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## **Level 5**

### **Scientists make see-through wood**

**19th May, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160519-transparent-wood-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 <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160519-transparent-wood-5.html>

Scientists have invented a revolutionary new use for wood. They have found a way to make it transparent. This could change the way we use and make many things. See-through wood could one day replace glass in windows and tables, iPhone screens, and in a whole assortment of other areas of building. Researchers at the University of Maryland experimented with different ways to remove the chemicals from wood that give it colour. A researcher said: "We were very surprised by how transparent it could go. This can really open applications that can potentially replace glass."

The researchers boiled small blocks of wood in water, sodium hydroxide and other chemicals for about two hours. The molecule that gives wood its colour disappeared during this process. The colourless cells left behind meant the wood became transparent. The see-through wood is a lot stronger than glass. It is better at insulating against the cold. It is also biodegradable. Research is still in its early stages. Researchers have only used small, thin blocks of wood so far. They will now focus on applying the process on bigger pieces of wood.

Sources: <http://www.techtimes.com/articles/158759/20160516/scientists-create-transparent-wood-stronger-more-insulating-glass.htm>  
<http://www.engadget.com/2016/05/16/see-through-wood/>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/12/science/see-through-wood.html> Scientists make see-through wood

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160519-transparent-wood-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a revolutionary new            | a. that give it colour |
| 2. They have found a way to       | b. use                 |
| 3. See-through                    | c. open applications   |
| 4. a whole                        | d. wood                |
| 5. remove the chemicals from wood | e. glass               |
| 6. surprised by how transparent   | f. make it transparent |
| 7. This can really                | g. assortment          |
| 8. potentially replace            | h. it could go         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. small blocks              | a. against the cold     |
| 2. sodium hydroxide          | b. early stages         |
| 3. The molecule that gives   | c. behind               |
| 4. The colourless cells left | d. applying the process |
| 5. better at insulating      | e. wood its colour      |
| 6. It is also                | f. of wood              |
| 7. still in its              | g. and other chemicals  |
| 8. focus on                  | h. biodegradable        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160519-transparent-wood-5.html>

Scientists have invented (1) \_\_\_\_\_ use for wood. They have found a way to (2) \_\_\_\_\_. This could change the way we use and make many things. See-through wood (3) \_\_\_\_\_ glass in windows and tables, iPhone screens, and in a whole assortment of other (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers at the University of Maryland experimented with different ways to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from wood that give it colour. A researcher said: "We were very surprised by how transparent it could go. This (6) \_\_\_\_\_ applications that can potentially replace glass."

The researchers boiled (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in water, sodium hydroxide and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for about two hours. The molecule that gives wood its colour disappeared (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The colourless cells (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the wood became transparent. The see-through wood is a lot stronger than glass. It is better at insulating against the cold. It (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Research is still in its early stages. Researchers have only used small, thin blocks of wood so far. They will now focus on (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on bigger pieces of wood.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160519-transparent-wood-5.html>

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# WOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160519-transparent-wood-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wood 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 make see-through wood – 19th May, 2016*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

