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Sunscreen pill could be available soon

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

1st September, 2011

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

Scientists say they are close to producing a pill that would protect us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Researchers have located the chemicals coral uses to protect itself and can use these to produce a synthetic sun-shield compound. A sunscreen pill could be available by the year 2016. This is good news for sun-lovers as they would only need to take a pill once a week, instead of slapping sunscreen on every few hours. A sunbather on Sydney's Bondi Beach welcomed this news, saying: "Bring it on. No more sunscreen. No more sunburn. Now we can stay out in the sun all day long." However, some scientists warned the pill could be harmful as too much sun protection can lead to vitamin D deficiency, resulting in weak bones.

The research team analysed coral samples from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to find out how coral can survive under the sun without suffering any damage. They discovered that algae provide the coral with the chemicals it needs to shield itself from UV rays. Lead scientist Dr Paul Long said: "What we have found is that the algae living within the coral makes a compound that we think is transported to the coral, which then modifies it into a sunscreen for the benefit of both the coral and the algae." He added: "If we can determine how this compound is created and passed on, we could biosynthetically develop it in a laboratory to create a sunscreen for human use." He said testing on humans could take place in the next two years.

WARM-UPS

1. SUNBURN: Walk around the class and talk to other students about sunburn. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

scientists / pill / ultraviolet rays / chemicals / coral / sunburn / stay out in the sun / Great Barrier Reef / damage / algae / compound / biosynthetically / laboratory

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

3. PILL: How could pills based on these things help us? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Based on...	Pill name	How it could help us
potatoes		
alcohol		
milk		
diamonds		
cacti		
roses		

4. SYNTHETIC: Students A **strongly** believe synthetic is better than natural; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. PROTECTED: What would you most like to be protected against? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the one you most like to be protected against at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- sunburn
- tiredness
- headaches
- forgetfulness
- bad-hair days
- wrinkles
- a broken heart
- fear

6. SUN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'sun'. 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/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Pills to protect against sunscreen will be on pharmacy shelves in 2012. | T / F |
| b. Scientists are studying how coral protects itself against the sun. | T / F |
| c. Sun-lovers would need to take a sunscreen pill every few hours. | T / F |
| d. The pills could result in a shortage of vitamin D in our bodies. | T / F |
| e. Scientists studied coral in the Caribbean and Red Sea. | T / F |
| f. Coral uses algae to shield the sun's harmful rays. | T / F |
| g. The sunscreen the coral produces has no benefit for algae. | T / F |
| h. Scientists could test the sunscreen on humans within two years. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. producing | a. shortage |
| 2. harmful | b. on sale |
| 3. located | c. mixture |
| 4. available | d. determine |
| 5. deficiency | e. damaging |
| 6. samples | f. creating |
| 7. find out | g. changes |
| 8. modifies | h. occur |
| 9. compound | i. found |
| 10. take place | j. specimens |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. protect us from the sun's harmful | a. deficiency |
| 2. chemicals coral uses | b. shield compound |
| 3. produce a synthetic sun- | c. the coral and the algae |
| 4. slapping | d. ultraviolet (UV) rays |
| 5. vitamin D | e. can survive |
| 6. find out how coral | f. this compound is created |
| 7. the chemicals it needs to | g. the next two years |
| 8. for the benefit of both | h. to protect itself |
| 9. determine how | i. sunscreen on |
| 10. take place in | j. shield itself |

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WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Scientists say they are (1) _____ to producing a pill that would protect us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Researchers have (2) _____ the chemicals coral uses to protect itself and can use these to produce a synthetic sun-shield (3) _____. A sunscreen pill could be available by the year 2016. This is good news for sun-lovers as they would only need to (4) _____ a pill once a week, instead of slapping sunscreen on every few hours. A sunbather on Sydney's Bondi Beach (5) _____ this news, saying: "Bring it on. No more sunscreen. No more sunburn. Now we can stay out in the sun all day (6) _____." However, some scientists warned the pill could be harmful as too much sun protection can (7) _____ to vitamin D deficiency, resulting in weak (8) _____.

