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**Level 5 – 2nd October, 2019**

## **Two-fifths of world's plants at risk of extinction**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201002-plant-extinction-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/2010/201002-plant-extinction-5.html>

Scientists revealed that about two-fifths of the world's plants are at risk of extinction. This warning is from a piece of research called the State of the World's Plants and Fungi. Over 200 scientists analysed the condition of plants in 42 countries. A top botanist said: "We are living in an age of extinction. It's a very worrying picture of risk and urgent need for action. We're losing the race against time because species are disappearing faster....Many of them could [solve] some of the most pressing challenges of medicine and even perhaps of the emerging and current pandemics we are seeing today."

There are positive signs. Over 4,000 species of plants and fungi were discovered in 2019. These include potential future foods that could help millions of people suffering from poverty and food insecurity. The botanist said it was important to protect all plant life. He said: "We would not be able to survive without plants and fungi – all life depends on them. Every time we lose a species, we lose an opportunity for humankind." The research was released on the day of a United Nations summit. Leading scientists met to ask world leaders to act against biodiversity loss.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-54344309>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/30/world-plant-species-risk-extinction-fungi-earth>  
<https://news.yahoo.com/two-fifths-plants-risk-extinction-231222244.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201002-plant-extinction-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. a piece                      | a. against time      |
| 2. A top                        | b. of medicine       |
| 3. We are living in an          | c. botanist          |
| 4. urgent need                  | d. pandemics         |
| 5. We're losing the race        | e. age of extinction |
| 6. species are                  | f. of research       |
| 7. the most pressing challenges | g. disappearing      |
| 8. the emerging and current     | h. for action        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Over 4,000 species           | a. insecurity         |
| 2. fungi were                   | b. future foods       |
| 3. These include potential      | c. humankind          |
| 4. millions of people suffering | d. able to survive    |
| 5. food                         | e. from poverty       |
| 6. We would not be              | f. of plants          |
| 7. we lose an opportunity for   | g. loss               |
| 8. act against biodiversity     | h. discovered in 2019 |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201002-plant-extinction-5.html>

Scientists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ two-fifths of the world's plants are at risk of extinction. This warning is from (2) \_\_\_\_\_ research called the State of the World's Plants and Fungi. Over 200 scientists analysed the condition of plants in 42 countries. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ said: "We are living in an age of extinction. It's a very worrying picture of risk and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ action. We're losing the race against time because species are disappearing faster....Many of them could [solve] some of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of medicine and even perhaps of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ pandemics we are seeing today."

There (7) \_\_\_\_\_ gns. Over 4,000 species of plants and fungi were discovered in 2019. These include potential future foods that could help millions of people (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and food insecurity. The botanist said it was important to protect all plant life. He said: "We would not be (9) \_\_\_\_\_ without plants and fungi – all (10) \_\_\_\_\_ them. Every time we (11) \_\_\_\_\_, we lose an opportunity for humankind." The research was released on the day of a United Nations summit. Leading scientists met to ask world leaders to act (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201002-plant-extinction-5.html>

Scientists revealed that about two-fifths of the world's plants are at risk of extinction. This warning is from a piece of research called the State of the World's Plants and Fungi. Over 200 scientists analysed the condition of plants in 42 countries. A top botanist said: "We are living in an age of extinction. It's a very worrying picture of risk and urgent need for action. We're losing the race against time because species are disappearing faster.... Many of them could [solve] some of the most pressing challenges of medicine and even perhaps of the emerging and current pandemics we are seeing today." There are positive signs. Over 4,000 species of plants and fungi were discovered in 2019. These include potential future foods that could help millions of people suffering from poverty and food insecurity. The botanist said it was important to protect all plant life. He said: "We would not be able to survive without plants and fungi – all life depends on them. Every time we lose a species, we lose an opportunity for humankind." The research was released on the day of a United Nations summit. Leading scientists met to ask world leaders to act against biodiversity loss.

# PLANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201002-plant-extinction-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plants 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Two-fifths of world's plants at risk of extinction – 2nd October, 2019*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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/2010/201002-plant-extinction-5.html>

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

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