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**Level 3 – 12th July, 2019**

## Amazon Alexa to answer questions on health

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Technology has taken another step in helping us with our healthcare. We can now ask the digital device Alexa for advice if we are worried about our health. Alexa is a virtual assistant created by the website Amazon.com. It is capable of listening to people and answering their questions. As well as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do lists, play music upon voice request, and give us the latest news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked up with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to add a health advice capability to the software. Alexa will be able to search the NHS website for information and find an answer that is agreed on by many health experts.

Alexa's new health advice capability has been met with a mixed response. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like this is a great example of how people can access reliable, world-leading advice from the comfort of their home, reducing the pressure on our hardworking doctors and pharmacists." He added: "We want to empower every patient to take better control of their healthcare." Other people say we need to be careful about trusting the advice of a piece of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems. Other people are concerned about privacy. The group Big Brother Watch is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection disaster waiting to happen."

Sources: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9473561/amazon-alexa-health-queries-nhs/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-48925345>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jul/10/nhs-teams-up-with-amazon-to-bring-alexa-to-patients>

# WARM-UPS

**1. HEALTHCARE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about healthcare. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

technology / step / healthcare / virtual / assistant / capabilities / software / experts / advice / response / reliable / pharmacists / patient / software / doctor / protection

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. ALEXA HEALTHCARE:** Students A **strongly** believe Alexa is a great way of getting healthcare advice; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. HEALTH ADVICE:** How good are these things at providing health advice? Would you follow this advice? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Good?	Would You Follow This Advice?
Alexa		
The Internet		
Your grandmother		
Magazines		
Medical journals		
Free-phone numbers		

**5. DEVICE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "device". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. DIGITAL DEVICES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the things digital devices are best for at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- health advice
- telling the time
- videos of cats
- exercise
- home security
- managing money
- playing music
- homework

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. step      | a. Not physically real, but made by software to look real.   |
| 2. device    | b. Actions taken in order to reach a goal.   |
| 3. virtual   | c. A helper.   |
| 4. assistant | d. Having the ability, fitness, or quality necessary to do or achieve something.                               |
| 5. capable   | e. A thing made or changed for a particular purpose, especially a piece of mechanical or electronic equipment. |
| 6. linked up | f. Someone who knows everything about a topic.   |
| 7. expert    | g. Joined with something or someone else to do something together.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. mixed response | h. Get to use something.  |
| 9. access         | i. Showing or believing in a person's honesty or sincerity.                                       |
| 10. reliable      | j. Good and bad feelings from people about something.   |
| 11. pressure      | k. Always good in quality or performance; able to be trusted.                                     |
| 12. trusting      | l. The state or condition of being free from being looked at by other people.                     |
| 13. privacy       | m. The feeling of stress caused by being too busy or by having to do something important quickly. |
| 14. disaster      | n. A sudden event that causes great damage or loss of life.                                       |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article said healthcare has taken a step towards helping technology. **T / F**
- b. We won't be able to ask Alexa for health advice. **T / F**
- c. Amazon teamed Alexa up with the UK's national health service. **T / F**
- d. The article said Alexa will search the world's health service databases. **T / F**
- e. Everyone praised the new Alexa health advice function. **T / F**
- f. Alexa could reduce pressure on doctors who are hardworking. **T / F**
- g. People said we should see a doctor for serious health problems. **T / F**
- h. A data protection group said Alexa could be a disaster for privacy. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>step</b>      | a. trustworthy |
| 2. <b>worried</b>   | b. specialists |
| 3. <b>latest</b>    | c. major       |
| 4. <b>linked up</b> | d. advance     |
| 5. <b>experts</b>   | e. reaction    |
| 6. <b>response</b>  | f. stress      |
| 7. <b>reliable</b>  | g. concerned   |
| 8. <b>pressure</b>  | h. most recent |
| 9. <b>serious</b>   | i. catastrophe |
| 10. <b>disaster</b> | j. combined    |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Technology has taken another       | a. many health experts |
| 2. if we are worried                  | b. response            |
| 3. listening to people and answering  | c. waiting to happen   |
| 4. give us                            | d. every patient       |
| 5. an answer that is agreed on by     | e. about our health    |
| 6. met with a mixed                   | f. the latest news     |
| 7. people can access reliable, world- | g. step in helping us  |
| 8. We want to empower                 | h. the advice          |
| 9. be careful about trusting          | i. their questions     |
| 10. It's a data protection disaster   | j. leading advice      |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Technology has taken another (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in helping us with our healthcare. We can now ask the digital device Alexa for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ if we are worried about our health. Alexa is a virtual assistant created by the website Amazon.com. It is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of listening to people and answering their questions. As well as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do (4) \_\_\_\_\_, play music upon voice request, and give us the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked up with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to add a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ advice capability to the software. Alexa will be able to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the NHS website for information and find an answer that is agreed on by many health (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*health*  
*step*  
*experts*  
*capable*  
*latest*  
*search*  
*lists*  
*advice*

