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Level 3 – 9th August, 2020

Scientists discover why shaving blunts razors

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt after repeated use. They did research into why razor blades lose their sharpness. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut. Even though human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the edge of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually coated with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes tiny amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to be replaced regularly.

The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up view of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a variety of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger as it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses its ability to cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. In this case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said his team is "aiming to solve an important engineering problem".

Sources: <http://news.mit.edu/2020/why-shaving-dulls-razors-0806>
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6504/689>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2251202-we-just-figured-out-why-shaving-soft-hair-blunts-steel-razor-blades/>

WARM-UPS

1. SHAVING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about shaving. 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?

scientists / razor blades / research / human / hair / steel / carbon / shaving / damage
microscopes / close-up / variety / chip / edge / metallurgists / intriguing / engineering

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

3. NO SHAVING: Students A **strongly** believe no one should shave; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. HAIR: What do you know about these problems? What would you do about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Do You Know?	What Would You Do?
Greasy hair		
Split ends		
Thinning hair		
Greying hair		
Dry hair		
Dandruff		

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

6. DAILY HYGIENE: Rank these with your partner. Put the most enjoyable at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Shaving
- Bathing
- Washing your hair
- Brushing your teeth
- Brushing your hair
- Cutting your nails
- Cutting your hair
- Washing your face

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. blunt | a. The flat cutting edge of a knife, razor, saw, or other tool or weapon. |
| 2. blade | b. The outside border of an object, area, or surface. |
| 3. sharpness | c. When something is less sharp and less able to cut. |
| 4. edge | d. Very, very small. |
| 5. tougher | e. Stronger. |
| 6. tiny | f. Having little time to be used. |
| 7. limited | g. How sharp something is. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. microscope | h. Find an answer to, explanation for, or means of dealing with a problem or mystery. |
| 9. view | i. A small piece of something removed or breaking because of cutting. |
| 10. variety | j. Making people very interested in something. |
| 11. chip | k. An instrument used for looking at very small objects, such as mineral samples or animal or plant cells, usually hundreds of times their real size. |
| 12. intriguing | l. The sight of something. |
| 13. aiming | m. Wanting and trying to do something or reach a goal. |
| 14. solve | n. A number of different things. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

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

- a. The scientists who did this research are from a school called TIM. **T / F**
- b. Razor blades are 500 times harder than human hair. **T / F**
- c. Stainless steel razor blades are toughened with carbon. **T / F**
- d. The article said a razor blade can cut thousands of hairs when shaving. **T / F**
- e. Scientists used a microscope to look at hairs being cut. **T / F**
- f. Human hairs cause tiny chips on the edge of razor blades. **T / F**
- g. A scientist said he wanted to make softer metals. **T / F**
- h. The scientist said blunt razor blades were an engineering problem. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. discovered | a. harms |
| 2. repeated | b. work out |
| 3. damages | c. changed |
| 4. tiny | d. continual |
| 5. replaced | e. interesting |
| 6. happens | f. puzzle |
| 7. single | g. found out |
| 8. intriguing | h. solitary |
| 9. solve | i. very small |
| 10. problem | j. occurs |

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. discovered why razor blades become blunt | a. like hardened carbon |
| 2. research into why razor blades lose their | b. stainless steel |
| 3. Razor blades are made from | c. very soft |
| 4. coated with tougher materials | d. view of what happens |
| 5. This means the life of a razor blade | e. to cut cleanly |
| 6. The researchers used powerful | f. after repeated use |
| 7. They got a close-up | g. microscopes |
| 8. the blade loses its ability | h. engineering problem |
| 9. if you cut something | i. is limited |
| 10. solve an important | j. sharpness |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt after (1) _____ use. They did research into why razor blades lose their (2) _____. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut. Even though human hair is 50 times softer than the (3) _____ of a razor blade, the hair damages the (4) _____ of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually coated with tougher (5) _____ like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes (6) _____ amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one (7) _____ session. This means the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to be replaced (8) _____.

