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## **Level 1**

### **Scientists find gene that erases memories**

**25th September, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-1.html>

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-1.html>

Researchers from an institute of technology found a special gene in mice. It could help people forget painful memories. Many soldiers, crime victims and natural disaster survivors have memories that make them stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Scientists will use their research to erase painful memories. They want to replace them with nice thoughts and feelings. This would help millions of people with PTSD.

Scientists did tests to make mice forget their fear. They put the mice into a cage and gave them electric shocks. The mice became afraid of the cage. They had "cage shock". The mice went into the cage again but with no electric shock. The mice no longer feared the cage. Their fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at the brains of the mice. They found a gene that erased old memories. They will now try to find this gene in human brains.

Sources: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/266368.php>  
<http://news.sky.com/story/1145178/memory-erasing-gene-discovered-in-mice>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Researchers from an institute    | a. disaster              |
| 2. a special gene                   | b. painful memories      |
| 3. It could help people forget      | c. thoughts and feelings |
| 4. crime                            | d. in mice               |
| 5. natural                          | e. victims               |
| 6. an illness called post-traumatic | f. of people with PTSD   |
| 7. replace them with nice           | g. of technology         |
| 8. This would help millions         | h. stress disorder       |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. tests to make mice     | a. feelings          |
| 2. electric               | b. of the cage       |
| 3. The mice became afraid | c. old memories      |
| 4. The mice no longer     | d. shocks            |
| 5. good                   | e. of the mice       |
| 6. the brains             | f. brains            |
| 7. a gene that erased     | g. forget their fear |
| 8. human                  | h. feared the cage   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-1.html>

Researchers from an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ found a special gene in mice. It could help people forget (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Many soldiers, crime victims and natural disaster survivors have memories that (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They have an illness called post-traumatic (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists will use their research to erase painful memories. They want to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ nice thoughts and feelings. This would (6) \_\_\_\_\_ people with PTSD.

Scientists did tests to make mice (7) \_\_\_\_\_. They put the mice into a cage (8) \_\_\_\_\_ electric shocks. The mice became (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They had "cage shock". The mice went into the cage again but with no electric shock. The mice (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the cage. Their fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at the brains of the mice. They found a gene that (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They will now try to find this gene in (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-1.html>

Researchers from an institute of technology found a special gene in mice. It could help people forget painful memories. Many soldiers, crime victims and natural disaster survivors have memories that make them stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Scientists will use their research to erase painful memories. They want to replace them with nice thoughts and feelings. This would help millions of people with PTSD. Scientists did tests to make mice forget their fear. They put the mice into a cage and gave them electric shocks. The mice became afraid of the cage. They had "cage shock". The mice went into the cage again but without electric shock. The mice no longer feared the cage. Their fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at the brains of the mice. They found a gene that erases old memories. They will now try to find this gene in human brains.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*Scientists find gene that erases memories – 13th September, 2013*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

---

f)

---

g)

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h)

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