Alexa's new health advice capability has been met with a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ response. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like this is a great (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of how people can access reliable, world-leading advice from the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of their home, reducing the pressure on our hardworking (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and pharmacists." He added: "We want to empower every patient to take better (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of their healthcare." Other people say we need to be careful about trusting the advice of a (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems. Other people are concerned about (15) \_\_\_\_\_. The group Big Brother Watch is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection (16) \_\_\_\_\_ waiting to happen."

*doctors*  
*example*  
*disaster*  
*comfort*  
*piece*  
*mixed*  
*privacy*  
*control*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

- 1) Technology has taken another step in helping \_\_\_\_\_ healthcare
  - a. us within our
  - b. us wither our
  - c. us without our
  - d. us with our
- 2) We can now ask the digital device \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Alexa for advise
  - b. Alexa for advice
  - c. Alexa for advisory
  - d. Alexa for advised
- 3) Alexa can make to-do lists, play music upon voice request, and give \_\_\_\_\_ news
  - a. use the latest
  - b. useful the latest
  - c. us the latest
  - d. uses the latest
- 4) linked up with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to \_\_\_\_\_ advice capability
  - a. add a health
  - b. adder health
  - c. ad a health
  - d. add the health
- 5) find an answer that is agreed on by many \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. wealthy experts
  - b. health experts
  - c. health expert
  - d. wealth experts
- 6) Alexa's new health advice capability has been met with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a mixture response
  - b. a mixed responses
  - c. a mix response
  - d. a mixed response
- 7) access reliable, world-leading advice from the \_\_\_\_\_ home
  - a. comforts of their
  - b. comfort of their
  - c. comfort off their
  - d. comforts off their
- 8) We want to empower every patient to take better control \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of their healthcare
  - b. off there healthcare
  - c. of their healthy care
  - d. of they're healthcare
- 9) we need to be careful about trusting the advice of a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. piece of hardware
  - b. piece of software
  - c. pieces of software
  - d. pieces of hardware
- 10) It said: "It's a data protection \_\_\_\_\_ to happen."
  - a. disaster weight in
  - b. disaster wait in
  - c. disaster whey tin
  - d. disaster waiting

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Technology has taken another step (1) \_\_\_\_\_ with our healthcare. We can now ask the digital device Alexa for advice if we are worried about our health. Alexa is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ created by the website Amazon.com. It (3) \_\_\_\_\_ listening to people and answering their questions. As well as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do lists, play music (4) \_\_\_\_\_, and give us the latest news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked up with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to add a health advice capability (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Alexa will be able to search the NHS website for information and find an answer that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ by many health experts.