sharpness
materials
metal
regularly
repeated
shaving
edge
tiny

The researchers used (9) _____ microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up (10) _____ of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a (11) _____ of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the (12) _____ of a blade. This chip becomes bigger as it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses its ability to cut (13) _____ and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. In this (14) _____, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the (15) _____ material would fail." He said his team is "aiming to (16) _____ an important engineering problem".

variety
cleanly
powerful
solve
edge
hard
view
case

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

- 1) Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt _____
 - a. after repeated used
 - b. after repeat it use
 - c. after repeated use
 - d. after repeat it used
- 2) They did research into why razor blades _____
 - a. lose them sharpness
 - b. lose their sharp nest
 - c. lose them sharp nest
 - d. lose their sharpness
- 3) 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the _____ blade
 - a. ledge of the
 - b. edge of the
 - c. verge of the
 - d. hedge of the
- 4) They are usually coated with tougher materials _____
 - a. likes hardened carbon
 - b. liked hardened carbon
 - c. likely hardened carbon
 - d. like hardened carbon
- 5) the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to _____
 - a. be replace regular
 - b. be replaced regularly
 - c. been replaced regularly
 - d. been replace regular
- 6) They got a close-up view of what happens _____
 - a. during the shave
 - b. during a shave
 - c. during all shave
 - d. during shave
- 7) The blade gets damaged in a _____
 - a. variety off ways
 - b. variety of way
 - c. variety of ways
 - d. variety of weighs
- 8) After more shaving, the blade loses its ability _____
 - a. to cut clean
 - b. to cut cleanly
 - c. two cut clean
 - d. two cuts cleanly
- 9) A researcher said we are metallurgists and want to _____
 - a. make better met tails
 - b. make better nettles
 - c. make better metallic
 - d. make better metals
- 10) He said his team is aiming to solve an important _____
 - a. engineer in problem
 - b. engineering probe them
 - c. engineering problem
 - d. engineer ring problem

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor (1) _____ after repeated use. They did research into why razor blades (2) _____. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut. Even (3) _____ is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages (4) _____ the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually coated with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes (5) _____ damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade (6) _____ will need to be replaced regularly.

The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got (7) _____ of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged (8) _____ of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger as it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses (9) _____ cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. (10) _____, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, (11) _____ would fail." He said his team is "(12) _____ an important engineering problem".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

1. Where are the scientists from?
2. How much harder are razor blades than human hair?
3. What are razor blades made from?
4. What are razor blades hardened with?
5. How often did the article say razor blades needed to be replaced?
6. What did scientists use to look at a blade cutting a hair?
7. What does cutting hair create on the edge of a blade?
8. What does a blade lose its ability to do after a lot of shaving?
9. What do metallurgists want to create?
10. What problem does the team want to solve?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

- 1) Where are the scientists from?
 - a) Yale
 - b) MIT
 - c) UCLA
 - d) NYU
- 2) How much harder are razor blades than human hair?
 - a) 5,000 times
 - b) 500 times
 - c) 150 times
 - d) 50 times
- 3) What are razor blades made from?
 - a) tin
 - b) silicon
 - c) stainless steel
 - d) iron
- 4) What are razor blades hardened with?
 - a) carbon
 - b) oil
 - c) plastic
 - d) diamonds
- 5) How often did the article say razor blades needed to be replaced?
 - a) weekly
 - b) regularly
 - c) once in a blue moon
 - d) every now and then
- 6) What did scientists use to look at a blade cutting a hair?
 - a) a microscope
 - b) a magnifying glass
 - c) a periscope
 - d) binoculars
- 7) What does cutting hair create on the edge of a blade?
 - a) wafers
 - b) crisps
 - c) chips
 - d) nuggets
- 8) What does a blade lose its ability to do after a lot of shaving?
 - a) to cut cleanly
 - b) to shine
 - c) to handle foam
 - d) to rust
- 9) What do metallurgists want to create?
 - a) a new shaving gel
 - b) stronger hair
 - c) easy-to-cut hair
 - d) better metals
- 10) What problem does the team want to solve?
 - a) rust
 - b) baldness
 - c) an engineering problem
 - d) greasy hair

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Role A – Shaving

You think shaving is the most enjoyable activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): brushing your teeth, cutting your nails or washing your hair.

