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Level 3

Dirt is good for babies

19th July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

It seems like common sense to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their little ones. However, a scientist says dirt is an important part of making babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems of bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He told America's NPR news station that: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus going around, but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog licks their face, that's not a bad thing."

Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get dirty was largely beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their immune system. Dr Gilbert even argues that children often get allergies because parents try to protect their kids too much and try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now over-sterilize everything in the home. This causes children's immune systems to become too sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food allergies. Gilbert even defended the "five-second rule". Many people think it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor isn't really dirty.

Sources: <http://www.scarymommy.com/jack-gilbert-scientist-dirt-good-for-kids/>
<https://www.immortal.org/34249/dirt-good-kids/>
<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/07/16/537075018/dirt-is-good-why-kids-need-exposure-to-germs>

WARM-UPS

1. DIRT: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about dirt. 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?

common sense / clean / bacteria / ecosystems / research / flu virus / a bad thing / beneficial / immune system / sensitive / asthma / food allergies / five-second rule

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

3. GOOD: Students A **strongly** believe dirt is good for babies and helps make them stronger; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. DIRTY: Is it OK for these things to be dirty? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	OK?	Why?
Baby's hands		
Pacifier / Dummy		
Baby's toys		
The floor		
Baby's spoon		
Baby's clothes		

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

6. BACTERIA: Rank these with your partner. Put the places with the most bacteria at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- toilet seat
- kitchen floor
- fridge handle
- computer keyboard
- pillow
- mobile phone
- escalator handrail
- remote control

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

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

- a. The article says parents do little to keep babies in a clean place. **T / F**
- b. Dr Jack Gilbert studies the places where bacteria live. **T / F**
- c. The doctor published his research in a newspaper. **T / F**
- d. The doctor said it's a bad thing for a dog to lick a baby's face. **T / F**
- e. The doctor said dirt helped build a baby's immune system. **T / F**
- f. The doctor said parents sterilize things in the home too much. **T / F**
- g. Sterilizing everything increases the risk of children getting allergies. **T / F**
- h. The doctor said eating food that fell on the floor for 2 seconds was bad. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. bacteria | a. useful |
| 2. affect | b. acceptable |
| 3. research | c. clean |
| 4. fine | d. being in contact |
| 5. interacting | e. truly |
| 6. beneficial | f. germs |
| 7. protect | g. dropped |
| 8. sterilize | h. safeguard |
| 9. fell | i. impact |
| 10. really | j. findings |

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. common | a. making babies stronger |
| 2. Most parents do their | b. system |
| 3. dirt is an important part of | c. asthma |
| 4. He published his | d. best |
| 5. if there's a flu virus | e. isn't really dirty |
| 6. letting children get dirty was largely | f. going around |
| 7. dirt helps them to build their immune | g. sense |
| 8. lead to things like | h. second rule |
| 9. the five- | i. research in a book |
| 10. as long as the floor | j. beneficial |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

It seems like common (1) _____ to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their (2) _____ ones. However, a scientist says dirt is an important (3) _____ of making babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems of bacteria. He did (4) _____ into how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book (5) _____ 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He told America's NPR news station that: "It's (6) _____ to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus (7) _____ around, but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog (8) _____ their face, that's not a bad thing."

part
fine
sense
licks
research
going
little
called

Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get (9) _____ was largely beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their immune (10) _____. Dr Gilbert even argues that children often get allergies because parents try to (11) _____ their kids too much and try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now over-sterilize (12) _____ in the home. This causes children's immune systems to become too (13) _____, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food (14) _____. Gilbert even defended the "five-second rule". Many people think it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor for (15) _____ than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor isn't (16) _____ dirty.

system
everything
really
sensitive
dirty
fewer
protect
allergies

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

- 1) common sense to most parents to make sure their baby is always in _____
 - a. a cleaning place
 - b. a clean places
 - c. a clean placed
 - d. a clean place
- 2) Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from _____
 - a. them little ones
 - b. their littler ones
 - c. their little ones
 - d. there little ones
- 3) Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems _____
 - a. off bacteria
 - b. from bacteria
 - c. of bacteria
 - d. oft bacteria
- 4) It's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu _____ around
 - a. virus gone
 - b. virus going
 - c. viruses going
 - d. virus go in
- 5) but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog _____
 - a. licks their face
 - b. flicks their face
 - c. slicks their face
 - d. tricks their face
- 6) Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get dirty was _____
 - a. largely beneficially
 - b. largely beneficial
 - c. largely beneficiary
 - d. largely benefiting
- 7) Exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their _____
 - a. immune systems
 - b. immune system
 - c. immunity systems
 - d. immunity system
- 8) This causes children's immune systems to become _____
 - a. too sensitive
 - b. two sensitive
 - c. toe sensitive
 - d. to sensitive
- 9) people think it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor for _____ seconds
 - a. fewer that five
 - b. fewer them five
 - c. fewer those five
 - d. fewer than five
- 10) it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor _____
 - a. isn't real dirty
 - b. isn't really dirty
 - c. isn't reality dirty
 - d. isn't realism dirty