Alexa's new health advice capability has been met with (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like this is a great example of how people (8) \_\_\_\_\_, world-leading advice from the comfort of their home, reducing the pressure on our hardworking doctors and pharmacists." He added: "We (9) \_\_\_\_\_ every patient to take better control of their healthcare." Other people say we need to be careful (10) \_\_\_\_\_ advice of a piece of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems. Other people are (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The group Big Brother Watch is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection (12) \_\_\_\_\_ happen."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

1. What did the article say technology had taken?
2. What did the article say Alexa was?
3. What kind of lists can Alexa help people with?
4. Who did Amazon team up with on a database?
5. Who has the health advice on Alexa been agreed by?
6. What kind of response did Alexa's health advice get?
7. Who said technology like this was a great example of advice?
8. What did some people say we needed to be careful of?
9. What should we do if we have serious problems?
10. What did a group say was waiting to happen?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

- 1) What did the article say technology had taken?
  - a) a lot of electricity
  - b) another step in helping us with our healthcare
  - c) too much
  - d) a huge leap forward in keeping us well
- 2) What did the article say Alexa was?
  - a) healthy
  - b) the way forward
  - c) amazing
  - d) a virtual assistant
- 3) What kind of lists can Alexa help people with?
  - a) shopping lists
  - b) "top 10" lists
  - c) to-do lists
  - d) "best of" lists
- 4) Who did Amazon team up with on a database?
  - a) the UK National Health Service
  - b) Google and Facebook
  - c) doctors and nurses
  - d) patients
- 5) Who has the health advice on Alexa been agreed by?
  - a) Amazon
  - b) health experts
  - c) health journals
  - d) patients
- 6) What kind of response did Alexa's health advice get?
  - a) a mixed response
  - b) a positive response
  - c) a negative response
  - d) a healthy response
- 7) Who said technology like this was a great example of advice?
  - a) doctors
  - b) Amazon
  - c) the UK Health Secretary
  - d) patients
- 8) What did some people say we needed to be careful of?
  - a) trusting the advice of software
  - b) Alexa
  - c) digital devices
  - d) viruses
- 9) What should we do if we have serious problems?
  - a) buy medicine from Amazon
  - b) go to bed and sleep
  - c) ask Alexa
  - d) see a doctor
- 10) What did a group say was waiting to happen?
  - a) major diseases
  - b) a virtual assistance
  - c) a data protection disaster
  - d) better health

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

## **Role A – Health Advice**

You think health advice is the best use for digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): home security, homework or exercise.

## **Role B – Home Security**

You think home security is the best use for digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): health advice, homework or exercise.

## **Role C – Homework**

You think homework is the best use for digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): home security, health advice or exercise.

## **Role D – Exercise**

You think exercise is the best use for digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): home security, homework or health advice.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'health' and 'care'.

health	care

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• technology</li><li>• device</li><li>• lists</li><li>• queries</li><li>• linked</li><li>• agreed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mixed</li><li>• great</li><li>• pressure</li><li>• control</li><li>• serious</li><li>• happen</li></ul>
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# HEALTHCARE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Write five GOOD questions about healthcare 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.

# HEALTHCARE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'health'?
3. What do you know about Alexa?
4. How useful is technology in healthcare?
5. Where do you go for healthcare advice?
6. Would you ask Alexa for health advice?
7. What problems are there in asking Alexa for health advice?
8. What is on your to-do list for today?
9. When was the last time you asked for health advice?
10. Do you ever use the Internet for health advice?

*Amazon Alexa to answer questions on health – 12th July, 2019*  
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# HEALTHCARE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'advice'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Do people need health advice from their home?
15. Do doctors need less pressure?
16. Will software be better than doctors one day?
17. What is healthcare like in your country?
18. What do you think healthcare will be like in the future?
19. Would you worry about your privacy if you used Alexa?
20. What questions would you like to ask Alexa?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Technology has taken another (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in helping us with our healthcare. We can now ask the digital device Alexa for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ if we are worried about our health. Alexa is a virtual assistant created by the website Amazon.com. It is capable (3) \_\_\_\_\_ listening to people and answering their questions. As well as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do (4) \_\_\_\_\_, play music upon voice request, and give us the latest news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to add a health advice capability to the software. Alexa will be able to search the NHS website for information and find an answer that is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on by many health experts.

