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## Level 6

# Half of world population will be short-sighted

24th February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Researchers predicted in a new report published in the journal Ophthalmology that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical term for this condition is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when we have difficulty focusing on objects that are far away from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people will suffer from myopia. This is a seven-fold increase in cases from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of Chinese teenagers and young adults have trouble seeing faraway objects. A recent survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

The researchers said they could not pinpoint definite reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination of factors. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a leading cause. Researchers said the sudden rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination of decreased time outdoors and increased near-work activities". Science journalist Sarah Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces the onset of myopia". Professor Kovin Naidoo, a co-author of the report, offered some advice. He said: "You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but also spend two hours outdoors."

Sources: <http://www.sciencealert.com/half-the-world-s-population-will-be-short-sighted-by-2050>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myopia>  
<http://www.treehugger.com/family/remarkable-reason-why-nearsightedness-has-more-doubled-50-years.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about short-sightedness. 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?

*researchers / journal / short-sightedness / medical / focusing / population / survey / reasons / combination / factors / outdoors / science / journalist / childhood / advice*

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

**3. EYES:** What do you know about these conditions? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I know	How to help
Short-sightedness		
Colour blindness		
Black eye		
Cataracts		
Double vision		
Snow blindness		

**4. FAR-SIGHTEDNESS:** Students A **strongly** believe far-sightedness isn't as bad as near-sightedness; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. LOOK:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to look at at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- babies
- tropical fish
- the sky
- kittens
- flowers
- movies
- art
- mountains

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

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

- a. Researchers said half the world would be shortsighted within 10 years. T / F
- b. The medical name for near-sightedness is myopia. T / F
- c. Around 4.8 billion people will be short-sighted by 2050. T / F
- d. Almost half of South Korean teenagers are near-sighted. T / F
- e. Researchers say the rise in short-sightedness is only due to computers. T / F
- f. Researchers say spending less time outdoors affects our eyesight. T / F
- g. A journalist suggested children should spend more time indoors. T / F
- h. The report's co-author said people needed to spend 2 hours outdoors. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. predicted  | a. occurrence   |
| 2. term       | b. distant      |
| 3. objects    | c. exact        |
| 4. faraway    | d. name         |
| 5. found      | e. main         |
| 6. definite   | f. discovered   |
| 7. phenomenon | g. particularly |
| 8. leading    | h. forecast     |
| 9. especially | i. guidance     |
| 10. advice    | j. things       |

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

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The medical term for this               | a. for this phenomenon    |
| 2. focusing                                | b. seeing faraway objects |
| 3. This is a seven-                        | c. childhood              |
| 4. have trouble                            | d. condition is myopia    |
| 5. 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea | e. rise in myopia         |
| 6. pinpoint definite reasons               | f. of factors             |
| 7. it could be a combination               | g. are near-sighted       |
| 8. the sudden                              | h. outdoors               |
| 9. especially in early                     | i. fold increase          |
| 10. spend two hours                        | j. on objects             |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Researchers predicted in a new report (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the journal Ophthalmology that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for this condition is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when we have difficulty (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on objects that are far away from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people will (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from myopia. This is a seven-fold increase in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese (6) \_\_\_\_\_ was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of Chinese teenagers and young adults have (7) \_\_\_\_\_ seeing faraway objects. A recent (8) \_\_\_\_\_ found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

*focusing*  
*cases*  
*published*  
*trouble*  
*term*  
*survey*  
*suffer*  
*population*

The researchers said they could not pinpoint (9) \_\_\_\_\_ reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination of (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a leading (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers said the sudden rise in myopia may be (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination of decreased time (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and increased near-work activities". Science journalist Sarah Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in (14) \_\_\_\_\_ childhood, reduces the onset of myopia". Professor Kovin Naidoo, a co-author of the report, offered some (15) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but also (16) \_\_\_\_\_ two hours outdoors."