Role B – Brushing Your Teeth

You think brushing your teeth is the most enjoyable activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): shaving, cutting your nails or washing your hair.

Role C – Cutting Your Nails

You think cutting your nails is the most enjoyable activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your hair.

Role D – Washing Your Hair

You think washing your hair is the most enjoyable activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): brushing your teeth, cutting your nails or shaving.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

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

shaving	razor
----------------	--------------

- 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">• repeated• sharpness• though• tougher• tiny• life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• powerful• view• single• cleanly• case• solve
---	---

SHAVING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Write five GOOD questions about shaving 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.

SHAVING 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 'shaving'?
3. What do you think of shaving?
4. What do you think of razors?
5. Would it be better if we all stopped shaving?
6. Why do people shave?
7. Why do razor blades become blunt?
8. Should scientists make better razor blades?
9. What do you think of hair?
10. How important is research into razor-blade sharpness?

Scientists discover why shaving blunts razors – 9th August, 2020
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SHAVING 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 'razor'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Is it better to shave with soap, gel or foam?
15. What would the scientists see through their powerful microscopes?
16. What would you like a close-up view of?
17. Should we be able to sharpen razor blades and reuse them?
18. What problems are there with shaving?
19. What is a close shave?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt (1) _____ repeated use. They did research into why razor blades lose their (2) _____. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut. Even (3) _____ human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the edge of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually (4) _____ with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes (5) _____ amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is (6) _____ and will need to be replaced regularly.

The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up (7) _____ of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a (8) _____ of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger (9) _____ it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses (10) _____ ability to cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. In (11) _____ case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said his team is "aiming (12) _____ solve an important engineering problem".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) post | (b) after | (c) follow | (d) then |
| 2. | (a) sharpen | (b) sharply | (c) sharp | (d) sharpness |
| 3. | (a) through | (b) though | (c) thou | (d) thought |
| 4. | (a) jacketed | (b) clothed | (c) coated | (d) worn |
| 5. | (a) tiny | (b) tinted | (c) tinny | (d) teeny |
| 6. | (a) limited | (b) incorporated | (c) public | (d) private |
| 7. | (a) stare | (b) gaze | (c) watch | (d) view |
| 8. | (a) variety | (b) various | (c) varied | (d) varied |
| 9. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) has | (d) thus |
| 10. | (a) their | (b) them | (c) its | (d) what |
| 11. | (a) what | (b) as | (c) this | (d) much |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) to | (c) at | (d) by |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Paragraph 1

1. razor blades lose their ehpasrsns
2. blades are made from aiesnlst steel
3. coated with tougher msiartale like hardened carbon
4. in one shaving ssoiens
5. the life of a razor blade is itmidle
6. need to be replaced ryeurglal

Paragraph 2

7. The researchers used powerful scocmpoersi
8. damaged in a erivtya of ways
9. a tiny chip on the geed of a blade
10. it was tgigiunrin
11. very soft, like mhanu hair
12. Isoev an important engineering problem

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each
- () hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to be replaced regularly.
- () steel, the hard material would fail." He said his team is "aiming to solve an important engineering problem".
- () the edge of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually coated
- () into why razor blades lose their sharpness. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they
- () case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like
- () cut. Even though human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages
- () of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes
- () view of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a variety
- () The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up
- () bigger as it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses its ability to cut cleanly and becomes
- () blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. In this
- () time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes tiny amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of
- (**1**) Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt after repeated use. They did research

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

1. blunt razor repeated Why blades after become use .
2. why Research into lose sharpness . blades their razor
3. hairs . 50 than harder blades times are Razor
4. edge of the The the damages hair blade .
5. is blade limited . life razor The of a
6. what A a happens during of shave . view
7. loses ability The its blade cut to cleanly .
8. make and We're metals . metallurgists better to want
9. cut Intriguing hair . something you if like soft
10. engineering Aiming solve to important an problem .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Scientists from MIT have *discover / discovered* why razor blades become blunt after repeated use. They *did / had* research into why razor blades lose their sharpness. Razor blades are 50 *times / cuts* harder than the hairs they *cutting / cut*. Even though human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the *edge / fringe* of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless *steal / steel*. They are usually *coated / jacketed* with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes *tinny / tiny* amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in *one / once* shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to be replaced *regularly / regularity*.

