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**Level 6 – 18th March 2024**

## Giant blueberry smashes record for heaviest ever

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

A farmer in Australia has just entered the records books for growing the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in at a mammoth 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a width the size of that of a table tennis ball, a diameter of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times heavier than a regular blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hocking said he was overjoyed to have the record officially verified by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good breeding and good growing."

Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna variety, known for its crisp texture and long shelf life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a consistently large fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's absolutely no compromise on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing a premium variety." At first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to recalibrate the scales to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most fitting end for it.

Sources: <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2024/3/behemoth-blueberry-grown-in-australia-verified-as-heaviest-ever-767762>  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-14/guinness-world-records-worlds-heaviest-blueberry-costa-berries/103585822>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/15/australia/worlds-heaviest-blueberry-scli-intl/index.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. BLUEBERRIES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about blueberries. 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?

farmer / Australia / record books / blueberry / record-breaker / fruit / overjoyed / texture / shelf life / flavour / berries / premium / compromise / scales / smoothie

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

**3. GM FRUIT:** Students A **strongly** believe scientists should genetically modify fruit to make it larger; Students B **strongly** believe this is terrible. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. MAMMOTH:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of these things being mammoth in size? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Blueberries		
Cars		
Smartphones		
Apartments		
Glasses		
Donuts		

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

**6. GIANT FRUIT:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best giant fruit at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Blueberries
- Bananas
- Durian
- Water melons
- Dates
- Mangos
- Pineapples
- Strawberries

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. mammoth          | a. Someone who works with plants, especially in gardens or farms.                    |
| 2. obliterated      | b. The process of producing offspring or young animals or plants, flowers and crops. |
| 3. diameter         | c. Very, very big or large.  |
| 4. circumference    | d. Completely destroyed or wiped out.  |
| 5. horticulturalist | e. The distance around the edge of a circle or a round object.                       |
| 6. verified         | f. Confirmed to be true or accurate.   |
| 7. breeding         | g. The distance across a circle or a round object, measured through its centre.      |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8. crisp         | h. To adjust or reset something, especially a machine or a process, to improve its accuracy or performance. |
| 9. texture       | i. A settlement of differences in which each side gives up something to reach an agreement.                 |
| 10. shelf life   | j. Happening regularly or without variation.  |
| 11. consistently | k. Firm, dry, and easily broken into pieces with a sharp sound.   |
| 12. compromise   | l. Suitable or appropriate for a particular situation or purpose.   |
| 13. recalibrate  | m. How something feels to touch or the way it is structured, like smooth, rough, or soft.                   |
| 14. fitting      | n. The length of time that a product can be stored before it becomes unfit for use.                         |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

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

1. An Austrian farmer has just grown the world's biggest blueberry. **T / F**
2. The record-breaking blueberry was 16.2 grams. **T / F**
3. The blueberry had a diameter of 39.31 millimetres. **T / F**
4. The blueberry weighed ten times more than a regular blueberry. **T / F**
5. The blueberry was from the Eternity variety. **T / F**
6. The farmer said the blueberry had lost its flavour due to its size. **T / F**
7. The farmer had to buy new scales to weigh the blueberry. **T / F**
8. The farmer is thinking about using the blueberry to make a smoothie. **T / F**

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

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>giant</b>       | a. superior  |
| 2. <b>obliterated</b> | b. delighted |
| 3. <b>regular</b>     | c. employees |
| 4. <b>staff</b>       | d. taste     |
| 5. <b>overjoyed</b>   | e. smashed   |
| 6. <b>texture</b>     | f. apt       |
| 7. <b>flavour</b>     | g. feel      |
| 8. <b>premium</b>     | h. readjust  |
| 9. <b>recalibrate</b> | i. gigantic  |
| 10. <b>fitting</b>    | j. standard  |

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

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. entered the record            | a. of a similar size     |
| 2. This obliterated              | b. circumference         |
| 3. a 12.35-centimetre            | c. breeding              |
| 4. overjoyed to have the record  | d. fitting end for it    |
| 5. a combination of good         | e. on quality or flavour |
| 6. known for its crisp           | f. books                 |
| 7. around 20 other berries       | g. officially verified   |
| 8. no compromise                 | h. scales to make sure   |
| 9. We had to recalibrate the     | i. the previous record   |
| 10. a smoothie might be the most | j. texture               |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

A farmer in Australia has just entered the record (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for growing the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in at a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the size of that of a table tennis ball, a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times heavier than a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Brad Hocking said he was overjoyed to have the record officially (7) \_\_\_\_\_ by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and good growing."