*linked*  
*factors*  
*early*  
*definite*  
*spend*  
*outdoors*  
*advice*  
*cause*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

- 1) The medical term for this condition is myopia. It is also known \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. as near-sightedness
  - b. as near-sightedness
  - c. as near-sightedness
  - d. as near-sightedness
- 2) It is when we have difficulty focusing on objects that are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. far away from us
  - b. far away from us
  - c. far away from us
  - d. far away from us
- 3) This is a seven-fold increase \_\_\_\_\_ 2000 to 2050
  - a. in causes from
  - b. in cases from
  - c. in case is from
  - d. in cause is from
- 4) almost 90 per cent of Chinese teenagers and young adults have trouble \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. seeing for away object
  - b. seeing faraway objectives
  - c. seeing for away objects
  - d. seeing faraway objects
- 5) A recent survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are nearly-sighted
  - b. are now-sighted
  - c. are an ear sighted
  - d. are near-sighted
- 6) The researchers said they could not pinpoint definite reasons \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for this phenomenon
  - b. for this phenomena
  - c. for this phenomenal
  - d. for this phenomenally
- 7) They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a leading case
  - b. a leading cause
  - c. a leading course
  - d. a leading curse
- 8) resulting from a combination of decreased time outdoors and increased \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nearly-work activities
  - b. near-works activities
  - c. near-work activities
  - d. nearly-works activities
- 9) Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces \_\_\_\_\_ myopia"
  - a. the on set of
  - b. the onside of
  - c. the onset of
  - d. the once set of
- 10) You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but also spend \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. two hours out of doors
  - b. two hours outdoors
  - c. two hours in doors
  - d. two hours outer doors

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Researchers predicted (1) \_\_\_\_\_ published in the journal Ophthalmology that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical term (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when we have difficulty (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that are far away from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people (4) \_\_\_\_\_ myopia. This is a seven-fold increase in cases from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of Chinese teenagers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ have trouble (6) \_\_\_\_\_ objects. A recent survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

The researchers said they could not pinpoint (7) \_\_\_\_\_ this phenomenon and say it could be a combination of factors. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones (8) \_\_\_\_\_ cause. Researchers said (9) \_\_\_\_\_ myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination of decreased time outdoors and increased (10) \_\_\_\_\_". Science journalist Sarah Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces the onset of myopia". Professor Kovin Naidoo, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ report, offered some advice. He said: "You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but (12) \_\_\_\_\_ hours outdoors."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

1. What kind of publication was the report published in?

---

2. What is the medical name for short-sightedness?

---

3. How many people will be short-sighted by 2050?

---

4. When was it that 15% of the Chinese population was short-sighted?

---

5. In which country are almost 95% of teenagers near-sighted?

---

6. What could researchers not pinpoint regarding this phenomenon?

---

7. What has decreased because of lifestyle changes?

---

8. What is Sarah Zhang's job?

---

9. When do people particularly need to spend time outside?

---

10. How many hours did the co-author say people should spend outside?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

1. What kind of publication was the report published in?
  - a) a book
  - b) a newspaper
  - c) an in-flight magazine
  - d) a journal
2. What is the medical name for short-sightedness?
  - a) myriad
  - b) myopia
  - c) bipolar
  - d) bionic
3. How many people will be short-sighted by 2050?
  - a) around 4.9 billion
  - b) around 4.6 billion
  - c) around 4.3 billion
  - d) around 4.8 billion
4. When was it that 15% of the Chinese population was short-sighted?
  - a) in the 1600s
  - b) 1600
  - c) 60 years ago
  - d) 16 years ago
5. In which country are almost 95% of teenagers near-sighted?
  - a) Bolivia
  - b) Angola
  - c) China
  - d) South Korea
6. What could researchers not pinpoint regarding this phenomenon?
  - a) exact terms
  - b) figures
  - c) definite reasons
  - d) numbers
7. What has decreased because of lifestyle changes?
  - a) time spent outdoors
  - b) eyeballs
  - c) the outdoors
  - d) inside
8. What is Sarah Zhang's job?
  - a) dentist
  - b) ophthalmologist
  - c) journalist
  - d) researcher
9. When do people particularly need to spend time outside?
  - a) lunch times
  - b) in early childhood
  - c) at night
  - d) in the morning
10. How many hours did the co-author say people should spend outside?
  - a) 2
  - b) 3
  - c) 4
  - d) 5

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

## **Role A – Babies**

You think babies are the best things to look at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these to look at (and why): the sky, movies or art.

## **Role B – The sky**

You think the sky is the best thing to look at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these to look at (and why): babies, movies or art.

## **Role C – Movies**

You think movies are the best things to look at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these to look at (and why): the sky, babies or art.

