

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 2 – 21st March, 2021**

## **Pigs are intelligent enough to play video games**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210321-pigs-2.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 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210321-pigs-2.html>

Pigs are more intelligent than we thought. They can play video games. Researchers in the USA did research on their gaming skills. The researchers were surprised. The test pigs could play games. Researchers got four pigs to play a simple game at different levels. They had to move a joystick with their nose to make a cursor move. If they were successful, they got a treat. Lead author Dr. Candace Croney said: "It's very clear they had some...understanding of what they were being asked to do." The research is in a paper published in a journal.

The research was quite long. The pigs spent many days playing the game. They played on three different levels. If they were successful at one level, they moved to the next level. The higher levels had nicer treats. A scientist said: "The pigs clearly understood the connection between their own behavior, the joystick, and what was happening on the screen." Dr Coney wants to understand how pigs get information, and what they can learn and remember. She said this would help us to understand more about pigs interacting with humans.

Sources: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/pigs-can-learn-play-video-games-if-tempted-treats-180977018/>  
<https://theconversation.com/pigs-can-play-video-games-scientists-discover-154993>  
<https://bigthink.com/surprising-science/pig-intelligence>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210321-pigs-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Pigs are more intelligent | a. at different levels |
| 2. They can                  | b. in a journal        |
| 3. research on their         | c. they got a treat    |
| 4. play a simple game        | d. gaming skills       |
| 5. make a cursor             | e. than we thought     |
| 6. If they were successful,  | f. clear               |
| 7. It's very                 | g. play video games    |
| 8. a paper published         | h. move                |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The research was quite     | a. understood        |
| 2. The pigs spent many days   | b. to the next level |
| 3. They played on three       | c. about pigs        |
| 4. they moved                 | d. playing the game  |
| 5. The higher levels          | e. the screen        |
| 6. The pigs clearly           | f. different levels  |
| 7. what was happening on      | g. had nicer treats  |
| 8. help us to understand more | h. long              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210321-pigs-2.html>

Pigs are more intelligent (1) \_\_\_\_\_. They can play video games. Researchers in the USA did research (2) \_\_\_\_\_ skills. The researchers were surprised. The test (3) \_\_\_\_\_ games. Researchers got four pigs to play a simple game at different levels. They had to move a joystick with their nose to make (4) \_\_\_\_\_. If they were successful, they (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Lead author Dr. Candace Croney said: "It's very clear they had some...understanding of what they were being asked to do." The research is in a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a journal.

The research (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The pigs spent many days playing the game. They played on three different levels. If they were successful (8) \_\_\_\_\_, they moved to the next level. The higher levels (9) \_\_\_\_\_. A scientist said: "The pigs clearly understood the connection between their own behavior, the joystick, and what (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the screen." Dr Coney wants to understand how pigs get information, and what (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and remember. She said this (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to understand more about pigs interacting with humans.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210321-pigs-2.html>

Pigs are more intelligent than we thought. They can play video games. Researchers in the USA did research on their gaming skills. The researchers were surprised. The test pigs could play games. Researchers got four pigsto play a simple game at different levels. They had to move a joystick with their nose to make a cursor move. If they were successful, they got a treat. Lead author Dr. Candace Croney said: "It's very clear they had some... understanding of what they were being asked to do." The research is in a paper published in a journal. The research was quite long. The pigs spent many days playing the game. They played on three different levels. If they were successful at one level, they moved to the next level. The higher levelshad nicer treats. A scientist said: "The pigs clearly understood the connection between their own behavior, the joystick, and what was happening on the screen." Dr. Croney wants to understand how pigs get information, and what they can learn and remember. She said this would help us to understand more about pigs interacting with humans.

# PIGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210321-pigs-2.html>

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

*Pigs are intelligent enough to play video games – 21st March, 2021*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