*horticulturalist*  
*mammoth*  
*diameter*  
*breeding*  
*books*  
*width*  
*verified*  
*regular*

Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna variety, known for its (9) \_\_\_\_\_ texture and long shelf life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ large fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's absolutely no (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing a (13) \_\_\_\_\_ variety." At first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the scales to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his (15) \_\_\_\_\_ berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most (16) \_\_\_\_\_ end for it.

*premium*  
*similar*  
*crisp*  
*prize*  
*compromise*  
*fitting*  
*consistently*  
*recalibrate*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

- 1) The giant berry weighed in at a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. mum moth 20.4 grams
  - b. ma mouth 20.4 grams
  - c. mum mouth 20.4 grams
  - d. mammoth 20.4 grams
- 2) a diameter of 39.31 millimetres, and a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. 12.35-centimetre circumference
  - b. 12.35-centimetre conference
  - c. 12.35-centimetre circa conference
  - d. 12.35-centimetre circle conference
- 3) 10 times heavier than a regular blueberry. The fruit was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. grown buy staff
  - b. growth by staff
  - c. grown by staff
  - d. growing buy staff
- 4) Brad Hocking said he was overjoyed to have the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. record officially berry fried
  - b. record officially verified
  - c. record officially vivified
  - d. record officially very fried
- 5) He said: "It's a combination \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. of good breeding
  - b. of good bleeding
  - c. of good boating
  - d. of good breathing
- 6) the Eterna variety, known for its crisp texture and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. along shelf life
  - b. long self life
  - c. a long shell life
  - d. long shelf life
- 7) Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. consistency large fruit
  - b. consist amply large fruit
  - c. confidently large fruit
  - d. consistently large fruit
- 8) there were probably around 20 other berries of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a similarity size
  - b. a similar seize
  - c. a similar sized
  - d. a similar size
- 9) he had broken the record. He said: "We had to \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. recalibrate them scales
  - b. recalibrate a scales
  - c. recalibrate the scales
  - d. recalibrate then scales
- 10) do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. most fit in end
  - b. most fattening end
  - c. most fitting end
  - d. most fit tin end

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

A farmer in Australia has just entered the record (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a width the size of that of a table tennis ball, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times heavier (4) \_\_\_\_\_ blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hocking said he was overjoyed to have the record (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Guinness World Records. He said: "It's (6) \_\_\_\_\_ good breeding and good growing."

Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna variety, known for (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and long shelf life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing (10) \_\_\_\_\_." At first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most (12) \_\_\_\_\_ it.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

1. What has an Australian farmer just entered?
2. What did the previous heaviest blueberry weigh?
3. How much heavier was the blueberry than a regular berry?
4. Who officially verified the record?
5. What is the blueberry a combination of besides good growing?
6. What kind of texture did the blueberry have?
7. How many other berries did the farmer grow to a similar size?
8. What was there no compromise on?
9. What did the farmer have to do with his scales?
10. What might the farmer do with the blueberry?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

- 1) What has an Australian farmer just entered?
  - a) the blueberry hall of fame
  - b) the record books
  - c) his farm
  - d) a fruit shop
- 2) What did the previous heaviest blueberry weigh?
  - a) 39.31 grams
  - b) 20.4 grams
  - c) 16.2 grams
  - d) 12.35 grams
- 3) How much heavier was the blueberry than a regular berry?
  - a) 20 times heavier
  - b) 15 times heavier
  - c) 12 times heavier
  - d) 10 times heavier
- 4) Who officially verified the record?
  - a) the International Blueberry Club
  - b) Guinness World Records
  - c) Horticulturalists Anonymous
  - d) the World Fruit Association
- 5) What is the blueberry a combination of besides good growing?
  - a) good breeding
  - b) good fertilizers
  - c) good weather
  - d) good watering
- 6) What kind of texture did the blueberry have?
  - a) crisp
  - b) rough
  - c) smooth
  - d) coarse
- 7) How many other berries did the farmer grow to a similar size?
  - a) fewer than 20
  - b) more than 20
  - c) exactly 20
  - d) around 20
- 8) What was there no compromise on?
  - a) fertilizers
  - b) cost or price
  - c) quality or flavour
  - d) scales
- 9) What did the farmer have to do with his scales?
  - a) sell them
  - b) stand on them
  - c) check them
  - d) recalibrate them
- 10) What might the farmer do with the blueberry?
  - a) study it
  - b) make a smoothie
  - c) auction it
  - d) freeze it

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

## **Role A – Blueberries**

You think blueberries are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): bananas, water melons or strawberries.