## **Role D – Art**

You think art is the best thing to look at. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these to look at (and why): the sky, movies or babies.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

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

<b>short</b>	<b>near</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>• published</li><li>• term</li><li>• difficulty</li><li>• seven</li><li>• 90</li><li>• 95</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pinpoint</li><li>• leading</li><li>• linked</li><li>• early</li><li>• offered</li><li>• two</li></ul>
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# SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Write five GOOD questions about short-sightedness 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.

# SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'eyesight'?
- 3) How good is your eyesight?
- 4) What do you think of wearing glasses?
- 5) Which are better, glasses or contact lenses?
- 6) What do you think about what you read?
- 7) Do you think scientists will be able to cure myopia?
- 8) Why are people from some countries more short-sighted?
- 9) What problems does near-sightedness cause?
- 10) What problems does far-sightedness cause?

*Half of world population will be short-sighted – 24th February, 2016*  
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# SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How can we take better care of our eyes?
- 13) Why do you think more and more people have failing eyesight?
- 14) Are you worried about your eyesight worsening?
- 15) Do you spend too long looking at screens?
- 16) Would it be easy for you to spend more time outdoors?
- 17) Should children be made to spend more time outdoors?
- 18) How good is your lifestyle for your eyes?
- 19) What other things are affecting our eyesight, besides screens?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## **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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Researchers (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in a new report published in the journal Ophthalmology that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for this condition is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when we have difficulty focusing (3) \_\_\_\_\_ objects that are far away from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people will (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from myopia. This is a seven-(5) \_\_\_\_\_ increase in cases from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of Chinese teenagers and young adults have trouble (6) \_\_\_\_\_ faraway objects. A recent survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

The researchers said they could not pinpoint (7) \_\_\_\_\_ reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination of factors. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a leading (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers said the sudden rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination (9) \_\_\_\_\_ decreased time outdoors and increased near-work activities". Science journalist Sarah Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ childhood, reduces the onset of myopia". Professor Kovin Naidoo, a co-author of the report, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ some advice. He said: "You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but (12) \_\_\_\_\_ spend two hours outdoors."

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

- |     |                  |                |                |                |
|-----|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) predicted    | (b) predictive | (c) prediction | (d) predicting |
| 2.  | (a) time         | (b) team       | (c) term       | (d) tern       |
| 3.  | (a) in           | (b) of         | (c) on         | (d) at         |
| 4.  | (a) aggravate    | (b) slip       | (c) file       | (d) suffer     |
| 5.  | (a) wild         | (b) weld       | (c) fold       | (d) mold       |
| 6.  | (a) seen         | (b) seeing     | (c) saw        | (d) sawn       |
| 7.  | (a) definitively | (b) definite   | (c) definition | (d) define     |
| 8.  | (a) clause       | (b) cause      | (c) course     | (d) case       |
| 9.  | (a) by           | (b) for        | (c) of         | (d) at         |
| 10. | (a) advance      | (b) young      | (c) fast       | (d) early      |
| 11. | (a) try          | (b) forward    | (c) put        | (d) offered    |
| 12. | (a) alternate    | (b) as well    | (c) consider   | (d) also       |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. published in the auonljr Ophthalmology
2. The dImceai term for this
3. have difficulty ugncofis on objects
4. This is a vnsee-lodf increase
5. have trouble seeing wyraaaf objects
6. A recent esvury

## Paragraph 2

7. they could not pinpoint entifeid reasons
8. it could be a bcntonioiam of factors
9. eliltsyef changes
10. Science tnloiajrus
11. calipeslye in early childhood
12. spend two hours souoodtr



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

( )	as near-sightedness. It is when we have difficulty focusing on objects that are far away
( )	population will be short-sighted. The medical term for this condition is myopia. It is also known
( )	said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces the onset
( )	of factors. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a leading
( )	The researchers said they could not pinpoint definite reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination
( )	90 per cent of Chinese teenagers and young adults have trouble seeing faraway objects. A recent
( )	survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.
( )	a combination of decreased time outdoors and increased near-work activities". Science journalist Sarah Zhang
( )	cases from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost
( )	of myopia". Professor Kovin Naidoo, a co-author of the report, offered some advice. He said: "You could spend
( )	cause. Researchers said the sudden rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from
( <b>1</b> )	Researchers predicted in a new report published in the journal Ophthalmology that by 2050, half of the world's
( )	from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people will suffer from myopia. This is a seven-fold increase in
( )	a long time reading computers and screens, but also spend two hours outdoors."

