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Level 6 – 21st December, 2020

Botanists find world's ugliest orchid

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Many people believe orchids to be the epitome of beauty. The colourful, delicate and fragrant blooms of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, botanists have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. The orchid family comprises more than 25,000 individual species, so there is every likelihood that one or two might not exude exquisiteness. A newly discovered variety has been awarded the label of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving grace for the newly-unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, musky, rose-like fragrance.

The 'ugly' orchid has been named "*gastrodia agnicellus*". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's not very attractive, I must say. It's fleshy looking, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many more lurking in the undergrowth yet to be discovered. The bad news for the *gastrodia* is that even though it has just turned up, it is already considered to be an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The bleak reality facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened with extinction, it is a race against time to find, identify, name, and conserve plants before they disappear."

Sources: <https://www.sciencealert.com/botanists-have-finally-found-it-the-ugliest-orchid-in-the-world>
<https://nerdist.com/article/royal-botanical-gardens-ugliest-orchid/>
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/worlds-ugliest-orchid_n_5fdbb7b6c5b6aa861e5ce58d

WARM-UPS

1. ORCHIDS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about orchids. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

orchids / beauty / blooms / floral / display / variety / botanists / gardens / fragrance / researcher / attractive / plant / discovery / endangered / species / reality / extinction

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. CONSERVATION: Students A **strongly** believe it is more important to conserve plants than animals; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PLANTS: What do you know about these plants? How useful are they Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How Useful
Orchids		
Cacti		
Bamboo		
Moss		
Ferns		
Trees		

5. COLOURFUL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "colourful". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. FLOWERS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Orchids
- Sunflowers
- Roses
- Lotus flowers
- Lilies
- Daffodils
- Daisies
- Carnations

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. epitome | a. Extreme and lovely beauty. |
| 2. delicate | b. Easily broken or damaged; fragile; requiring careful handling. |
| 3. bloom | c. About flowers. |
| 4. floral | d. A person or thing that is a perfect example of a particular quality or type. |
| 5. exude | e. An expert in or student of the scientific study of plants. |
| 6. exquisiteness | f. A flower, especially one grown for its beauty. |
| 7. botanist | g. Give or put out moisture or a smell, slowly and steadily. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. fleshy | h. Of a species seriously at risk of totally disappearing. |
| 9. lurking | i. A thick area of shrubs and other plants, especially under trees in woodland or forests. |
| 10. undergrowth | j. The state or process of a species, family, or larger group disappearing from the world forever. |
| 11. endangered | k. Of a plant or fruit issue that is soft and thick. |
| 12. bleak | l. Remaining hidden waiting to be found. |
| 13. extinction | m. Protect something, especially an environmentally or culturally important place or thing, from harm or destruction. |
| 14. conserve | n. Not hopeful or encouraging. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says orchids are the world's most beautiful flowers. **T / F**
- b. There are over 25,000 kinds of orchids. **T / F**
- c. The new species of orchid was found in a Madagascan forest. **T / F**
- d. The newly-discovered orchid has a musty smell. **T / F**
- e. The new orchid is brown on the inside and red on the outside. **T / F**
- f. Scientists believe there may be more orchids waiting to be found. **T / F**
- g. The new orchid has already been put on the endangered species list. **T / F**
- h. A researcher says there is a race against time to conserve plants. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. epitome | a. thought |
| 2. fragrant | b. beauty |
| 3. comprises | c. protect |
| 4. exquisiteness | d. thrilled |
| 5. unearthed | e. sweet-smelling |
| 6. excited | f. hiding |
| 7. lurking | g. essence |
| 8. considered | h. gloomy |
| 9. bleak | i. discovered |
| 10. conserve | j. is made up of |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Many people believe orchids to be the epitome | a. individual species |
| 2. The colourful, delicate and fragrant blooms of | b. time |
| 3. the centrepiece of any floral | c. grace |
| 4. The orchid family comprises more than 25,000 | d. species |
| 5. One saving | e. an orchid |
| 6. many more lurking in | f. disappear |
| 7. considered to be an endangered | g. the undergrowth |
| 8. The bleak reality | h. of beauty |
| 9. it is a race against | i. facing us |
| 10. conserve plants before they | j. display |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Many people believe orchids to be the (1) _____ of beauty. The colourful, delicate and fragrant (2) _____ of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, (3) _____ have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. The orchid family comprises more than 25,000 (4) _____ species, so there is every likelihood that one or two might not (5) _____ exquisiteness. A newly discovered variety has been awarded the (6) _____ of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving (7) _____ for the newly-unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, musky, rose-(8) _____ fragrance.

