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Level 1 – 28th December 2023

Scientists 'talk' with a whale for 20 minutes

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-1.html>

Scientists have had a "chat" with a humpback whale. The scientists are from three different organizations. The whale is named Twain. They spoke to her in "humpback language" for 20 minutes. The scientists sent a "contact call" into the ocean. Twain heard the call. She then swam to the research boat and "chatted". A researcher said it was the first ever chat between humans and humpback whales.

The chat with Twain was like lots of greetings. Whales use contact calls so other whales know where they are. The scientists made 36 calls in 20 minutes. Twain answered each call by calling back at the same intervals. A scientist said her research could make it easier to talk to aliens. She said: "We can better understand what an alien intelligence might be like because they are not going to be exactly like ours."

Sources: <https://www.boredpanda.com/scientist-claim-having-20-minute-conversation-whale/>
<https://www.earth.com/news/scientists-have-20-minute-conversation-with-a-humpback-whale-named-twain/>
<https://www.unilad.com/film-and-tv/news/freeview-best-takeaway-for-watching-tv-556889-20231218>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have had | a. into the ocean |
| 2. The scientists are from three | b. named Twain |
| 3. The whale is | c. ever chat |
| 4. They spoke to her in humpback | d. the call |
| 5. scientists sent a "contact call" | e. a chat |
| 6. Twain heard | f. research boat |
| 7. She then swam to the | g. different organizations |
| 8. A researcher said it was the first | h. language |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. like lots of | a. intervals |
| 2. so other whales know | b. call |
| 3. The scientists made 36 | c. like ours |
| 4. Twain answered each | d. where they are |
| 5. calling back at the same | e. intelligence |
| 6. make it easier to talk | f. calls in 20 minutes |
| 7. alien | g. to aliens |
| 8. they are not going to be exactly | h. greetings |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-1.html>

Scientists have (1) _____ with a humpback whale. The scientists (2) _____ different organizations. The whale is named Twain. They spoke (3) _____ "humpback language" for 20 minutes. The scientists (4) _____ call" into the ocean. Twain heard the call. She then (5) _____ research boat and "chatted". A researcher said it was the (6) _____ between humans and humpback whales.

The chat with Twain was like (7) _____. Whales use contact calls so other (8) _____ they are. The scientists made (9) _____ 20 minutes. Twain answered each call by calling back at (10) _____. A scientist said her research could make it easier to talk to aliens. She said: "We can better understand (11) _____ intelligence might be like because they are not going to be (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-1.html>

Scientists have had a "chat" with a humpback whale. The scientists are from three different organizations. The whale is named Twain. They spoke to her in "humpback language" for 20 minutes. The scientists sent a "contact call" into the ocean. Twain heard the call. She then swam to the research boat and "chatted". A researcher said it was the first ever chat between humans and humpback whales. The chat with Twain was like a lot of greetings. Whales use contact calls so other whales know where they are. The scientists made 36 calls in 20 minutes. Twain answered each call by calling back at the same intervals. A scientist said her research could make it easier to talk to aliens. She said: "We can better understand what an alien intelligence might be like because they are not going to be exactly like ours."

WHALES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231228-chat-with-whale-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about whales 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) _____

