

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

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

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

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

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 4 – 29th November, 2021

Omicron coronavirus variant spreading worldwide

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.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 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.html>

A new covid-19 variant called Omicron is spreading worldwide. It was first reported in Botswana and was then detected in South Africa, Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. It is now a "virus of concern". Epidemiologists say this new strain could be very infectious. It may be able to evade protections our current vaccines give us. Many countries have reinstated travel bans. Despite these, new cases have been reported across Europe.

Scientists are looking at the dangers Omicron might pose. They found 50 genetic changes in the DNA in the spikes of the virus. Vaccines focus on these spikes. Any changes in their DNA could make the virus more dangerous, spreadable and resistant against vaccines. The White House warned that: "When you have a virus that is showing this degree of transmissibility, and you're already having travel-related cases...it is ultimately going to go all over."

Sources: <https://nypost.com/2021/11/27/omicron-variant-found-in-uk-germany-czech-republic/>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/27/omicron-variant-covid-southern-africa-travel-restrictions>
<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/11/27/1059501446/covid-coronavirus-omicron-variant>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A new covid-19 variant | a. be very infectious |
| 2. spreading | b. travel bans |
| 3. It was first | c. worldwide |
| 4. It is now a virus of | d. across Europe |
| 5. this new strain could | e. reported in Botswana |
| 6. evade protections our current | f. concern |
| 7. Many countries have reinstated | g. called Omicron |
| 8. new cases have been reported | h. vaccines give us |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Scientists are looking at | a. of the virus |
| 2. They found 50 genetic | b. transmissibility |
| 3. the DNA in the spikes | c. changes |
| 4. Vaccines focus | d. all over |
| 5. Any changes in their | e. more dangerous |
| 6. make the virus | f. the dangers |
| 7. showing this degree of | g. DNA |
| 8. it is ultimately going to go | h. on these spikes |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.html>

A new covid-19 variant called Omicron (1) _____. It was first reported in Botswana and was (2) _____ South Africa, Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. It is now a "(3) _____". Epidemiologists say this new strain could be very infectious. It may be (4) _____ protections our (5) _____ us. Many countries have reinstated travel bans. Despite these, new cases have (6) _____ Europe. Scientists are looking (7) _____ Omicron might pose. They found 50 (8) _____ the DNA in the spikes of the virus. Vaccines focus (9) _____. Any changes in their DNA could make the virus more dangerous, spreadable (10) _____ vaccines. The White House warned that: "When you have a virus that is (11) _____ of transmissibility, and you're already having travel-related cases...it (12) _____ to go all over."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.html>

A new covid-19 variant called Omicron is spreading worldwide. It was first reported in Botswana and was then detected in South Africa, Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. It is now a "virus of concern". Epidemiologists say this new strain could be very infectious. It may be able to evade protection from current vaccines given us. Many countries have reinstated travel bans. Despite these, new cases have been reported across Europe. Scientists are looking at the dangers Omicron might pose. They found 50 genetic changes in the DNA in the spikes of the virus. Vaccines focus on these spikes. Any changes in their DNA could make the virus more dangerous, spreadable and resistant against vaccines. The White House warned that: "When you have a virus that is showing this degree of transmissibility, and you're already having travel-related cases... it is ultimately going to go all over."

OMICRON SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Omicron 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) _____

Omicron coronavirus variant spreading worldwide – 29th November, 2021
More free lessons at 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) _____