individual
label
blooms
like
epitome
grace
botanists
exude

The 'ugly' orchid has been named "*gastrodia agnicellus*". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's not very (9) _____, I must say. It's (10) _____ looking, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many more (11) _____ in the undergrowth yet to be discovered. The bad (12) _____ for the *gastrodia* is that even though it has just turned up, it is already considered to be an (13) _____ species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The bleak (14) _____ facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened with (15) _____, it is a race against time to find, identify, name, and (16) _____ plants before they disappear."

reality
lurking
attractive
conserve
endangered
extinction
fleshy
news

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

- 1) Many people believe orchids to be the _____
 - a. epitomise of beauty
 - b. epic tome of beauty
 - c. a pit of me of beauty
 - d. epitome of beauty
- 2) fragrant blooms of an orchid will be the centrepiece of _____
 - a. any floor all display
 - b. any flare all display
 - c. any floral display
 - d. any four all display
- 3) The orchid family comprises more than 25,000 _____
 - a. individuals species
 - b. individual species
 - c. individualise species
 - d. individualism species
- 4) A newly discovered variety has been awarded the label of the world's _____ botanists
 - a. ugliest orchid by
 - b. ugliest orchid bye
 - c. ugliest orchid buy
 - d. ugliest orchid be
- 5) The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, musky, _____
 - a. rose-like fragrant
 - b. rose-like fragrance
 - c. rose-like flagrant
 - d. rose-like fragrance
- 6) Johan Hermans said: "It's not very attractive, I must say. It's _____"
 - a. freshly looking
 - b. flesh is looking
 - c. flashy looking
 - d. fleshy looking
- 7) they believe there could be many more lurking _____
 - a. in the under grown
 - b. in the undergrowth
 - c. in an undergrowth
 - d. in the under grown
- 8) yet to be discovered. The bad news for the *gastrodia* is that even though it has _____
 - a. just turned up
 - b. justly turned up
 - c. justice turned up
 - d. adjust turned up
- 9) With two in five plants threatened _____
 - a. with extinct on
 - b. with extant on
 - c. with ex tincture
 - d. with extinction
- 10) a race against time to find, identify, name, _____
 - a. and conserve plant
 - b. and conserve plants
 - c. and conserve planters
 - d. and conserve plans

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Many people believe orchids to be the (1) _____. The colourful, delicate and (2) _____ an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, botanists have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. The (3) _____ more than 25,000 individual species, so there is every likelihood that one or two might not exude exquisiteness. A newly discovered (4) _____ awarded the label of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One (5) _____ the newly-unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, musky, (6) _____.

The 'ugly' orchid has been named "*gastrodia agnicellus*". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's (7) _____, I must say. (8) _____, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many (9) _____ the undergrowth yet to be discovered. The bad news for the *gastrodia* is that even though it has just turned up, it is already considered to be (10) _____. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The bleak reality facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened with extinction, it is a (11) _____ to find, identify, name, and (12) _____ they disappear."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

1. What does the article say people believe orchids to be the epitome of?
2. How many species of orchid are there in the world?
3. Who gave the "ugliest orchid" label?
4. In which country was the orchid found?
5. What does the article say is a saving grace for the orchid?
6. What is the colour of the inside of the new orchid?
7. Where could there be more undiscovered orchids hiding?
8. What is the new orchid already considered to be?
9. How many of the world's plants face extinction?
10. What did a researcher say there is a race against?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

