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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 2 – 12th May, 2021

IBM makes 'next-generation' microchip

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

Contents

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

Computers and smartphones can do more and more things nowadays. Fifteen years ago, they could not store movies or play high-definition games. Computer chip technology has advanced quickly. We can now stream movies and store huge amounts of data. IBM has announced a significant breakthrough in microchips. Its new chips have improved performance of 45 per cent. They use 75 per cent less energy. This is good for the environment. Batteries will be more energy efficient. Mobile phone battery life could quadruple. We might only need to charge phones every four days.

Tech giant IBM has greatly reduced the size of microchips. Computer engineers use nanometres to measure the size of chips. One nanometre is just a billionth of a metre. IBM's new chip is an incredible 2nm. IBM says it can store 50 billion transistors on "a chip the size of a fingernail". A computer expert said: "We have seen semiconductor manufacturers moving from 14nm to 7nm." He said IBM's new chip could advance artificial intelligence (AI). The chips could let data centres store more information. However, data centres use one per cent of the world's electricity.

Sources: https://www.**computerweekly.com**/news/252500454/IBM-Another-chip-in-the-wall
https://www.**bbc.com**/news/technology-57009930
https://edition.**cnn.com**/2021/05/06/tech/ibm-semiconductor-two-nanometer/index.html

PHRASE MATCHING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. do more and	a. efficient
2. store huge amounts	b. breakthrough
3. IBM has announced a significant	c. every four days
4. Its new chips have improved	d. of data
5. This is good	e. quadruple
6. batteries will be more energy	f. performance
7. battery life could	g. for the environment
8. charge phones	h. more things nowadays

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. tech giant	a. billionth of a metre
2. One nanometre is just a	b. store more
3. a chip the size	c. manufacturers
4. a computer	d. electricity
5. semiconductor	e. expert
6. artificial	f. IBM
7. let data centres	g. intelligence
8. one per cent of the world's	h. of a fingernail

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

Computers and smartphones can do (1) _____ things nowadays. Fifteen years ago, they could not store movies or (2) _____ games. Computer chip technology has advanced quickly. We can now stream movies and (3) _____ of data. IBM has announced a significant breakthrough in microchips. Its new (4) _____ performance of 45 per cent. They use 75 per cent less energy. This is good for the environment. Batteries will be (5) _____. Mobile phone battery life could quadruple. We might only (6) _____ phones every four days.

Tech giant IBM has (7) _____ size of microchips. Computer engineers use nanometres to (8) _____ of chips. One nanometre is just a billionth of a metre. IBM's new chip is an incredible 2nm. IBM says it can (9) _____ transistors on "a chip the size (10) _____". A computer expert said: "We have seen semiconductor manufacturers moving from 14nm to 7nm." He said IBM's new chip (11) _____ intelligence (AI). The chips could let data centres store more information. However, data centres use one per cent of (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

Computersandsmartphonescandomoreandmorethingsnowadays.Fifteenyearsago,theycouldnotstoremoviesorplayhigh-definitiongames.Computerchiptechnologyhasadvancedquickly.Wecannowstreammoviesandstorehugeamountsofdata.IBMhasannouncedasignificantbreakthroughinmicrochips.Itsnewchipshaveimprovedperformanceof45percent.Theyuse75percentlessenergy.Thisisgoodfortheenvironment.Batterieswillbemoreenergyefficient.Mobilephonebatterylifecouldquadruple.Wemightonlyneedtochargephoneseveryfourdays.TechgiantIBMhasgreatlyreducedthesizeofmicrochips.Computerengineersusenanometrestomeasurethesizeofchips.Onenanometreisjustabillionthofametre.IBM'snewchipisanincredible2nm.IBMsaysitcanstore50billiontransistorson"achipthesizeofafingernail".Acomputerexpertsaid:"Wehaveseensemiconductormanufacturersmovingfrom14nmto7nm."HesaidIBM'snewchipcouldadvanceartificialintelligence(AI).Thechipscouldletdatacentresstoremoreinformation.However,datacentresuseonepercentoftheworld'selectricity.

MICROCHIPS SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

Write five GOOD questions about microchips 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/2105/210512-microchips-2.html

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