

## Scientists close to cure for the common cold

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British researchers say they are close to finding a cure for the common cold. Scientists have worked for decades on a medicine that would help to end colds. The biggest problem for researchers was finding a drug that

could fight the hundreds of types of viruses that can cause a cold. The viruses are difficult to find and they change very quickly so they can fight against new drugs. Until now, there has been no way to treat cold viruses, so we all have to suffer every winter. However, scientists have developed a special molecule that could make colds a thing of the past. They tested the molecule and found that it blocked the viruses that cause colds. The molecule stopped the viruses from working in the body.

The usual treatment for a common cold is to take medicines or remedies for the different symptoms. We might take one thing for a sore throat and another thing for a runny nose or a fever. Different viruses can cause different symptoms. The researchers believe the new molecule could stop all symptoms from developing. Lead researcher Ed Tate, from London's Imperial College, said it could help millions of people end their suffering. Most of us catch a cold several times a year. Dr Tate said it could also help people with more serious problems, saying: "The common cold is an inconvenience for most of us, but it can cause serious complications in people with conditions like asthma."

Sources: [webmd.com](http://webmd.com) / [medicaldaily.co](http://medicaldaily.co) / [natureworldnews.com](http://natureworldnews.com)

## Writing

What are the best things to do for a cold? What things do you dislike about colds?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

researchers / cure / cold / problem / change / virus / suffer / winter / molecule / body / treatment / symptoms / sore throat / millions / several / inconvenience / asthma

## True / False

- Scientists have tried to find a cure for the cold for 20 or more years. T / F
- There are over a hundred viruses that can cause a common cold. T / F
- Cold viruses change quickly so it's difficult for drugs to fight them. T / F
- A molecule was unable to stop cold viruses from working in the body. T / F
- People usually take one medicine for all the different cold symptoms. T / F
- Researchers say we take the same medicine for a fever and runny nose. T / F
- A doctor said the new molecule would help billions of people. T / F
- The doctor said the common cold was a convenience for many of us. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>close</b>               | a. illnesses   |
| 2. <b>medicine</b>            | b. history     |
| 3. <b>types</b>               | c. hurt        |
| 4. <b>suffer</b>              | d. problem     |
| 5. <b>a thing of the past</b> | e. drug        |
| 6. <b>usual</b>               | f. a number of |
| 7. <b>symptoms</b>            | g. normal      |
| 8. <b>several</b>             | h. near        |
| 9. <b>inconvenience</b>       | i. signs       |
| 10. <b>conditions</b>         | j. kinds       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about colds?
- How do you feel when you catch a cold?
- How would the world change without the common cold?
- Why do we get more colds in colder weather?
- What is the best way to treat a cold?
- How often do you get a cold?
- How often do you take medicine?
- How healthy are you?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. Scientists have worked for
  2. there has been no way to treat
  3. make colds a thing of
  4. it blocked the viruses that
  5. The molecule stopped the viruses from
  6. The usual treatment
  7. We might take one thing
  8. a runny
  9. it could help millions of people
  10. it can cause serious
- a. for a sore throat
  - b. working in the body
  - c. end their suffering
  - d. cold viruses
  - e. for a common cold
  - f. the past
  - g. nose
  - h. cause colds
  - i. complications
  - j. decades

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What's the difference between a cold and influenza?
- c) What do you do for a sore throat?
- d) What do you do when you have a fever?
- e) What's the best thing for a runny nose?
- f) How inconvenient is a cold?
- g) What companies would change if a cold cure was found?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Spelling

1. Scientists have worked for edcaeds
2. The biggest problem for easehrscerr
3. a nicmdee that would help
4. hundreds of pyste of viruses
5. we all have to sufefr every winter
6. saecu colds
7. The usual atrtmeen for a common cold
8. for the different tosmypm
9. it could help lloinms of people
10. people with more ossurie problems
11. The common cold is an iencneoeivcnn
12. in people with nnotsciodi like asthma

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Runny Nose

You think a runny nose is the worst thing about having a cold. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad and how they can cure them. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a sore throat, a fever or a headache.

### Role B – Sore Throat

You think a sore throat is the worst thing about having a cold. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad and how they can cure them. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a runny nose, a fever or a headache.

### Role C – Fever

You think a fever is the worst thing about having a cold. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad and how they can cure them. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a sore throat, a runny nose or a headache.

### Role D – Headache

You think a headache is the worst thing about having a cold. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad and how they can cure them. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a sore throat, a fever or a runny nose.

## Speaking – Symptoms

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst symptoms of a cold at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- the chills
- no energy
- cough
- joint pain
- runny nose
- fever
- headache
- sore throat

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.