- 1) What does the article say people believe orchids to be the epitome of?
 - a) flora
 - b) flowers
 - c) beauty
 - d) art
- 2) How many species of orchid are there in the world?
 - a) over 25,000
 - b) exactly 25,000
 - c) fewer than 25,000
 - d) around 25,000
- 3) Who gave the "ugliest orchid" label?
 - a) the Royal Botanic Gardens
 - b) the Royal Botanic Park
 - c) the Royal Botanic Museum
 - d) the Royal Botanic Centre
- 4) In which country was the orchid found?
 - a) Mozambique
 - b) Madagascar
 - c) Mongolia
 - d) Malta
- 5) What does the article say is a saving grace for the orchid?
 - a) its colour
 - b) its price
 - c) its attractiveness
 - d) its smell
- 6) What is the colour of the inside of the new orchid?
 - a) blue
 - b) red
 - c) gold
 - d) multi-coloured
- 7) Where could there be more undiscovered orchids hiding?
 - a) the undergrowth
 - b) in museums
 - c) people's gardens
 - d) Brazil
- 8) What is the new orchid already considered to be?
 - a) a rarity
 - b) much sought after
 - c) an endangered species
 - d) medicinal
- 9) How many of the world's plants face extinction?
 - a) three in four
 - b) two in three
 - c) seven in ten
 - d) two in five
- 10) What did a researcher say there is a race against?
 - a) time
 - b) the climate
 - c) the weather
 - d) the rain

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Role A – Orchids

You think orchids are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the least lovely of these (and why): sunflowers, lotus flowers or roses.

Role B – Sunflowers

You think sunflowers are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the least lovely of these (and why): orchids, lotus flowers or roses.

Role C – Lotus Flowers

You think lotus flowers are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the least lovely of these (and why): sunflowers, orchids or roses.

Role D – Roses

You think roses are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the least lovely of these (and why): sunflowers, lotus flowers or orchids.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'ugly' and 'plant'.

ugly	plant
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• epitome• floral• likelihood• label• forest• rose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• attractive• outside• believe• just• reality• time
---	--

ORCHIDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Write five GOOD questions about orchids 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.

ORCHIDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'orchid'?
3. What do you know about orchids?
4. What are your favourite flowers?
5. How can a flower be ugly?
6. Why do people like flowers so much?
7. Have you ever received or given flowers?
8. What does a botanist do every day?
9. What flowers have the best smell?
10. How good are you at growing flowers and plants?

Botanists find world's ugliest orchid – 21st December, 2020
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ORCHIDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'plant'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How worried are you about the extinction of plants?
15. Would you like a job where you search forests for new species?
16. How sad is it that plants are disappearing?
17. What are the consequences for us of plants becoming extinct?
18. What three adjectives best describe this story, and why?
19. How can the world win the race against time?
20. What questions would you like to ask the botanists?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Many people believe orchids to (1) _____ the epitome of beauty. The colourful, delicate and fragrant (2) _____ of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, botanists have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. The orchid family (3) _____ more than 25,000 individual species, so there is every likelihood that one or two might not (4) _____ exquisiteness. A newly discovered variety has been awarded the label of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving (5) _____ for the newly-unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, (6) _____, rose-like fragrance.

The 'ugly' orchid has been named "*gastrodia agnicellus*". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's not very attractive, I must say. It's (7) _____ looking, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many more (8) _____ in the undergrowth yet to be discovered. The bad news for the *gastrodia* is that even though it has just turned (9) _____, it is already considered to be an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The (10) _____ reality facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened (11) _____ extinction, it is a race against (12) _____ to find, identify, name, and conserve plants before they disappear."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) be | (b) do | (c) smell | (d) fragrant |
| 2. | (a) blossom | (b) blames | (c) blooms | (d) brooms |
| 3. | (a) surprise | (b) reprise | (c) comprise | (d) appraise |
| 4. | (a) deduce | (b) denude | (c) exclude | (d) exude |
| 5. | (a) glee | (b) greetings | (c) grace | (d) grants |
| 6. | (a) masked | (b) musky | (c) murky | (d) mucky |
| 7. | (a) skinny | (b) fleshy | (c) heady | (d) bony |
| 8. | (a) lacking | (b) lurking | (c) looking | (d) liking |
| 9. | (a) out | (b) over | (c) up | (d) on |
| 10. | (a) block | (b) blank | (c) bloke | (d) bleak |
| 11. | (a) as | (b) of | (c) on | (d) with |
| 12. | (a) clocks | (b) century | (c) hours | (d) time |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Paragraph 1

