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**Level 5** – 25th December, 2019

## Head transplants possible by 2030, say doctors

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-5.html>

A neurosurgeon said head transplants could be possible by the year 2030. Transplant surgery has become like science fiction. Organ transplants and face transplants are now common. The next decade could see whole heads being transplanted. The neurosurgeon explained why he believes this is possible. He was working with an author on a science fiction novel. He said: "Initially, our intention was just to brainstorm an idea and it seemed rather silly, but then I realised, it actually isn't. If you transplant the brain and spinal cord together, it's not impossible."

The neurosurgeon has performed over 10,000 operations. He said head transplants would only be possible if the head was accompanied by its spinal cord. Advances in spinal cord surgery, robotics and stem cell transplants mean this could be possible before 2030. The neurosurgeon said: "Keeping the spinal cord in one piece has always been totally daunting." He also believes that consciousness could move with the head and spinal cord from one body to another. The technology could treat spinal cord injuries and diseases like muscular dystrophy.

Sources: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10607168/frankenstein-like-head-transplants-happen-by-2030/>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/human-head-transplant-spinal-cord-nhs-chrysalis-bruce-mathew-canavero-neurosurgeon-a9256841.html>  
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/human-head-transplants-just-decade-21147648>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. possible by the            | a. an idea              |
| 2. science                    | b. spinal cord together |
| 3. face transplants are       | c. an author            |
| 4. The neurosurgeon explained | d. fiction              |
| 5. He was working with        | e. silly                |
| 6. brainstorm                 | f. year 2030            |
| 7. it seemed rather           | g. why                  |
| 8. transplant the brain and   | h. now common           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The neurosurgeon has performed | a. cord                   |
| 2. the head was accompanied by    | b. daunting               |
| 3. advances in spinal cord        | c. muscular dystrophy     |
| 4. Keeping the spinal cord in     | d. surgery                |
| 5. always been totally            | e. its spinal cord        |
| 6. the head and spinal            | f. injuries               |
| 7. treat spinal cord              | g. over 10,000 operations |
| 8. diseases like                  | h. one piece              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-5.html>

A neurosurgeon said head transplants could (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the year 2030. Transplant surgery has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ fiction. Organ transplants and face transplants (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The next decade could see whole heads being transplanted. The neurosurgeon explained why he believes this is possible. He (4) \_\_\_\_\_ an author on a science fiction novel. He said: "Initially, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ just to brainstorm an idea and it (6) \_\_\_\_\_, but then I realised, it actually isn't. If you transplant the brain and spinal cord together, it's not impossible."

The neurosurgeon (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 10,000 operations. He said head transplants would only be possible if the head (8) \_\_\_\_\_ its spinal cord. Advances in spinal cord surgery, robotics and stem cell transplants mean this could (9) \_\_\_\_\_ 2030. The neurosurgeon said: "Keeping the spinal cord in one piece has always (10) \_\_\_\_\_." He also believes that consciousness could move with the head and spinal cord from one (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The technology could treat spinal cord injuries (12) \_\_\_\_\_ muscular dystrophy.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-5.html>

A neurosurgeon said head transplants could be possible by the year 2030. Transplant surgery has become like science fiction. Organ transplants and face transplants are now common. The next decade could see whole heads being transplanted. The neurosurgeon explained why he believes it is possible. He was working with an author on a science fiction novel. He said: "Initially, our intention was just to brainstorm an idea and it seemed a bit silly, but then I realised, it actually isn't. If you transplant the brain and spinal cord together, it's not impossible." The neurosurgeon has performed over 10,000 operations. He said head transplants would only be possible if the head was accompanied by its spinal cord. Advances in spinal cord surgery, robotics and stem cell transplants mean this could be possible before 2030. The neurosurgeon said: "Keeping the spinal cord in one piece has always been totally daunting." He also believes that consciousness could move with the head and spinal cord from one body to another. The technology could treat spinal cord injuries and diseases like muscular dystrophy.

# HEAD TRANSPLANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191225-head-transplants-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about head transplants 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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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/1912/191225-head-transplants-5.html>

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

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