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Level 5 – 4th July, 2022

Octopuses and humans share intelligence gene

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-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/2207/220704-octopus-5.html>

It is common knowledge that dolphins are very smart. Scientists have found that octopuses also have "remarkable" intelligence. Italian marine biologists have revealed that octopuses have an intelligence gene that is similar to the one in humans. The eight-tentacled creature has short sequences of DNA called "jumping genes". These make up 45 per cent of the human genome. The researchers said they are important for creating and storing memories in the brain. The DNA may give octopuses cognitive abilities like those humans have.

The research is important because it tells us how octopuses change their behaviour in response to different stimuli. This process is called "behavioural plasticity". A biologist said the research could help us understand more about human intelligence. He said: "The brain of the octopus has similar characteristics to mammal brains....For this reason [the DNA is] a very interesting candidate to study to improve our knowledge of the evolution of intelligence." He says the brain structure of octopuses show they are more similar to mammals than marine invertebrates.

Sources: <https://www.livescience.com/jumping-genes-octopus-intelligence>
<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/51619/20220629/octopus-human-brain.htm>
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/956980>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. It is common | a. biologists |
| 2. dolphins are very | b. genome |
| 3. octopuses also have "remarkable" | c. creature |
| 4. marine | d. intelligence |
| 5. octopi have an intelligence | e. smart |
| 6. The eight-tentacled | f. knowledge |
| 7. 45 per cent of the human | g. abilities |
| 8. cognitive | h. gene |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The research is | a. of octopuses |
| 2. it tells us how octopuses change | b. plasticity |
| 3. behavioural | c. of intelligence |
| 4. understand more about human | d. to mammals |
| 5. For this | e. important |
| 6. the evolution | f. reason |
| 7. the brain structure | g. their behaviour |
| 8. they are more similar | h. intelligence |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-5.html>

It (1) _____ that dolphins are very smart. Scientists have found that octopuses also have "remarkable" intelligence. Italian marine (2) _____ that octopi have an intelligence gene that is similar to the one in humans. The eight-tentacled creature (3) _____ of DNA called "jumping genes". These make up 45 per cent of (4) _____. The researchers said they are important for (5) _____ memories in the brain. The DNA may give octopuses (6) _____ those humans have.

The (7) _____ because it tells us how octopuses change their behaviour in response (8) _____. This process is (9) _____. A biologist said the research could help us understand more about human intelligence. He said: "The brain of the octopus has similar characteristics (10) _____. For this reason [the DNA is] a very interesting candidate to study to improve our knowledge (11) _____ of intelligence." He says the brain structure of octopuses show they are more similar to (12) _____ invertebrates.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-5.html>

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OCTOPUSES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about octopuses 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/2207/220704-octopus-5.html>

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