Alexa's new health advice capability has been (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with a mixed response. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like this is a great example of how people can access (8) \_\_\_\_\_, world-leading advice from the comfort of their home, reducing the pressure (9) \_\_\_\_\_ our hardworking doctors and pharmacists." He added: "We want to empower every patient to take better control of their healthcare." Other people say we need to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ careful about trusting the advice of a piece of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems. Other people are (11) \_\_\_\_\_ about privacy. The group Big Brother Watch is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection disaster (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to happen."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |              |              |               |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) step      | (b) stop     | (c) taps     | (d) spot      |
| 2.  | (a) advise    | (b) advisory | (c) advice   | (d) advising  |
| 3.  | (a) in        | (b) by       | (c) of       | (d) at        |
| 4.  | (a) rites     | (b) wrists   | (c) writs    | (d) lists     |
| 5.  | (a) on        | (b) down     | (c) up       | (d) of        |
| 6.  | (a) agreeable | (b) agreed   | (c) agrees   | (d) agree     |
| 7.  | (a) gather    | (b) met      | (c) assemble | (d) encounter |
| 8.  | (a) pliable   | (b) reliable | (c) ability  | (d) health    |
| 9.  | (a) at        | (b) by       | (c) on       | (d) as        |
| 10. | (a) do        | (b) take     | (c) have     | (d) be        |
| 11. | (a) cornering | (b) concern  | (c) cornered | (d) concerned |
| 12. | (a) backing   | (b) heading  | (c) footing  | (d) waiting   |



# SPELLING

## Paragraph 1

1. Alexa is a ilrvaut assistant
2. baapecl of listening to people
3. play music upon voice esqurte
4. answer our health queiser
5. caehsr the NHS website for information
6. agreed on by many health sterxpe

## Paragraph 2

7. met with a mixed nseropse
8. access aeiebllr, world-leading advice
9. from the omrfcot of their home
10. reducing the puessrer
11. Other people are concerned about ypvcair
12. a data octenotrpi disaster

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( **1** ) Technology has taken another step in helping us with our healthcare. We can now ask the digital device Alexa for
- ( ) Amazon.com. It is capable of listening to people and answering their questions. As well
- ( ) as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do lists, play music upon voice request, and give us the latest
- ( ) home, reducing the pressure on our hardworking doctors and pharmacists." He added: "We want to empower every
- ( ) in the UK to add a health advice capability to the software. Alexa will be able to search the NHS website
- ( ) news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked up with the National Health Service (NHS)
- ( ) this is a great example of how people can access reliable, world-leading advice from the comfort of their
- ( ) about trusting the advice of a piece of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have
- ( ) serious health problems. Other people are concerned about privacy. The group Big Brother Watch
- ( ) for information and find an answer that is agreed on by many health experts.
- ( ) advice if we are worried about our health. Alexa is a virtual assistant created by the website
- ( ) Alexa's new health advice capability has been met with a mixed response. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like
- ( ) is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection disaster waiting to happen."
- ( ) patient to take better control of their healthcare." Other people say we need to be careful

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

1. in us our healthcare . step with helping Another
2. device the We for digital can advice . ask
3. to people their Listening answering questions . and
4. our answer Alexa health can queries . Now
5. the will Alexa website . able search to be
6. this great is a like Technology example .
7. control . Empower every take better patient to
8. be We to need advice . about trusting careful
9. say a must we doctor . They go to
10. protection happen . disaster to data A waiting

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Technology has *taken / taking* another step in helping us with our healthcare. We can now *asks / ask* the digital device Alexa for advice if we are *worried / worry* about our health. Alexa is a *virtual / virtually* assistant created by the website Amazon.com. It is *capable / capability* of listening to people and answering their questions. As well as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do lists, play music *under / upon* under voice request, and give us the *last / latest* news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked *up / down* with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to add a health advice capability to the software. Alexa will be able to *scorch / search* the NHS website for information and find an answer that is agreed on by many health *experts / expertise*.

