

# 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 4 - 3rd April 2023**

## Scientists say plants 'scream' when stressed

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230403-plants-scream-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](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



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

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230403-plants-scream-4.html>

Plant lovers help plants grow by talking to them. Scientists from Israel believe plants may be able to talk back.

Researchers found that plants make sounds like a human scream when they are stressed. We may be able to interpret the sounds and give plants what they need. However, the sounds are too high for the human ear to hear. We can only hear frequencies of up to 16 kilohertz. Plants make sounds up to 250 kilohertz.

The research was done in an acoustic chamber. Scientists found that stressed tomato plants create sound waves. A researcher said: "Each plant and each type of stress is associated with a specific identifiable sound." She said animals and insects could hear the sounds. If humans understand these sounds, they could help us understand when plants and crops need water. Farmers could water their fields more efficiently and save water.

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/plants-emit-a-rather-noisy-cry-for-help-when-under-stress-scientists-find/>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/plants-really-do-scream-out-loud-we-just-never-heard-it-until-now>  
<https://gizmodo.com/plants-make-popping-sounds-when-stressed-study-1850283774>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230403-plants-scream-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Plant                      | a. up to 16 kilohertz |
| 2. help plants grow           | b. the sounds         |
| 3. plants may be able to talk | c. to 250 kilohertz   |
| 4. like a human               | d. back               |
| 5. be able to interpret       | e. lovers             |
| 6. too high for the human     | f. scream             |
| 7. hear frequencies of        | g. ear to hear        |
| 8. Plants make sounds up      | h. by talking to them |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. research was done in       | a. efficiently             |
| 2. tomato plants create sound | b. identifiable sound      |
| 3. associated with a specific | c. understood these sounds |
| 4. animals and insects could  | d. water                   |
| 5. If humans                  | e. hear the sounds         |
| 6. understand when plants and | f. an acoustic chamber     |
| 7. water their fields more    | g. waves                   |
| 8. save                       | h. crops need water        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230403-plants-scream-4.html>

Plant (1) \_\_\_\_\_ grow by talking to them. Scientists from Israel believe plants may be able (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers found that plants make sounds (3) \_\_\_\_\_ scream when they are stressed. We may be able (4) \_\_\_\_\_ sounds and give plants what they need. However, the sounds are too high for the human (5) \_\_\_\_\_. We can only hear frequencies of up to 16 kilohertz. Plants make (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 250 kilohertz.

The research was done (7) \_\_\_\_\_ chamber. Scientists found that stressed tomato plants (8) \_\_\_\_\_. A researcher said: "Each plant and each (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is associated with a specific identifiable sound." She said (10) \_\_\_\_\_ could hear the sounds. If humans understood these sounds, they could help us understand when plants and (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Farmers could (12) \_\_\_\_\_ more efficiently and save water.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230403-plants-scream-4.html>

Plant lovers help plants grow by talking to them. Scientists from Israel believe plants may be able to talk back. Researchers found that plants make sounds like a human scream when they are stressed. We may be able to interpret the sounds and give plants what they need. However, the sounds are too high for the human ear to hear. We can only hear frequencies of up to 16 kilohertz. Plants make sounds up to 250 kilohertz. The research was done in an acoustic chamber. Scientists found that stressed tomato plants create sound waves. A researcher said: "Each plant and each type of stress is associated with a specific identifiable sound." She said animals and insects could hear the sounds. If humans understood these sounds, they could help us understand when plants and crops need water. Farmers could water their fields more efficiently and save water.

# PLANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230403-plants-scream-4.html>

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

*Scientists say plants 'scream' when stressed – 3rd April 2023*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://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) \_\_\_\_\_



