

They said: "Although we should like the decoder to (11) _____ the regularities of the language, it remains to show how many data would be required to expand...to a (12) _____ of English."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-4.html>

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BRAINWAVES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about brainwaves 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-4.html>

Write about **brainwaves** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