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

It seems like common (1) _____ parents to make sure their baby (2) _____ clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their little ones. However, a scientist says (3) _____ important part of making babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems of bacteria. He did research into how dirt (4) _____ children. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He told America's NPR news station that: "It's fine to wash their (5) _____ a...flu virus going around, but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog licks their face, that's (6) _____."

Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get (7) _____ beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their immune system. Dr Gilbert (8) _____ children often get allergies because parents try to protect their kids too (9) _____ hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now over-sterilize everything in the home. This causes (10) _____ to become too sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food allergies. Gilbert even defended the "(11) _____". Many people think it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as (12) _____ isn't really dirty.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

1. Where is it common sense that parents keep their babies?
2. What did a scientist say is an important part of making a baby stronger?
3. What does Dr Jack Gilbert study?
4. What is the name of the news station Dr Gilbert spoke to?
5. When did the doctor say it was OK for parents to wash a baby's hands?
6. What did the doctor say was largely beneficial?
7. What can children get if parents try to protect their kids too much?
8. What did the doctor say parents did too much in the home?
9. How many seconds were mentioned in a rule?
10. When is it OK to eat something that fell on the floor?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

- 1) Where is it common sense that parents keep their babies?
 - a) in bed
 - b) in a clean place
 - c) in hospital
 - d) in a university
- 2) What did a scientist say is an important part of making a baby stronger?
 - a) friends
 - b) training
 - c) medicine
 - d) dirt
- 3) What does Dr Jack Gilbert study?
 - a) the ecosystems of bacteria
 - b) babies
 - c) parents
 - d) dogs
- 4) What is the name of the news station Dr Gilbert spoke to?
 - a) ABC
 - b) Fox
 - c) NPR
 - d) CNN
- 5) When did the doctor say it was OK for parents to wash a baby's hands?
 - a) if there's soap
 - b) if there's a flu virus
 - c) if they have allergies
 - d) after lunch
- 6) What did the doctor say was largely beneficial?
 - a) letting children get dirty
 - b) immune systems
 - c) allergies
 - d) protection
- 7) What can children get if parents try to protect their kids too much?
 - a) immunity
 - b) licks
 - c) allergies
 - d) dirty
- 8) What did the doctor say parents did too much in the home?
 - a) sterilize things
 - b) drop food
 - c) defend things
 - d) argue
- 9) How many seconds were mentioned in a rule?
 - a) 5
 - b) 6
 - c) 7
 - d) 8
- 10) When is it OK to eat something that fell on the floor?
 - a) if it's a kitchen floor
 - b) after 10 seconds
 - c) never
 - d) if the floor isn't dirty

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

Role A – Toilet Seat

You think toilet seats are the dirtiest places in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't as dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): the kitchen floor, pillows or the TV remote control.

Role B – Kitchen Floor

You think the kitchen floor is the dirtiest place in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't as dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): toilet seats, pillows or the TV remote control.

Role C – Pillow

You think pillows are the dirtiest places in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't as dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): the kitchen floor, toilet seats or the TV remote control.

Role D – TV Remote Control

You think the TV remote control is the dirtiest place in a house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't as dirty. Also, tell the others which is the cleanest of these (and why): the kitchen floor, pillows or toilet seats.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

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

dirt	babies
-------------	---------------

- 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">• common• part• research• news• virus• bad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• letting• argues• hard• sensitive• fewer• really
---	--

DIRT SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dirt 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.

DIRT 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 'dirt'?
3. How worried are you about dirt and bacteria?
4. How at risk are babies from dirt?
5. Are things dirtier now than before?
6. What things do we need to clean all the time?
7. Are babies stronger than we think?
8. How clean is your house?
9. Is dirt an important part of making a baby stronger?
10. Is it OK for a dog to lick a baby's face?

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DIRT 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 'bacteria'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How clean are you?
15. Are you happy to know that it's OK to get dirty?
16. Are parents over-protective nowadays?
17. Where is there most dirt in your house?
18. Do you eat food that has fallen on the floor?
19. What do you think of the five-second rule?
20. What questions would you like to ask the doctor?

