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Level 5 – 31st August, 2019

Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-5.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-5.html>

Elon Musk has shown off a pig with a computer chip in her brain that could lead to computer-to-brain technology in humans. Mr Musk has an impressive record in pioneering technology, from electric cars to space tourism. Gertrude the pig reveals his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Computers could enhance our brainpower. Musk announced that trials would begin on humans one day. He believes the technology is a giant leap into the future. He said it would greatly change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.

Mr Musk said results from Gertrude the pig showed the potential the technology could deliver. He hopes it will help people with neurological conditions like strokes and dementia. It could also mean our brain is wired directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control Internet-enabled devices by using our thoughts. The most futuristic aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to help us stop artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53921596>
<https://www.wired.com/story/elon-musk-neuralink-brain-implant-v2-demo/>
<https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/8/28/21404802/elon-musk-neuralink-brain-machine-interface-research>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. computer-to-brain | a. powers |
| 2. Mr Musk has an impressive | b. on humans one day |
| 3. Gertrude the pig reveals | c. technology |
| 4. Computers could enhance | d. change our lives |
| 5. trials would begin | e. his latest ambition |
| 6. a giant leap | f. our brainpower |
| 7. He said it would greatly | g. into the future |
| 8. giving us superhuman | h. record |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. the potential the technology | a. aspect |
| 2. neurological conditions | b. fiction movie |
| 3. our brain is wired directly | c. the human race |
| 4. Just like in a science | d. like strokes |
| 5. Internet- | e. intelligence |
| 6. The most futuristic | f. could deliver |
| 7. artificial | g. enabled devices |
| 8. powerful enough to destroy | h. to the Internet |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-5.html>

Elon Musk has (1) _____ pig with a computer chip in her brain that could lead to (2) _____ technology in humans. Mr Musk has (3) _____ in pioneering technology, from electric cars to space tourism. Gertrude the pig reveals his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Computers (4) _____ brainpower. Musk announced that trials would begin on humans one day. He believes the technology is a (5) _____ the future. He said it would greatly (6) _____ by giving us superhuman powers.

Mr Musk said results from Gertrude the pig (7) _____ the technology could deliver. He hopes it will help people with neurological (8) _____ and dementia. It could also mean our brain is wired directly to the Internet. Just like in a (9) _____, we could control Internet-enabled devices by using our thoughts. The (10) _____ of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to help (11) _____ intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-5.html>

Elon Musk has shown off a pig with a computer chip in her brain that could lead to computer-to-brain technology in humans. Mr Musk has an impressive record in pioneering technology, from electric cars to space tourism. Gertrude the pig reveals his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers without brains. Computers could enhance our brain power. Musk announced that trials would begin on humans one day. He believes the technology is a giant leap into the future. He said it would greatly change our lives by giving us superhuman powers. Mr Musk said results from Gertrude the pig showed the potential the technology could deliver. He hopes it will help people with neurological conditions like strokes and dementia. It could allow some of our brains to be wired directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control Internet-enabled devices by using our thoughts. The most futuristic aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to help us stop artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about superhuman powers 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/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-5.html>

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