Alexa's new health advice capability has been *meet / met* with a mixed response. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like this is a great example of how people can access *rely / reliable*, world-leading advice from the *comfort / comfortable* of their home, reducing the *press / pressure* on our hardworking doctors and *pharmacists / pharmacy*." He added: "We want to empower every *patient / patience* to take better control of their healthcare." Other people say we need to be *careful / carefully* about trusting the advice of a *peace / piece* of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems. Other people are concerned about *private / privacy*. The group Big Brother Watch is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection disaster *wait / waiting* to happen."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

T\_c h n\_l\_g y h\_s t\_k\_n \_n\_t h\_r s t\_p \_n h\_l p\_n g  
\_s w\_t h \_ \_ r h\_\_ l t h c\_r\_. W\_ c\_n n\_w \_s k t h\_  
d\_g\_t\_l d\_v\_c\_ A l\_x\_ f\_r d v\_c\_ \_f w\_ \_r\_ w\_r r\_\_ d  
\_b\_\_ t \_ \_ r h\_\_ l t h. A l\_x\_ \_s \_ v\_r t\_\_ l \_s s\_s t\_n  
t c\_r\_\_ t\_d b y t h\_ w\_b s\_t\_ A m\_z\_n . c\_m . I t \_s  
c\_p\_b\_l\_ \_f l\_s t\_n\_n g t\_ p\_\_ p\_l\_ \_n d \_n s w\_r\_n g t  
h\_\_ r q\_\_ s t\_\_ n s . A s w\_l l \_s v\_\_ c\_ \_n t\_r\_c t\_\_  
n c\_p\_b\_l\_t\_\_ s , A l\_x\_ c\_n m\_k\_ t\_- d\_ l\_s t\_s , p  
l\_y m\_s\_c \_p\_n v\_\_ c\_ r\_q\_\_ s t , \_n d g\_v\_ \_s t h\_  
l\_t\_s t n\_w s . N\_w A l\_x\_ c\_n \_n s w\_r \_ \_ r h\_\_ l t  
h q\_\_ r\_\_ s . A m\_z\_n h\_s l\_n k\_d \_p w\_t h t h\_  
N\_t\_\_ n\_l H\_\_ l t h S\_r v\_c\_ ( N H S ) \_n t h\_ U K t\_  
\_d d \_ h\_\_ l t h \_d v\_c\_ c\_p\_b\_l\_t\_y t\_ t h\_ s\_f t  
w\_r\_. A l\_x\_ w\_l l b\_ \_b\_l\_ t\_ s\_\_ r\_c h t h\_ N H S  
w\_b s\_t\_ f\_r \_n f\_r m\_t\_\_ n \_n d f\_n d \_n \_n s w\_r t  
h\_t \_s \_g r\_\_ d \_n b y m\_n y h\_\_ l t h \_x p\_r t\_s .

A l\_x\_'s n\_w h\_\_ l t h \_d v\_c\_ c\_p\_b\_l\_t\_y h\_s b\_\_ n  
m\_t w\_t h \_ m\_x\_d r\_s p\_n s\_. T h\_ U K H\_\_ l t h  
S\_c r\_t\_r y s\_\_ d : " T\_c h n\_l\_g y l\_k\_ t h\_s \_s \_g  
r\_\_ t \_x\_m p\_l\_ \_f h\_w p\_\_ p\_l\_ c\_n \_c c\_s s r\_l\_\_ b  
l\_ , w\_r l d - l\_\_ d\_n g \_d v\_c\_ f\_r m t h\_ c\_m f\_r t \_f  
t h\_\_ r h\_m\_ , r\_d\_c\_n g t h\_ p\_r s\_s\_r\_ \_n \_ \_ r h\_r d  
w\_r k\_n g d\_c t\_r s \_n d p h\_r m\_c\_s t\_s . " H\_ \_d d\_d  
: " W\_ w\_n t t\_ \_m p\_w\_r \_v\_r y p\_t\_\_ n t t\_ t\_k\_  
b\_t t\_r c\_n t\_r\_l \_f t h\_\_ r h\_\_ l t h c\_r\_. " O t h\_r  
p\_\_ p\_l\_ s\_y w\_ n\_\_ d t\_ b\_ c\_r\_f\_l \_b\_\_ t t\_r s t\_n  
g t h\_ \_d v\_c\_ \_f \_ p\_\_ c\_ \_f s\_f t w\_r\_. T h\_y s\_y  
w\_ m\_s t g\_ t\_ \_ h\_m\_n d\_c t\_r \_f w\_ h\_v\_ s\_r\_\_ \_s  
h\_\_ l t h p\_r b\_l\_m\_s . O t h\_r p\_\_ p\_l\_ \_r\_ c\_n c\_r\_n d  
\_b\_\_ t p\_r\_v\_c\_y . T h\_ g\_r\_\_ p B\_g B\_r\_t h\_r W\_t c  
h \_s w\_r r\_\_ d \_b\_\_ t h\_c k\_n g . I t s\_\_ d : " I t '  
s \_ d\_t\_ p\_r\_t\_c t\_\_ n d\_s\_s t\_r w\_\_ t\_n g t\_ h\_p  
p\_n . "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