## **Role B – Bananas**

You think bananas are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): blueberries, water melons or strawberries.

## **Role C – Water Melons**

You think water melons are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): bananas, blueberries or strawberries.

## **Role D – Strawberries**

You think strawberries are the best fruits to become giant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fruits shouldn't be giant. Also, tell the others which of these should never be giant (and why): bananas, water melons or blueberries.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

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

<b>giant</b>	<b>blueberry</b>
--------------	------------------

- 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>• entered</li><li>• mammoth</li><li>• width</li><li>• times</li><li>• senior</li><li>• overjoyed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• known</li><li>• great</li><li>• size</li><li>• developing</li><li>• scales</li><li>• end</li></ul>
--	--

# BLUEBERRIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

Write five GOOD questions about blueberries 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.

# BLUEBERRIES 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 'giant'?
3. What do you think of blueberries?
4. What do you think of giant fruit?
5. What do you think being a blueberry farmer is like?
6. What giant fruit would you like to eat?
7. Are you good at growing things?
8. How healthy are blueberries?
9. What three adjectives best describe this story?
10. What would you do with this blueberry?

*Giant blueberry smashes record for heaviest ever – 18th March 2024*  
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# BLUEBERRIES 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 'blueberry'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about blueberries?
15. Should scientists engineer more giant fruit?
16. What makes a good fruit?
17. What fruits have the best flavour?
18. How much fruit should we eat?
19. Should the blueberry be turned into a smoothie?
20. What questions would you like to ask blueberry farmers?

# 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/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

A farmer in Australia has just (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the record books for growing the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in at a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a width the size of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of a table tennis ball, a diameter of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times heavier than a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hocking said he was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to have the record officially verified by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and good growing."

Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna (7) \_\_\_\_\_, known for its crisp texture and long shelf life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ large fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's absolutely (9) \_\_\_\_\_ compromise on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing a premium variety." At first, he was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to recalibrate the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most fitting end (12) \_\_\_\_\_ it.

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

- |     |                  |                  |                    |                  |
|-----|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) entry        | (b) entrance     | (c) entered        | (d) enters       |
| 2.  | (a) mammoth      | (b) dinosaur     | (c) T-rex          | (d) brontosaurus |
| 3.  | (a) what         | (b) that         | (c) this           | (d) kind         |
| 4.  | (a) regulars     | (b) regularly    | (c) regulate       | (d) regular      |
| 5.  | (a) employed     | (b) joy          | (c) overjoyed      | (d) enjoyed      |
| 6.  | (a) breadth      | (b) breeding     | (c) bleeding       | (d) bloating     |
| 7.  | (a) variety      | (b) varied       | (c) various        | (d) varies       |
| 8.  | (a) collectively | (b) collaterally | (c) conservatively | (d) consistently |
| 9.  | (a) known        | (b) none         | (c) no             | (d) not          |
| 10. | (a) ensure       | (b) insure       | (c) surety         | (d) unsure       |
| 11. | (a) shales       | (b) scales       | (c) scares         | (d) skates       |
| 12. | (a) for          | (b) of           | (c) by             | (d) at           |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. This etteiarolbd the previous record
2. a aremdiet of 39.31 millimetres
3. a 12.35-centimetre ccrirmefuence
4. Senior tcaloutiulrhrtis
5. dfvieier by Guinness World Records
6. a nconaitiomb of good breeding

## Paragraph 2

7. known for its crisp xrtuete
8. a lcoesysntitn large fruit
9. no pocmioersm on quality
10. developing a premium yvarite
11. We had to eciralabetr the scales
12. he suggested a isemooht