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/1707/170719-dirt.html>

It seems like common (1) _____ to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a (2) _____ place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their little ones. However, a scientist says dirt is an (3) _____ part of making babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems of bacteria. He did research (4) _____ how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He (5) _____ America's NPR news station that: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus going around, but if they're (6) _____ with a dog and the dog licks their face, that's not a bad thing."

Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get dirty was (7) _____ beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their immune system. Dr Gilbert even argues that children often get (8) _____ because parents try to protect their kids too much and try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now (9) _____-sterilize everything in the home. This causes children's immune systems to become too (10) _____, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food allergies. Gilbert even defended the "five-second rule". Many people think it is OK to eat something (11) _____ fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as (12) _____ as the floor isn't really dirty.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) nonsense | (b) sense | (c) sensory | (d) sensible |
| 2. | (a) cleanse | (b) clean | (c) cleaning | (d) cleans |
| 3. | (a) imported | (b) importance | (c) importantly | (d) important |
| 4. | (a) up to | (b) into | (c) unto | (d) onto |
| 5. | (a) telling | (b) told | (c) tells | (d) tell |
| 6. | (a) interacted | (b) interaction | (c) interacting | (d) interact |
| 7. | (a) large | (b) largesse | (c) largely | (d) largest |
| 8. | (a) allergens | (b) allergic | (c) allergies | (d) allergy |
| 9. | (a) pre | (b) re | (c) non | (d) over |
| 10. | (a) sensitive | (b) sensitivity | (c) sensitize | (d) sensitively |
| 11. | (a) that | (b) then | (c) what | (d) which |
| 12. | (a) high | (b) wide | (c) long | (d) deep |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

Paragraph 1

1. mncomo sense
2. keep dirt and iracbtea away
3. a stntseici says dirt is an important part
4. He published his hrecsaer in a book
5. flu vsuir
6. icnatintegr with a dog

Paragraph 2

7. letting children get dirty was largely Infcibeaei
8. build their menium system
9. children often get aeellgirs
10. become too tsiienvse
11. the "five-ocsden rule"
12. as long as the floor isn't earyll dirty

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) It seems like common sense to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a clean place. Most parents do their
- () Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get dirty was largely beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps
- () around, but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog licks their face, that's not a bad thing."
- () to protect their kids too much and try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now over-
- () America's NPR news station that: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus going
- () sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food allergies. Gilbert even defended the "five-
- () second rule". Many people think it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor for fewer
- () of bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book
- () part of making babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems
- () best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their little ones. However, a scientist says dirt is an important
- () than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor isn't really dirty.
- () called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He told
- () sterilize everything in the home. This causes children's immune systems to become too
- () them to build their immune system. Dr Gilbert even argues that children often get allergies because parents try

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

1. sense common like seems It parents most to .
2. a Make baby in place their always clean sure is .
3. important stronger part Dirt of is making an babies .
4. He into and children research dirt affect did how bacteria .
5. if flu around hands a going their there's virus Wash .
6. beneficial children dirty largely Letting get was .
7. to them helps Dirt system immune their build .
8. kids their protect to try Parents much too .
9. for seconds fewer on that floor than the fell Something five .
10. OK dirty as the really is as isn't It long floor .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

It seems like common *sense / sensible* to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a *clean / cleanse* place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away *from / of* their little ones. However, a scientist says dirt is an important *party / part* of making babies *strength / stronger*. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystems of bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria *effect / affect* children. He published his research in a book *called / calls* 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He told America's NPR news station *what / that*: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus *going / gone* around, but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog licks *their / there* face, that's not a bad thing."

Dr Gilbert wrote that *lets / letting* children get dirty was *largely / large* beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps them *to / by* build their immune system. Dr Gilbert even argues that children often get *allergy / allergies* because parents try to protect their kids *too / to* much and try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents *know / now* over-sterilize everything in the home. This causes children's immune systems to become too *sensitivity / sensitive*, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food *allergies / allergic*. Gilbert even defended the "five-second rule". Many people think it is OK to eat something that *fall / fell* on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor isn't *real / really* dirty.

