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## **Level 0**

### **Scientists change plants' sunblock to grow more crops**

**19th November, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-0.html>

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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-0.html>

Biologists have increased the size of crops by 20 per cent. They changed how plants use photosynthesis. This is when plants use sunlight to change carbon dioxide into oxygen. The new plants use the energy from sunlight better. A professor said he is changing crops like rice, wheat, maize and soybean.

The scientists changed how plants keep safe in the Sun. Plants change energy into heat when they get hot. But, they also do this when it is cloudy. The scientists changed genes so plants can use more energy to grow. If crops can give 20 per cent more food, it will help us have more food in the future.

Sources: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/how-turning-plants-sunshield-can-grow-bigger-crops>  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161117141231.htm>  
<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/47544/title/Genetic-Modification-Improves-Photosynthetic-Efficiency/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Biologists have increased the | a. plants             |
| 2. They changed how plants       | b. into oxygen        |
| 3. plants use                    | c. soybean            |
| 4. change carbon dioxide         | d. changing the crops |
| 5. The new                       | e. size of crops      |
| 6. use the energy from sunlight  | f. sunlight           |
| 7. he is                         | g. use photosynthesis |
| 8. rice, wheat, maize and        | h. better             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. how plants keep safe in       | a. to grow            |
| 2. Plants change energy into     | b. us                 |
| 3. when they                     | c. the Sun            |
| 4. they also do this             | d. food in the future |
| 5. plants can use more energy    | e. get hot            |
| 6. If crops can give 20 per cent | f. when it is cloudy  |
| 7. it will help                  | g. heat               |
| 8. have more                     | h. more food          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-0.html>

Biologists have increased (1) \_\_\_\_\_ by 20 per cent. They changed (2) \_\_\_\_\_ use photosynthesis. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ plants use sunlight to change carbon (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The new plants use (5) \_\_\_\_\_ sunlight better. A professor said he is changing (6) \_\_\_\_\_, wheat, maize and soybean.

The scientists changed how plants (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun. Plants change (8) \_\_\_\_\_ when they get hot. But, they also do (9) \_\_\_\_\_ cloudy. The scientists changed genes (10) \_\_\_\_\_ use more energy to grow. If (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 per cent more food, it will (12) \_\_\_\_\_ more food in the future.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-0.html>

Biologists have increased the size of crops by 20 percent. They changed how plants use photosynthesis. This is when plants use sunlight to change carbon dioxide into oxygen. The new plants use the energy from sunlight better. A professor said he is changing crops like rice, wheat, maize and soybean. The scientists changed how plants keep safe in the Sun. Plants change energy into heat when they get hot. But, they also do this when it is cloudy. The scientists changed genes so plants can use more energy to grow. If crops can give 20 percent more food, it will help us have more food in the future.

# PLANTS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plants 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) \_\_\_\_\_