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

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

- ( ) of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times
- ( ) record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a width the size of that of a table tennis ball, a diameter
- ( ) Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hocking said he was overjoyed to have the record officially
- ( ) ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in at a mammoth 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous
- ( **1** ) A farmer in Australia has just entered the record books for growing the world's biggest
- ( ) heavier than a regular blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales,
- ( ) large, there's absolutely no compromise on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing a premium
- ( ) life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a consistently large fruit. When we picked
- ( ) Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna variety, known for its crisp texture and long shelf
- ( ) verified by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good breeding and good growing."
- ( ) this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size." He added: "While the fruit is
- ( ) scales to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his prize
- ( ) berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most fitting end for it.
- ( ) variety." At first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to recalibrate the

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

1. the has farmer entered just books. record A
2. the This was 16.2 grams previous record, . which obliterated
3. giant a . The mammoth 20.4 grams weighed berry
4. heavier Almost blueberry. than 10 a times regular
5. record to the Overjoyed have verified. officially
6. great variety Eterna a with a is flavour.
7. compromise there's no on absolutely said quality. He
8. make the sure. scales We to recalibrated
9. Asked do prize he'd with what berry. his
10. smoothie fitting most be end. might A the

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

A farmer in Australia has just *entrance / entered* the record books for growing the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed *on / in* at a mammoth 20.4 grams. This *obliterated / obfuscated* the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a width *a / the* size of that of a table tennis ball, a diameter of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre *circumnavigation / circumference*. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times heavier than a *regular / regulate* blueberry. The fruit was *grown / growing* by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hocking said he was *overjoyed / joyless* to have the record officially *verified / revived* by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good *bleeding / breeding* and good growing."

Mr Hocking said his blueberry was from the Eterna *variety / various*, known for its crisp texture and long *shelf / shell* life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a *varied / variety*, has a really great flavour and a *consistency / consistently* large fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a *similarity / similar* size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's absolutely *no / not* compromise on quality or flavour, as would be *expected / expects* when developing a premium variety." *At / On* first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to recalibrate the scales to make sure we weren't getting mixed *down / up*." When asked what he would do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most *fattening / fitting* end for it.

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

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

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

\_ f\_rm\_r in \_\_str\_li\_ h\_s j\_st \_nt\_r\_d th\_ r\_c\_rd  
b\_\_ks f\_r gr\_wing th\_ w\_rld's bigg\_st \_v\_r bl\_\_b\_rry.  
Th\_ gi\_nt b\_rry w\_igh\_d in \_t \_ m\_mm\_th 20.4 gr\_ms.  
This \_blit\_r\_t\_d th\_ pr\_vi\_\_s r\_c\_rd, which w\_s 16.2  
gr\_ms. Th\_ r\_c\_rd-br\_\_k\_r h\_d \_ width th\_ siz\_ \_f  
th\_t \_f \_ t\_bl\_ t\_nnis b\_ll, \_ di\_m\_t\_r \_f 39.31  
millim\_tr\_s, \_nd \_ 12.35-c\_ntim\_tr\_ circ\_mf\_r\_nc\_. Th\_  
r\_c\_rd-br\_\_king b\_rry w\_s \_lm\_st 10 tim\_s h\_\_vi\_r th\_n  
\_ r\_g\_l\_r bl\_\_b\_rry. Th\_ fr\_it w\_s gr\_wn by st\_ff \_t  
th\_ C\_st\_ Gr\_\_p in N\_w S\_\_th W\_l\_s, \_\_str\_li\_. S\_ni\_r  
h\_rtic\_lt\_r\_list Br\_d H\_cking s\_id h\_ w\_s \_v\_rj\_y\_d t\_  
h\_v\_ th\_ r\_c\_rd \_ffici\_lly v\_rifi\_d by G\_inn\_ss W\_rld  
R\_c\_rds. H\_ s\_id: "It's \_ c\_mbin\_ti\_n \_f g\_\_d br\_\_ding  
\_nd g\_\_d gr\_wing."

