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Level 2

More gum disease today than 2,000 years ago

28th October, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141028-gum-disease-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141028-gum-disease-2.html>

A study shows that people have more gum disease today than they did 2,000 years ago. The study, from London's King's College, is now in the 'British Dental Journal'. Researchers looked at the teeth of 303 people who lived 2,200-2,400* years ago. They were from skulls found at an old burial site in England. The researchers said only 5 per cent of the skulls had gum disease. Up to 30 per cent of people today have gum disease. Professor Francis Hughes was surprised because people did not have toothbrushes or toothpaste back then. They also did not visit dentists, like we do today.

Smoking is the main reason why people have gum disease today. The study shows that our oral health has become worse over the past 2,000 years. Gum disease could start going down if more people stop smoking. A researcher said: "As smoking declines...we should see a decline in the [numbers of people with] the disease." Gum disease is because bacteria build up in your mouth. The bacteria attack your gums and can make your teeth fall out. People can lower the risk of gum disease by regular brushing, using mouthwash and not smoking.

* CORRECTION: This should be 1,600-1,800 years ago.

Sources: <http://www.healthcanal.com/oral-dental-health/56640-romans-had-less-gum-disease-than-modern-britons.html>
<http://www.nature.com/bdj/journal/v217/n8/full/sj.bdj.2014.908.html>
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2014/oct/gum-disease-worse-now-than-in-roman-britain133420.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141028-gum-disease-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. people have more gum | a. dentists |
| 2. Researchers looked at the teeth | b. skulls |
| 3. They were from | c. toothpaste back then |
| 4. found at an old | d. today |
| 5. only 5 per cent of the skulls | e. of 303 people |
| 6. people did not have toothbrushes or | f. burial site |
| 7. They also did not visit | g. disease today |
| 8. like we do | h. had gum disease |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Smoking is the main | a. brushing |
| 2. oral | b. past 2,000 years |
| 3. become worse over the | c. fall out |
| 4. Gum disease could start | d. mouthwash |
| 5. bacteria build | e. reason why |
| 6. make your teeth | f. up in your mouth |
| 7. regular | g. health |
| 8. using | h. going down |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141028-gum-disease-2.html>

A study shows that (1) _____ gum disease today than they did 2,000 years ago. The study, from London's King's College, is now in the 'British Dental Journal'. Researchers looked at the teeth of (2) _____ lived 2,200-2,400 years ago. They were from skulls found (3) _____ in England. The researchers said only 5 per cent (4) _____ gum disease. Up to 30 per cent of people today have gum disease. Professor Francis Hughes (5) _____ people did not have toothbrushes or toothpaste back then. They also did not visit dentists, (6) _____.

Smoking is (7) _____ people have gum disease today. The study shows that (8) _____ become worse over the past 2,000 years. Gum disease could start (9) _____ people stop smoking. A researcher said: "As smoking declines...we should (10) _____ [numbers of people with] the disease." Gum disease is because bacteria (11) _____. The bacteria attack your gums and can make your teeth fall out. People can lower the risk of gum disease (12) _____, using mouthwash and not smoking.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141028-gum-disease-2.html>

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

More gum disease today than 2,000 years ago – 28th October, 2014
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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)

g)

h)
