

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 5 – 28th September, 2019

Bomb-detecting rat wins medal for bravery

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200928-bravery-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.

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200928-bravery-5.html>

A rat got an award for bravery for his services to humanity. The brave rodent is called Magawa. He got a gold medal for his seven years of duty sniffing out landmines in Cambodia. He was given the award by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals charity. This is a charity based in the UK. It explained why Magawa was recognised for his courage. It wrote: "The PDSA...seeks to raise the status of animals...and honour the incredible contribution they make to our lives. Magawa's dedication, skill and bravery are an extraordinary example of this and deserve the highest possible recognition."

Magawa is an African Giant Pouched Rat. Rats are the creatures best suited to safely detect landmines. They are light and have a good sense of smell. In his seven years on the front line, Magawa helped to find 39 landmines and 28 unexploded devices. He helped to clear an area roughly the size of 20 soccer pitches. He is the most successful rodent in the history of landmine detection. The charity said: "This is the very first time in our 77-year history of honouring animals that we have presented a medal to a rat." Reporters tried to interview Magawa but he was unavailable.

Sources: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/rat-awarded-medal-for-sniffing-out-dozens-of-landmines/ar-BB19qqSr>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2020/09/25/rat-magawa-gets-pdsa-gold-medal-detecting-landmines-cambodia/3528457001/>
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/12763506/rat-sniffed-out-boms-animal-george-cross/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200928-bravery-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. for his services | a. and bravery |
| 2. for his seven years | b. of animals |
| 3. recognised | c. recognition |
| 4. raise the status | d. for his courage |
| 5. honour the incredible contribution | e. example of this |
| 6. dedication, skill | f. to humanity |
| 7. an extraordinary | g. they make |
| 8. deserve the highest possible | h. of duty |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. best suited to safely | a. detection |
| 2. have a good sense | b. unavailable |
| 3. In his seven years on | c. detect landmines |
| 4. 28 unexploded | d. the front line |
| 5. landmine | e. interview Magawa |
| 6. presented a medal | f. devices |
| 7. Reporters tried to | g. to a rat |
| 8. he was | h. of smell |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200928-bravery-5.html>

A rat got an (1) _____ for his services to humanity. The brave rodent is called Magawa. He got a gold medal for his seven years of (2) _____ landmines in Cambodia. He was given the award by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals charity. This is a (3) _____ the UK. It explained why Magawa was recognised (4) _____. It wrote: "The PDSA...seeks to (5) _____ of animals...and honour the incredible contribution they make to our lives. Magawa's dedication, skill and bravery are an extraordinary example of this (6) _____ highest possible recognition."

Magawa is an African Giant Pouched Rat. Rats are the (7) _____ to safely detect landmines. They are light and have a good (8) _____. In his seven years on (9) _____, Magawa helped to find 39 landmines and 28 unexploded devices. He helped to clear an (10) _____ size of 20 soccer pitches. He is the most successful rodent in the history of landmine detection. The charity said: "This is the (11) _____ in our 77-year history of honouring animals that we have presented a medal to a rat." Reporters (12) _____ Magawa but he was unavailable.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200928-bravery-5.html>

A rat got an award for bravery for his service to humanity. The brave rodent is called Magawa. He got a gold medal for his seven years of duty sniffing out land mines in Cambodia. He was given the award by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals charity. This is a charity based in the UK. It explained why Magawa was recognised for his courage. It wrote: "The PDSA... seeks to raise the status of animals... and honour the incredible contribution they make to our lives. Magawa's dedication, skill and bravery are an extraordinary example of this and deserve the highest possible recognition. "Magawa is an African Giant Pouched Rat. Rats are the creatures best suited to safely detect land mines. They are light and have a good sense of smell. In his seven years on the frontline, Magawa helped to find 39 land mines and 28 unexploded devices. He helped to clear an area roughly the size of 20 soccer pitches. He is the most successful rodent in the history of land mine detection. The charity said: "This is the very first time in our 77-year history of honouring an animal that we have presented a medal to a rat." Reporter tried to interview Magawa but he was unavailable.

BRAVERY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200928-bravery-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bravery 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) _____

Bomb-detecting rat wins medal for bravery – 28th September, 2019
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) _____