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

1. myopia for this The condition medical is term .

---

2. difficulty focusing on objects that are far away We have .

---

3. This 2000 from cases in increase fold - seven a is .

---

4. objects faraway seeing trouble have adults Young .

---

5. in to near teenagers Up are of Korea 95% sighted South - .

---

6. pinpoint definite They reasons could for not this .

---

7. myopia may be linked to lifestyle The sudden rise in .

---

8. and - outdoors near activities time increased work Decreased .

---

9. outdoors childhood , especially Spending in time early .

---

10. reading spend computers a long You time could .

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Researchers predicted in a *new / newly* report published in the journal Ophthalmology that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical *trim / term* for this condition is myopia. It is also *known / knowing* as near-sightedness. It is when we have *difficulty / difficult* focusing *in / on* objects that are far away from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people will *suffering / suffer* from myopia. This is a *seven-fold / seven-eleven* increase in *cases / causes* from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 per cent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 per cent of Chinese teenagers and *youth / young* adults have trouble seeing faraway objects. A *recently / recent* survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted.

The researchers said they could not *pinpoint / point* definite reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination *for / of* factors. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a *loading / leading* cause. Researchers said the *sudden / suddenly* rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting *at / from* a combination of *decreased / deceased* time outdoors and *increased / increase* near-work activities". Science journalist Sarah Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces the *onset / insert* of myopia". Professor Kovin Naidoo, a co-author of the report, offered *many / some* advice. He said: "You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but *also / as well* spend two hours outdoors."

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

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

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

R\_s\_\_rch\_rs pr\_d\_ct\_d \_n \_ n\_w r\_p\_rt p\_bl\_sh\_d \_n th\_ j\_\_rn\_l \_pth\_lm\_l\_gy th\_t by 2050, h\_lf \_f th\_ w\_rld's p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n w\_ll b\_ sh\_rt-s\_ght\_d. Th\_ m\_d\_c\_l t\_rm f\_r th\_s c\_nd\_t\_\_n \_s my\_p\_\_ . \_t \_s \_ls\_ kn\_wn \_s n\_\_r-s\_ght\_dn\_ss. \_t \_s wh\_n w\_ h\_v\_ d\_ff\_c\_lty f\_c\_s\_ng \_n \_bj\_cts th\_t \_r\_f\_r\_w\_y fr\_m \_s. Th\_ r\_s\_\_rch\_rs s\_y th\_t \_r\_\_nd 4.8 b\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ w\_ll s\_ff\_r fr\_m my\_p\_\_ . Th\_s \_s \_s\_v\_n-f\_ld \_ncr\_\_s\_\_ \_n c\_s\_s fr\_m 2000 t\_ 2050. S\_xty y\_\_rs \_g\_ , \_r\_\_nd 15 p\_r\_c\_nt \_f th\_ Ch\_n\_s\_ p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n w\_s sh\_rt-s\_ght\_d. N\_w, \_lm\_st 90 p\_r\_c\_nt \_f Ch\_n\_s\_ t\_\_n\_g\_rs \_nd y\_\_ng \_d\_lts h\_v\_ tr\_\_bl\_ s\_\_ng f\_r\_w\_y \_bj\_cts. \_r\_c\_nt s\_rv\_y f\_\_nd th\_t \_p\_t\_ 95 p\_r\_c\_nt \_f t\_\_n\_g\_rs \_n S\_\_th K\_r\_\_ \_r\_n\_\_r-s\_ght\_d.