technology has taken another step in helping us with our healthcare we can now ask the digital device alexa for advice if we are worried about our health alexa is a virtual assistant created by the website amazon.com it is capable of listening to people and answering their questions as well as voice interaction capabilities alexa can make todo lists play music upon voice request and give us the latest news now alexa can answer our health queries amazon has linked up with the national health service nhs in the uk to add a health advice capability to the software alexa will be able to search the nhs website for information and find an answer that is agreed on by many health experts

alexa's new health advice capability has been met with a mixed response the uk health secretary said technology like this is a great example of how people can access reliable worldleading advice from the comfort of their home reducing the pressure on our hardworking doctors and pharmacists he added we want to empower every patient to take better control of their healthcare other people say we need to be careful about trusting the advice of a piece of software they say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems other people are concerned about privacy the group big brother watch is worried about hacking it said its a data protection disaster waiting to happen

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1907/190712-alexa.html>

Technology has taken another step in helping us with our healthcare. We can now ask the digital device Alexa for advice if we are worried about our health. Alexa is a virtual assistant created by the website Amazon.com. It is capable of listening to people and answering their questions. As well as voice interaction capabilities, Alexa can make to-do lists, play music upon voice request, and give us the latest news. Now Alexa can answer our health queries. Amazon has linked up with the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK to add a health advice capability to the software. Alexa will be able to search the NHS website for information and find an answer that is agreed on by many health experts. Alexa's new health advice capability has been met with a mixed response. The UK Health Secretary said: "Technology like this is a great example of how people can access reliable, world-leading advice from the comfort of their home, reducing the pressure on our hardworking doctors and pharmacists." He added: "We want to empower every patient to take better control of their healthcare." Other people say we need to be careful about trusting the advice of a piece of software. They say we must go to a human doctor if we have serious health problems. Other people are concerned about privacy. The group Big Brother Watch is worried about hacking. It said: "It's a data protection disaster waiting to happen."







# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HEALTHCARE:** Make a poster about healthcare. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ALEXA:** Write a magazine article about healthcare advice being by a piece of software. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on healthcare advice. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on what we should do to get advice on our health. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b    2. e    3. a    4. c    5. d    6. g    7. f  
8. j    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. n

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b F    c T    d F    e F    f T    g T    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. step      | a. advance     |
| 2. worried   | b. concerned   |
| 3. latest    | c. most recent |
| 4. linked up | d. combined    |
| 5. experts   | e. specialists |
| 6. response  | f. reaction    |
| 7. reliable  | g. trustworthy |
| 8. pressure  | h. stress      |
| 9. serious   | i. major       |
| 10. disaster | j. catastrophe |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Another step in helping us with our healthcare
- A virtual assistant
- To-do lists
- The UK National Health Service
- Many health experts
- A mixed reaction
- The UK Health Secretary
- Trusting the advice of software
- See a doctor
- A data protection disaster

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- Another step in helping us with our healthcare.
- We can ask the digital device for advice.
- Listening to people and answering their questions.
- Now Alexa can answer our health queries.
- Alexa will be able to search the website.
- Technology like this is a great example.
- Empower every patient to take better control.
- We need to be careful about trusting advice.
- They say we must go to a doctor.
- A data protection disaster waiting to happen.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)