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/1707/170719-dirt.html>

_t s__ms l_k_ c_mm_n s_ns_ t_ m_st p_r_nts t_ m_k_
s_r_ th__r b_by _s _lw_ys _n _ cl__n pl_c_. M_st
p_r_nts d_ th__r b_st t_ k__p d_rt _nd b_ct_r__ _w_y
fr_m th__r lttl_ _n_s. H_w_v_r, _sc__nt_st s_ys d_rt
_s _n _mp_rt_nt p_rt _f m_k_ng b_b__s str_ng_r. Dr
J_ck G_lb_rt fr_m th_ _n_v_rs_ty _f Ch_c_g_ st_d__s
th_ _c_syst_ms _f b_ct_r__. H_d_d_r_s__rch _nt_h_w
d_rt _nd b_ct_r__ _ff_ct ch_ldr_n. H_p_b_l_sh_d h_s
r_s__rch _n _ b__k c_ll_d 'D_rt _s G__d: Th_
_dv_nt_g_ _f G_rms f_r Y__r Ch_ld's D_v_l_p_ng
_mm_n_ Syst_m'. H_t_ld _m_r_c_'s NPR n_ws st_t__n
th_t: "_t's f_n_ t_ w_sh th__r h_nds _f th_r_'s _...fl_
v_r_s g__ng _r__nd, b_t _f th_y'r_ _nt_r_ct_ng w_th _
d_g _nd th_ d_g l_cks th__r f_c_, th_t's n_t _ b_d
th_ng."

Dr G_lb_rt wr_t_ th_t l_tt_ng ch_ldr_n g_t d_rty w_s
l_rg_ly b_n_f_c__l. _xp_s_ng sm_ll k_ds t_ d_rt h_lps
th_m t_ b__ld th__r _mm_n_ syst_m. Dr G_lb_rt _v_n
_rg__s th_t ch_ldr_n _ft_n g_t _ll_rg__s b_c__s_
p_r_nts try t_ pr_t_ct th__r k_ds t__ m_ch _nd try t_
h_rd t_ cl__n _v_ryth_ng th_t ch_ldr_n _s_. H_s__d
p_r_nts n_w _v_r-st_r_l_z_ _v_ryth_ng _n th_ h_m_.
Th_s c__s_s ch_ldr_n's _mm_n_ syst_ms t_ b_c_m_ t__
s_ns_t_v_, wh_ch c_n l__d t_ th_ngs l_k_ _sthm_,
_cz_m_, _nd f__d _ll_rg__s. G_lb_rt _v_n d_f_nd_d th_
"f_v_-s_c_nd_r_l_". M_ny p__pl_ th_nk _t_s _K t_ __t
s_m_th_ng th_t f_ll _n th_ fl__r f_r f_w_r th_n f_v_
s_c_nds. G_lb_rt s_ys _t_s _K t_ __t s_m_th_ng th_t
f_ll _n th_ fl__r _s l_ng _s th_ fl__r _sn't r__lly d_rty.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

it seems like common sense to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a clean place most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their little ones however a scientist says dirt is an important part of making babies stronger dr jack gilbert from the university of chicago studies the ecosystems of bacteria he did research into how dirt and bacteria affect children he published his research in a book called 'dirt is good the advantage of germs for your child's developing immune system' he told america's npr news station that "it's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus going around but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog licks their face that's not a bad thing"

dr gilbert wrote that letting children get dirty was largely beneficial exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their immune system dr gilbert even argues that children often get allergies because parents try to protect their kids too much and try too hard to clean everything that children use he said parents now over-sterilize everything in the home this causes children's immune systems to become too sensitive which can lead to things like asthma eczema and food allergies gilbert even defended the "five-second rule" many people think it is ok to eat something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds gilbert says it is ok to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor isn't really dirty

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170719-dirt.html>

It seems like common sense to most parents to make sure their baby is always in a clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their little ones. However, a scientist says dirt is an important part of making babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert from the University of Chicago studies the ecosystem of bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He told America's NPR news station that: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a... flu virus going around, but if they're interacting with a dog and the dog licks their face, that's not a bad thing." Dr Gilbert wrote that letting children get dirty was largely beneficial. Exposing small kids to dirt helps them to build their immune system. Dr Gilbert even argues that children often get allergies because parents try to protect their kids too much and try to be hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now over-sterilize everything in the home. This causes children's immune systems to become too sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma, eczema, and food allergies. Gilbert even defended the "five-second rule". Many people think it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says it is OK to eat something that fell on the floor as long as the floor isn't really dirty.

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. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DIRT: Make a poster about dirt. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DIRT AND GERMS: Write a magazine article about babies needing dirt and germs to make them stronger. 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 dirt. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on letting babies and small children get dirty. 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 F d F e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. bacteria | a. germs |
| 2. affect | b. impact |
| 3. research | c. findings |
| 4. fine | d. acceptable |
| 5. interacting | e. being in contact |
| 6. beneficial | f. useful |
| 7. protect | g. safeguard |
| 8. sterilize | h. clean |
| 9. fell | i. dropped |
| 10. really | j. truly |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. In a clean place
2. Dirt
3. The ecosystems of bacteria
4. NPR
5. If there's a flu virus
6. Letting children get dirty
7. Allergies
8. Sterilize everything
9. Five
10. If the floor isn't really dirty

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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