1. believe orchids to be the pitemo of beauty
2. delicate and afrgrant blooms
3. the centrepiece of any lfroal display
4. The orchid family opcirmses more than 25,000
5. one or two might not dxuee exquisiteness
6. One saving cegra

Paragraph 2

7. It's lesfhy looking
8. likurng in the undergrowth
9. an endangered escpeis
10. The kbale reality
11. threatened with xtnetciion
12. ncesorve plants before they disappear

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many more lurking in the undergrowth yet to
- () in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving grace for the newly-
- () blooms of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, botanists have just decided
- () on the world's ugliest orchid. The orchid family comprises more than 25,000 individual
- () time to find, identify, name, and conserve plants before they disappear."
- () be discovered. The bad news for the gastrodia is that even though it has just turned up, it is already considered to be an
- () The 'ugly" orchid has been named "gastrodia agnicellus". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's not very
- () species, so there is every likelihood that one or two might not exude exquisiteness. A newly discovered
- () attractive, I must say. It's fleshy looking, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are
- () variety has been awarded the label of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens
- () unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, musky, rose-like fragrance.
- () endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The bleak reality
- () facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened with extinction, it is a race against
- (**1**) Many people believe orchids to be the epitome of beauty. The colourful, delicate and fragrant

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

1. be beauty . to the of epitome Believe orchids
2. floral any Orchids the display . are centrepiece of
3. orchid individual The comprises 25,000 family species .
4. exquisiteness . not or exude One two might
5. grace One the saving newly-unearthed plant . for
6. the at plant . However, scientists excited are finding
7. discovered . be Lurking the to undergrowth in yet
8. species . is to an considered endangered It be
9. with five With in extinction . plants two threatened
10. and before disappear . conserve plants they Name

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Many people believe orchids to be the *epitomise / epitome* of beauty. The colourful, delicate and fragrant *brooms / blooms* of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, botanists have just decided *in / on* the world's ugliest orchid. The orchid family *comprising / comprises* more than 25,000 individual species, so there is every *liking / likelihood* that one or two might not exude exquisiteness. A newly *discovered / discovery* variety has been awarded the *ladle / label* of the world's ugliest orchid by *botany / botanists* at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving *glaze / grace* for the newly-unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, *musky / murky*, rose-like fragrance.

The 'ugly' orchid has been named "*gastrodia agnicellus*". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's not *verily / very* attractive, I must say. It's *fleshy / freshly* looking, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are excited *at / to* finding the plant because they believe there could be many more *looking / lurking* in the undergrowth yet to be *discovery / discovered*. The bad news for the *gastrodia* is that even *though / through* it has just turned up, it is already *considering / considered* to be an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The bleak *reality / realism* facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened with *extinction / extraction*, it is a race against time to find, identify, name, and conserve plants *before / afore* they disappear."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

M_ny p__pl_ b_l__v_ _rch_ds t_ b_ th_ _p_t_m_ _f
b__ty. Th_ c_l__rf_l, d_l_c_t_ _nd fr_gr_nt bl__ms _f
_n _rch_d w_ll b_ th_ c_ntr_p__c_ _f _ny fl_r_l
d_spl_y. H_w_v_r, b_t_n_sts h_v_ j_st d_c_d_d _n th_
w_rld's _gl__st _rch_d. Th_ _rch_d f_m_ly c_mpr_s_s
m_r_ th_n 25,000 _nd_v_d__l sp_c__s, s_ th_r_ _s
_v_ry l_k_l_h__d th_t _n_ _r tw_ m_ght n_t _x_d_
_xq__s_t_n_ss. _ n_wly d_sc_v_r_d v_r__ty h_s b__n
_w_rd_d th_ l_b_l _f th_ w_rld's _gl__st _rch_d by
b_t_n_sts _t th_ R_y_l B_t_n_c G_rd_ns _n th_ _K. _t
w_s f__nd l_st y__r _n _ f_r_st _n M_d_g_sc_r. _n_
s_v_ng gr_c_ f_r th_ n_wly-_n__rth_d pl_nt _s _ts
sm_ll. Th_ sc__nt_sts s_y th_ fl_w_r h_s _ b__t_f_l,
m_sky, r_s_-l_k_ fr_gr_nc_.