welcomed

lead

located

take

bones

close

long

compound

The research team analysed coral (9) _____ from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to find out how coral can (10) _____ under the sun without suffering any damage. They discovered that algae provide the coral with the chemicals it needs to (11) _____ itself from UV rays. Lead scientist Dr Paul Long said: "What we have found is that the algae living within the coral makes a (12) _____ that we think is transported to the coral, which then (13) _____ it into a sunscreen for the benefit of both the coral and the algae." He added: "If we can (14) _____ how this compound is created and passed on, we could biosynthetically develop it in a laboratory to (15) _____ a sunscreen for human use." He said testing on humans could take (16) _____ in the next two years.

compound

create

samples

shield

place

modifies

survive

determine

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

Scientists say they are close to producing a pill _____ from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Researchers have located the chemicals coral _____ and can use these to produce a synthetic sun-shield compound. A sunscreen pill could be available by the year 2016. This is good news _____ they would only need to take a pill once a week, _____ sunscreen on every few hours. A sunbather on Sydney's Bondi Beach welcomed this news, saying: "Bring it on. No more sunscreen. No more sunburn. Now we can stay out in _____." However, some scientists warned the pill could be harmful as too much sun protection can lead to vitamin D deficiency, _____.

The research team analysed coral samples from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to find out how coral can _____ without suffering any damage. They discovered that _____ coral with the chemicals it needs to shield itself from UV rays. Lead scientist Dr Paul Long said: "What we have found is that the algae living within the coral makes a _____ is transported to the coral, which then modifies it into a sunscreen for the benefit of both the coral and the algae." He added: "If we can determine how this compound is _____ on, we could biosynthetically _____ to create a sunscreen for human use." He said testing on humans _____ the next two years.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

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

sun	screen
------------	---------------

- 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">• close• located• good• welcomed• stay• D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• samples• provide• lead• modifies• added• next
--	--

STUDENT SUNSCREEN PILL SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

Write five GOOD questions about sunscreen pill 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.

SUNSCREEN PILL DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'sunscreen'?
- c) Do you like to sit in the sun?
- d) Why do people want suntans?
- e) Have you ever been sunburnt?
- f) What's the best thing for sunburn?
- g) How good is this news?
- h) Will you be buying the pills when they become available?
- i) What do you do to avoid harmful UV rays?
- j) Would you agree to be tested?

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SUNSCREEN PILL DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you know about the Great Barrier Reef?
- c) What do you know about coral?
- d) What happens if the coral disappears?
- e) Do you think we can end all disease and pain if we unlock nature's secrets?
- f) What other features of nature would you like scientists to allow us to have?
- g) Do you think synthetic medicines are better than natural ones?
- h) How healthy and unhealthy is the sun?
- i) How do we know if the sunscreen pills are 100% safe?
- j) What questions would you like to ask lead scientist Dr Paul Long?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110901-sunscreen.html>

Scientists say they are (1) _____ to producing a pill that would protect us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Researchers have located the chemicals coral uses to protect (2) _____ and can use these to produce a synthetic sun-shield compound. A sunscreen pill could (3) _____ available by the year 2016. This is good news for sun-(4) _____ as they would only need to take a pill once a week, instead of slapping sunscreen (5) _____ every few hours. A sunbather on Sydney's Bondi Beach welcomed this news, saying: "Bring it on. No more sunscreen. No more sunburn. Now we can stay out in the sun all day long." However, some scientists warned the pill could be harmful as too much sun protection can (6) _____ to vitamin D deficiency, resulting in weak bones.

