

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 1**

# **Bananas in danger of becoming extinct**

**27th January, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-1.html>

## **Contents**

The Reading	2
Vocabulary Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Writing and Speaking	6
Writing	7

Try Level 0 (easier), Level 2 (harder) & the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-1.html>

The world's most common banana, the Cavendish, could become extinct. A fungus called TP4 is killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks the banana plant from taking in water, so it dies. Scientists first found TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of Asia. Then it went to Australia and Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and people's feet. A small amount of TP4 spreads across large areas very quickly.

Before the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, it was the world's main banana. By 1965, a fungus called Panama Disease had killed it. Banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. Now the Cavendish is in trouble. TP4 stays in the ground for a long time, so new plants cannot grow. One answer is to grow genetically modified (GM) bananas. Diseases like TP4 cannot kill them.

Sources: <http://www.theinertia.com/health/big-problem-bananas-are-going-extinct/>  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/banana-fungus-could-be-potentially-devastating-if-it-spreads-across-the-americas-warn-experts-a6830956.html>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-35131751>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. The world's most                        | a. called TP4         |
| 2. A fungus                                | b. by the wind        |
| 3. killing millions                        | c. areas very quickly |
| 4. The fungus blocks the banana plant from | d. parts of Asia      |
| 5. It quickly spread to other              | e. taking in water,   |
| 6. TP4 is carried                          | f. common banana      |
| 7. A small amount                          | g. of banana plants   |
| 8. spreads across large                    | h. of TP4             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. we ate a variety          | a. (GM) bananas            |
| 2. the world's               | b. to the Cavendish banana |
| 3. Banana growers changed    | c. for a long time         |
| 4. Now the Cavendish is      | d. cannot kill them        |
| 5. TP4 stays in the ground   | e. called the Gros Michel  |
| 6. new plants cannot         | f. in trouble              |
| 7. grow genetically modified | g. main banana             |
| 8. Diseases like TP4         | h. grow                    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-1.html>

The world's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ banana, the Cavendish, could (2) \_\_\_\_\_. A fungus called TP4 is killing millions of banana plants. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the banana plant from taking in water, so it dies. Scientists first found TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to other parts of Asia. Then it went to Australia and Africa. TP4 is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ wind, water, cars and people's feet. A small amount of TP4 spreads across large (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Before the Cavendish banana, we (7) \_\_\_\_\_ called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, it (8) \_\_\_\_\_ main banana. By 1965, a fungus called Panama Disease (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. Now the Cavendish is in trouble. TP4 stays (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time, so new plants cannot grow. One answer (11) \_\_\_\_\_ genetically modified (GM) bananas. Diseases like TP4 (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-1.html>

The world's most common banana, the Cavendish, could become extinct. A fungus called TP4 is killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks the banana plant from taking in water, so it dies. Scientists first found TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of Asia. Then it went to Australia and Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and people's feet. A small amount of TP4 spreads across large areas very quickly. Before the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, it was the world's main banana. By 1965, a fungus called Panama Disease had killed it. Banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. Now the Cavendish is in trouble. TP4 stays in the ground for a long time, so new plants cannot grow. One answer is to grow genetically modified (GM) bananas. Diseases like TP4 cannot kill them.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

---

b)

---

c)

---

d)

---

e)

---

f)

---

g)

---

h)

---

*Bananas in danger of becoming extinct – 27th January, 2016*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

---

b)

---

c)

---

d)

---

e)

---

f)

---

g)

---

h)

---