Th\_ r\_s\_\_rch\_rs s\_\_d th\_y c\_\_ld n\_t p\_np\_\_nt d\_f\_n\_t\_ r\_\_s\_ns f\_r th\_s ph\_n\_m\_n\_n \_nd s\_y \_t c\_\_ld b\_\_ c\_mb\_n\_t\_\_n \_f f\_ct\_rs. Th\_y d\_d s\_y th\_t l\_\_k\_ng \_t c\_mpt\_r\_scr\_\_ns \_nd m\_b\_l\_ ph\_n\_s c\_\_ld b\_\_ l\_\_d\_ng c\_\_s . R\_s\_\_rch\_rs s\_\_d th\_s dd\_n r\_s\_\_ \_n my\_p\_\_ m\_y b\_ l\_nk\_d t\_ "I\_f styl\_ ch\_ng\_s r\_s\_lt\_ng fr\_m \_ c\_mb\_n\_t\_\_n \_f d\_cr\_\_s\_d t\_m\_\_td\_\_rs \_nd \_ncr\_\_s\_d n\_\_r-w\_rk \_ct\_v\_t\_\_s". Sc\_\_nc\_ j\_\_rn\_l\_st S\_r\_h Zh\_ng s\_\_d, "sp\_nd\_ng t\_m\_\_td\_\_rs, \_sp\_c\_\_lly \_n \_\_rly ch\_ldh\_\_d, r\_d\_c\_s th\_ \_ns\_t \_f my\_p\_\_". Pr\_f\_ss\_r K\_v\_n N\_\_d\_\_ , \_c\_ \_th\_r \_f th\_ r\_p\_rt, \_ff\_r\_d s\_m\_\_dv\_c\_ . H\_s\_\_d: "Y\_\_ c\_\_ld sp\_nd \_l\_ng t\_m\_\_r\_\_d\_ng c\_mpt\_rs \_nd scr\_\_ns, b\_t \_ls\_ sp\_nd tw\_ h\_\_rs \_\_td\_\_rs."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

researchers predicted in a new report published in the journal ophthalmology that by 2050 half of the world's population will be short-sighted the medical term for this condition is myopia it is also known as near-sightedness it is when we have difficulty focusing on objects that are far away from us the researchers say that around 48 billion people will suffer from myopia this is a seven-fold increase in cases from 2000 to 2050 sixty years ago around 15 per cent of the chinese population was short-sighted now almost 90 per cent of chinese teenagers and young adults have trouble seeing faraway objects a recent survey found that up to 95 per cent of teenagers in south korea are near-sighted

the researchers said they could not pinpoint definite reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination of factors they did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a leading cause researchers said the sudden rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination of decreased time outdoors and increased near-work activities" science journalist sarah zhang said "spending time outdoors especially in early childhood reduces the onset of myopia" professor kovin naidoo a co-author of the report offered some advice he said "you could spend a long time reading computers and screens but also spend two hours outdoors"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160224-short-sightedness.html>

Researchers predicted in a new report published in the journal *Ophthalmology* that by 2050, half of the world's population will be short-sighted. The medical term for this condition is myopia. It is also known as near-sightedness. It is when we have difficulty focusing on objects that are far away from us. The researchers say that around 4.8 billion people will suffer from myopia. This is a seven-fold increase in cases from 2000 to 2050. Sixty years ago, around 15 percent of the Chinese population was short-sighted. Now, almost 90 percent of Chinese teenagers and young adults have trouble seeing faraway objects. A recent survey found that up to 95 percent of teenagers in South Korea are near-sighted. The researchers said they could not pinpoint definite reasons for this phenomenon and say it could be a combination of factors. They did say that looking at computer screens and mobile phones could be a leading cause. Researchers said the sudden rise in myopia may be linked to "lifestyle changes resulting from a combination of decreased time outdoors and increased near-work activities". Science journalist Sarah Zhang said, "spending time outdoors, especially in early childhood, reduces the onset of myopia". Professor Kovi Naidoo, a co-author of the report, offered some advice. He said: "You could spend a long time reading computers and screens, but also spend two hours outdoors."







# 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 short-sightedness. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS:** Make a poster about short-sightedness. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. EYESIGHT:** Write a magazine article about near-sightedness and far-sightedness and which is worst. Include imaginary interviews with people who think near-sightedness is worse and with people who think far-sightedness is worse.

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 myopia. Ask him/her three questions about short-sightedness. Give him/her three ideas on how we can avoid getting it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c T    d F    e F    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. predicted  | a. forecast     |
| 2. term       | b. name         |
| 3. objects    | c. things       |
| 4. faraway    | d. distant      |
| 5. found      | e. discovered   |
| 6. definite   | f. exact        |
| 7. phenomenon | g. occurrence   |
| 8. leading    | h. main         |
| 9. especially | i. particularly |
| 10. advice    | j. guidance     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A journal
2. Myopia
3. Around 4.8 billion
4. Sixty years ago
5. South Korea
6. Definite reasons
7. Time outdoors
8. Science journalist
9. In early childhood
10. Two

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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