The research team analysed coral (7) _____ from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to find out how coral can survive under the sun without suffering any damage. They discovered that algae provide the coral (8) _____ the chemicals it needs to shield itself from UV rays. Lead scientist Dr Paul Long said: "What we have found is that the algae living within the coral makes a compound that we think is (9) _____ to the coral, which then modifies it into a sunscreen for the (10) _____ of both the coral and the algae." He added: "If we can determine how this compound is created and passed (11) _____, we could biosynthetically develop it in a laboratory to create a sunscreen for human use." He said testing (12) _____ humans could take place in the next two years.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) closing | (b) closed | (c) closes | (d) close |
| 2. | (a) itself | (b) them | (c) us | (d) everyone |
| 3. | (a) have | (b) be | (c) get | (d) do |
| 4. | (a) husbands | (b) lovers | (c) partners | (d) spouses |
| 5. | (a) by | (b) on | (c) to | (d) at |
| 6. | (a) result | (b) lead | (c) create | (d) iron |
| 7. | (a) samples | (b) ambles | (c) mumbles | (d) tramps |
| 8. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) via | (d) with |
| 9. | (a) transport | (b) transports | (c) transportation | (d) transported |
| 10. | (a) beneficial | (b) benefit | (c) beneficiary | (d) benefits |
| 11. | (a) on | (b) up | (c) by | (d) through |
| 12. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) on | (d) so |

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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 sunscreen and ultraviolet (UV) rays. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SUNSCREEN PILL: Make a poster about sunscreen pill. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CORAL: Write a magazine article about coral. Include imaginary interviews with fish that live in it and scientists who study it.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to a sunscreen expert. Ask him/her three questions about sunscreen. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. F d. F e. F f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. producing | a. creating |
| 2. harmful | b. damaging |
| 3. located | c. found |
| 4. available | d. on sale |
| 5. deficiency | e. shortage |
| 6. samples | f. specimens |
| 7. find out | g. determine |
| 8. modifies | h. changes |
| 9. compound | i. mixture |
| 10. take place | j. occur |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. protect us from the sun's harmful | a. ultraviolet (UV) rays |
| 2. chemicals coral uses | b. to protect itself |
| 3. produce a synthetic sun- | c. shield compound |
| 4. slapping | d. sunscreen on |
| 5. vitamin D | e. deficiency |
| 6. find out how coral | f. can survive |
| 7. the chemicals it needs to | g. shield itself |
| 8. for the benefit of both | h. the coral and the algae |
| 9. determine how | i. this compound is created |
| 10. take place in | j. the next two years |

GAP FILL:

Sunscreen pill could be available soon

Scientists say they are (1) **close** to producing a pill that would protect us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Researchers have (2) **located** the chemicals coral uses to protect itself and can use these to produce a synthetic sun-shield (3) **compound**. A sunscreen pill could be available by the year 2016. This is good news for sun-lovers as they would only need to (4) **take** a pill once a week, instead of slapping sunscreen on every few hours. A sunbather on Sydney's Bondi Beach (5) **welcomed** this news, saying: "Bring it on. No more sunscreen. No more sunburn. Now we can stay out in the sun all day (6) **long**." However, some scientists warned the pill could be harmful as too much sun protection can (7) **lead** to vitamin D deficiency, resulting in weak (8) **bones**.

The research team analysed coral (9) **samples** from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to find out how coral can (10) **survive** under the sun without suffering any damage. They discovered that algae provide the coral with the chemicals it needs to (11) **shield** itself from UV rays. Lead scientist Dr Paul Long said: "What we have found is that the algae living within the coral makes a (12) **compound** that we think is transported to the coral, which then (13) **modifies** it into a sunscreen for the benefit of both the coral and the algae." He added: "If we can (14) **determine** how this compound is created and passed on, we could biosynthetically develop it in a laboratory to (15) **create** a sunscreen for human use." He said testing on humans could take (16) **place** in the next two years.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - c 4 - b 5 - b 6 - c 7 - a 8 - d 9 - d 10 - b 11 - a 12 - c

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