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Level 2 – 28th December 2023

Scientists 'talk' with a whale for 20 minutes

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-2.html>

Scientists have had a "conversation" with a whale. This could help us talk to aliens in the future. The scientists are from three different organizations in the USA. They teamed up and spoke to a humpback whale named Twain. They spoke to her in "humpback language" for 20 minutes. The scientists sent a "contact call" into the ocean off the coast of Alaska. Twain heard the call and responded. She swam to the research boat and chatted. A researcher said it was the first ever communication between humans and humpback whales.

The conversation with Twain was like a series of greetings. Whales use contact calls so other whales know where they are. The scientists made 36 calls over a 20-minute period. Each time, Twain responded by calling back at the same intervals. A scientist told the Business Insider website that the research could make it easier to talk to aliens. She said: "There are diverse intelligences on this planet. By studying them, we can better understand what an alien intelligence might be like because they are not going to be exactly like ours."

Sources: <https://www.boredpanda.com/scientist-claim-having-20-minute-conversation-whale/>
<https://www.earth.com/news/scientists-have-20-minute-conversation-with-a-humpback-whale-named-twain/>
<https://www.unilad.com/film-and-tv/news/freeview-best-takeaway-for-watching-tv-556889-20231218>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have had a conversation | a. humpback language |
| 2. This could help us talk | b. and responded |
| 3. scientists are from three | c. a contact call |
| 4. They teamed | d. to aliens in the future |
| 5. They spoke to her in | e. up |
| 6. The scientists sent | f. of Alaska |
| 7. off the coast | g. with a whale |
| 8. Twain heard the call | h. different organizations |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. like a series | a. intelligence |
| 2. The scientists made | b. intervals |
| 3. over a 20-minute | c. like ours |
| 4. calling back at the same | d. period |
| 5. make it easier | e. of greetings |
| 6. There are diverse intelligences | f. 36 calls |
| 7. alien | g. on this planet |
| 8. they are not going to be exactly | h. to talk to aliens |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-2.html>

Scientists have (1) _____ with a whale. This could help us talk to (2) _____ future. The scientists are from three different organizations in the USA. They (3) _____ spoke to a humpback whale named Twain. They spoke to her in "humpback language" for 20 minutes. The scientists sent (4) _____ into the ocean off the coast of Alaska. Twain heard the (5) _____. She swam to the research boat and chatted. A researcher said it was (6) _____ communication between humans and humpback whales.

The conversation with Twain was (7) _____ of greetings. Whales use contact calls so other whales know where they are. The scientists made 36 calls over a (8) _____. Each time, Twain responded by calling back at (9) _____. A scientist told the Business Insider website that the research could make it (10) _____ to aliens. She said: "There are diverse intelligences on this planet. (11) _____, we can better understand what an alien intelligence might be like because they are not going to (12) _____ ours."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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WHALES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about whales 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) _____

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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) _____