Mr H\_cking s\_id his bl\_\_b\_rry w\_s fr\_m th\_ \_t\_rn\_  
v\_ri\_ty, kn\_wn f\_r its crisp t\_xt\_r\_ \_nd l\_ng sh\_lf  
lif\_. H\_ t\_ld r\_p\_rts: "\_t\_rn\_, \_s \_ v\_ri\_ty, h\_s \_  
r\_\_lly gr\_\_t fl\_v\_\_r \_nd \_ c\_nsist\_ntly l\_rg\_ fr\_it.  
Wh\_n w\_ pick\_d this \_n\_, th\_r\_ w\_r\_ pr\_b\_bly \_r\_\_nd  
20 \_th\_r b\_rri\_s \_f \_ simil\_r siz\_." H\_ \_dd\_d: "Whil\_  
th\_ fr\_it is l\_rg\_, th\_r\_'s \_bs\_l\_t\_ly n\_ c\_mpr\_mis\_ \_n  
q\_\_lity \_r fl\_v\_\_r, \_s w\_\_ld b\_ \_xp\_ct\_d wh\_n  
d\_v\_l\_ping \_ pr\_mi\_m v\_ri\_ty." \_t first, h\_ w\_s \_ns\_r\_  
wh\_th\_r h\_ h\_d br\_k\_n th\_ r\_c\_rd. H\_ s\_id: "W\_ h\_d  
t\_ r\_c\_libr\_t\_ th\_ sc\_l\_s t\_ m\_k\_ s\_r\_ w\_ w\_r\_n't  
g\_tting mix\_d \_p." Wh\_n \_sk\_d wh\_t h\_ w\_\_ld d\_ with  
his priz\_ b\_rry, h\_ s\_gg\_st\_d \_ sm\_\_thi\_ might b\_ th\_  
m\_st fitting \_nd f\_r it.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

a farmer in australia has just entered the record books for growing the worlds biggest ever blueberry the giant berry weighed in at a mammoth 204 grams this obliterated the previous record which was 162 grams the recordbreaker had a width the size of that of a table tennis ball a diameter of 39.31 millimetres and a 123.5centimetre circumference the recordbreaking berry was almost 10 times heavier than a regular blueberry the fruit was grown by staff at the costa group in new south wales australia senior horticulturalist brad hocking said he was overjoyed to have the record officially verified by guinness world records he said its a combination of good breeding and good growing

mr hocking said his blueberry was from the eterna variety known for its crisp texture and long shelf life he told reporters eterna as a variety has a really great flavour and a consistently large fruit when we picked this one there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size he added while the fruit is large theres absolutely no compromise on quality or flavour as would be expected when developing a premium variety at first he was unsure whether he had broken the record he said we had to recalibrate the scales to make sure we werent getting mixed up when asked what he would do with his prize berry he suggested a smoothie might be the most fitting end for it

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240318-giant-blueberry.html>

A farmer in Australia has just entered the record books for growing the world's biggest ever blueberry. The giant berry weighed in at a mammoth 20.4 grams. This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams. The record-breaker had a width the size of that of a table tennis ball, a diameter of 39.31 millimetres, and a 12.35-centimetre circumference. The record-breaking berry was almost 10 times heavier than a regular blueberry. The fruit was grown by staff at the Costa Group in New South Wales, Australia. Senior horticulturalist Brad Hockings said he was overjoyed to have the record officially verified by Guinness World Records. He said: "It's a combination of good breeding and good growing." Mr Hockings said his blueberry was from the Eterna variety, known for its crisp texture and long shelf life. He told reporters: "Eterna, as a variety, has a really great flavour and a consistently large fruit. When we picked this one, there were probably around 20 other berries of a similar size." He added: "While the fruit is large, there's absolutely no compromise on quality or flavour, as would be expected when developing a premium variety." At first, he was unsure whether he had broken the record. He said: "We had to recalibrate the scales to make sure we weren't getting mixed up." When asked what he would do with his prize berry, he suggested a smoothie might be the most fitting end for it.







# 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. BLUEBERRIES:** Make a poster about blueberries. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. GIANT FRUIT:** Write a magazine article about scientists engineering giant fruit. 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 blueberries. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on this fruit. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- The record books
- 16.2 grams
- Ten times heavier
- Guinness World Records
- Good breeding
- Crisp
- Around twenty
- Quality or flavour
- Recalibrate them
- Make a smoothie

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- A farmer has just entered the record books.
- This obliterated the previous record, which was 16.2 grams.
- The giant berry weighed a mammoth 20.4 grams.
- Almost 10 times heavier than a regular blueberry.
- Overjoyed to have the record officially verified.
- Eterna is a variety with a great flavour.
- He said there's absolutely no compromise on quality.
- We recalibrated the scales to make sure.
- Asked what he'd do with his prize berry.
- A smoothie might be the most fitting end.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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