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Level 0 – 9th August, 2020

Scientists discover why shaving blunts razors

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-0.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-0.html>

Scientists found why razor blades lose their sharpness. Razor blades are 50 times harder than hair, but hair damages them. Razor blades are made from steel. Every time a blade cuts a hair, the hair damages the blade. Hair makes the blade blunt. This means the life of a razor blade is short. It needs to be replaced often.

The scientists got a close-up view through a microscope of a blade cutting a hair. The hair made a small hole on the blade. This hole got bigger as it cut more hair. After more shaving, the blade did not cut cleanly. A scientist said it was interesting that steel failed when it cut hair. He said this is "an important engineering problem".

Sources: <http://news.mit.edu/2020/why-shaving-dulls-razors-0806>
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6504/689>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2251202-we-just-figured-out-why-shaving-soft-hair-blunts-steel-razor-blades/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. razor blades lose their | a. from steel |
| 2. 50 times harder | b. the blade |
| 3. Razor blades are made | c. often |
| 4. Every time a blade | d. than hair |
| 5. the hair damages | e. is short |
| 6. Hair makes the blade | f. cuts a hair |
| 7. the life of a razor blade | g. sharpness |
| 8. It needs to be replaced | h. blunt |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The scientists got a close- | a. bigger |
| 2. through a | b. cut hair |
| 3. The hair made a small hole | c. up view |
| 4. This hole got | d. problem |
| 5. the blade did not cut | e. on the blade |
| 6. A scientist said it was | f. cleanly |
| 7. steel failed when it | g. microscope |
| 8. an important engineering | h. interesting |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-0.html>

Scientists found why razor blades (1) _____.

Razor blades are (2) _____ than hair, but hair

damages them. Razor blades are (3) _____.

Every time a blade cuts a hair, (4) _____ the

blade. Hair makes (5) _____. This means the life

of a razor blade is short. It needs to (6) _____.

The scientists got a (7) _____ through a

microscope of a blade (8) _____. The hair made

a small hole on the blade. This (9) _____ as it

cut more hair. (10) _____, the blade did

(11) _____. A scientist said it was interesting that

steel failed when it cut hair. He said this is

"(12) _____ problem".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-0.html>

Scientists found why razor blades lose their sharpness. Razor blades are 50 times harder than hair, but hair damages them. Razor blades are made from steel. Every time a blade cuts a hair, the hair damages the blade. Hair makes the blade blunt. This means the life of a razor blade is short. It needs to be replaced often. The scientists got a close-up view through a microscope of a blade cutting a hair. The hair made a small hole on the blade. This hole got bigger as it cut more hair. After more shaving, the blade did not cut cleanly. A scientist said it was interesting that steel failed when it cut hair. He said this is "an important engineering problem".

SHAVING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about shaving 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) _____