Th_ '_gly" _rch_d h_s b__n n_m_d "g_str_d__
_gn_c_ll_s". R_s__rch_r J_h_n H_r_m_ns s__d: "_t's n_t
v_ry _ttr_ct_v_, _ m_st s_y. _t's fl_shy l__k_ng, r_d
_ns_d_ _nd br_wn _n th_ __ts_d_." H_w_v_r,
sc__nt_sts _r_ _xc_t_d _t f_nd_ng th_ pl_nt b_c__s_
th_y b_l__v_ th_r_ c__ld b_ m_ny m_r_ l_rk_ng _n
th_ _nd_rgr_wth y_t t_ b_ d_sc_v_r_d. Th_ b_d n_ws
f_r th_ g_str_d__ _s th_t _v_n th__gh _t h_s j_st
t_rn_d _p, _t _s _lr__dy c_nsd_r_d t_ b_ _n
_nd_ng_r_d sp_c__s. R_s__rch_r M_rt_n Ch__k w_rn_d:
"Th_ bl__k r__l_ty f_c_ng _s c_nnt b_ _nd_rpl_y_d.
W_th tw_ _n f_v_ pl_nts thr__t_n_d w_th _xt_nct__n,
_t _s _r_c_ _g__nst t_m_ t_ f_nd, _d_nt_fy, n_m_,
_nd c_nsv_ pl_nts b_f_r_ th_y d_s_pp__r."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

many people believe orchids to be the epitome of beauty the colourful delicate and fragrant blooms of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display however botanists have just decided on the worlds ugliest orchid the orchid family comprises more than 25000 individual species so there is every likelihood that one or two might not exude exquisiteness a newly discovered variety has been awarded the label of the worlds ugliest orchid by botanists at the royal botanic gardens in the uk it was found last year in a forest in madagascar one saving grace for the newlyunearthed plant is its smell the scientists say the flower has a beautiful musky roselike fragrance

the ugly orchid has been named *gastrodia agnicellus* researcher johan hermans said its not very attractive i must say its fleshy looking red inside and brown on the outside however scientists are excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many more lurking in the undergrowth yet to be discovered the bad news for the *gastrodia* is that even though it has just turned up it is already considered to be an endangered species researcher martin cheek warned the bleak reality facing us cannot be underplayed with two in five plants threatened with extinction it is a race against time to find identify name and conserve plants before they disappear

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids.html>

Many people believe orchids to be the epitome of beauty. The colourful, delicate and fragrant blooms of an orchid will be the centrepiece of any floral display. However, botanists have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. The orchid family comprises more than 25,000 individual species, so there is every likelihood that one or two might not exude exquisiteness. A newly discovered variety has been awarded the label of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving grace for the newly-unearthed plant is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful, musky, rose-like fragrance. The 'ugly' orchid has been named "gastrodia agnicellus". Researcher Johan Hermans said: "It's not very attractive, I must say. It's fleshy looking, red inside and brown on the outside." However, scientists are excited at finding the plant because they believe there could be many more lurking in the undergrowth yet to be discovered. The bad news for the gastrodia is that even though it has just turned up, it is already considered to be an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned: "The bleak reality facing us cannot be underplayed. With two in five plants threatened with extinction, it is a race against time to find, identify, name, and conserve plants before they disappear."

HOMWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ORCHIDS: Make a poster about orchids. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PLANT CONSERVATION: Write a magazine article about prioritising plant conservation over animal conservation. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on orchids. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to conserve plants. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c T d F e F f T g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. d	7. f	8. a	9. h	10. c

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Beauty
- Over 25,000
- The Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK
- Madagascar
- Its smell
- Red
- The undergrowth?
- An endangered species
- Two in five
- Time

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- Believe orchids to be the epitome of beauty.
- Orchids are the centrepiece of any floral display.
- The orchid family comprises 25,000 individual species.
- One or two might not exude exquisiteness.
- One saving grace for the newly-unearthed plant.
- However, scientists are excited at finding the plant.
- Lurking in the undergrowth yet to be discovered.
- It is considered to be an endangered species.
- With two in five plants threatened with extinction.
- Name and conserve plants before they disappear.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)