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Level 5 – 3rd April, 2019

Computer translates brainwaves into sentences

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:
https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-5.html

Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-5.html

Scientists may be able to interpret what someone is saying simply by analysing their brainwaves. This advance in neuroscience would help millions suffering from communication problems and neurological disorders. The artificial intelligence software can translate brainwaves into text. Algorithms analyse the brain activity and translates it in real time into sentences on a screen. The scientists are from the University of California. They say their algorithms have a 97 per cent translation accuracy rate. They are working hard to improve on this.

The scientists are at the early stages of machine-translating everything someone says. Their software matched frequently-repeated features of speech to parts and shapes of the mouth. These included elements of speech such as vowels, consonants and commands. The scientists used just 40 short and simple spoken sentences. The scientists 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 from our tiny languages 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-5.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. Scientists may be able	a. intelligence
2. what someone	b. rate
3. analysing	c. disorders
4. neurological	d. improve on this
5. artificial	e. into text
6. translate brainwaves	f. to interpret
7. a 97 per cent translation accuracy	g. their brainwaves
8. They are working hard to	h. is saying

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. at the early stages of machine-	a. of the language
2. frequently-	b. as vowels
3. parts and shapes	c. form of English
4. elements of speech such	d. of the mouth
5. simple spoken	e. to expand
6. exploit the regularities	f. translating everything
7. data would be required	g. sentences
8. a more general	h. repeated features

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-5.html

Scientists may be (1) _____ what someone is saying simply by analysing their brainwaves. This advance in neuroscience would help (2) _____ communication problems and neurological disorders. The artificial intelligence (3) _____ brainwaves into text. Algorithms analyse the brain (4) _____ it in real time into sentences on a screen. The scientists are from the University of California. They (5) _____ have a 97 per cent translation accuracy rate. They are working hard to (6) _____.

The scientists are at the (7) _____ machine-translating everything someone says. Their software matched frequently-repeated features of speech to (8) _____ of the mouth. These included elements of speech (9) _____, consonants and commands. The scientists used just 40 short and simple spoken sentences. The scientists said: "Although we should (10) _____ to learn and exploit the regularities of the language, it (11) _____ how many data would be required to expand from our tiny languages to a more (12) _____ English."

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200403-brainwaves-5.html

Scientistsmaybeabletointerpretwhatsomeoneissayingsimplybyanal
ysingtheirbrainwaves.Thisadvanceinneurosciencewouldhelpmillion
ssufferingfromcommunicationproblemsandneurologicaldisorders.T
heartificialintelligencesoftwarecantranslatebrainwavesintotext.Alg
orithmsanalysethebrainactivityandtranslatesitinrealtimeintosenten
cesonascreen.ThescientistsarefromtheUniversityofCalifornia.Theys
aytheiralgorithmshavea97percenttranslationaccuracyrate.Theyare
workinghardtoimproveonthis.Thescientistsareattheearlystagesofm
achine-translatingeverythingsomeonesays.Theirsoftwarematche
dfrequently-repeatedfeaturesofspeechtopartsandshapesofthemou
th.Theseincludedelementsofspeechsuchasvowels,consonantsandco
mmands.Thescientistsusedjust40shortandsimplespokensentences.
Thescientistssaid:"Althoughweshouldlikethedecodertolearnandexp
loittheregularitiesofthelanguage,itremainstoshowhowmanydatawo
uldberequiredtoexpandfromourtinylanguagestoamoregeneralform
ofEnglish."

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-5.html

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