The researchers used powerful *microphones / microscopes* to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up *watch / view* of what happens *during / while* a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a *variety / various* of ways. One way is that a *single / singled* hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger *has / as* it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses its *able / ability* to cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better *metals / meals*. In this case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would *fall / fail*." He said his team is "aiming to *solve / solution* an important engineering problem".

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

S c__ n t_s t s f r_m M I T h_v_ d_s c_v_r_d w h y
r_z_r b l_d_s b_c_m_ b l_n t _f t_r r_p__ t_d _s_. T
h_y d_d r_s__ r c h _n t_ w h y r_z_r b l_d_s l_s_
t h__ r s h_r p n_s s . R_z_r b l_d_s _r_ 5 0 t_m_s
h_r d_r t h_n t h_ h__ r s t h_y c_t . E v_n t h__ g
h h_m_n h__ r _s 5 0 t_m_s s_f t_r t h_n t h_
m_t_l _f _ r_z_r b l_d_, t h_ h__ r d_m_g_s t h_ _d
g_ _f t h_ b l_d_. R_z_r b l_d_s _r_ m_d_ f_r_m s
t__ n l_s s s t__ l . T h_y _r_ s__ l l y c__ t_d w_t h
t__ g h_r m_t_r__ l s l_k_ h_r d_n_d c_r b_n . T h_
M I T s c__ n t_s t s s__ d t h_t __ c h t_m__ b l_d_
c_t s _ h__ r , t h_ h__ r c__ s_s t_n y _m__ n t s
_f d_m_g_. A b l_d_ s__ l l y c_t s t h__ s_n d s _f
h__ r s _n _n_ s h_v_n g s_s s__ n . T h_s m__ n s t
h_ l_f_ _f _ r_z_r b l_d_ s l_m_t_d _n d w_l l n__
d t_ b_ r_p l_c_d r_g_l_r l y .

T h_ r_s__ r c h_r s _s_d p_w_r f_l m_c_r_s c_p_s t_
f_n d __ t h_w h__ r d_m_g_s _ r_z_r b l_d_. T
h_y g_t _ c l_s_-p v__ w _f w h_t h_p p_n s d_r_n
g _ s h_v_ w h_n t h_ b l_d_ c_t s _ h__ r . T h_ b
l_d_ g_t s d_m_g_d _n _ v_r__ t y _f w_y s . O n_
w_y _s t h_t _ s_n g l_ h__ r c_r__ t s _ t_n y c
h_p _n t h_ _d g_ _f _ b l_d_. T h_s c h_p b_c_m_s
b_g g_r _s _t c_t s m_r_ h__ r . A f t_r m_r_ s
h_v_n g , t h_ b l_d_ l_s_s _t s _b_l_t y t_ c_t c l__
n l y _n d b_c_m_s b l_n t . A r_s__ r c h_r s__ d :
" W_ _r_ m_t_l l_r g_s t s _n d w_n t t_ . . . m_k_ b_t
t_r m_t_l s . I n t h_s c_s_ , _t w_s _n t r_g__ n g
t h_t _f y__ c_t s_m_t h_n g v_r y s_f t , l_k_
h_m_n h__ r , w_t h s_m_t h_n g v_r y h_r d , l_k_
s t__ l , t h_ h_r d m_t_r__ l w__ l d f__ l . " H_
s__ d h_s t__ m _s " __ m_n g t_ s_l v_ _n _m p_r
t_n t _n g_n__ r_n g p_r_b l_m " .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

scientists from mit have discovered why razor blades become blunt after repeated use they did research into why razor blades lose their sharpness razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut even though human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade the hair damages the edge of the blade razor blades are made from stainless steel they are usually coated with tougher materials like hardened carbon the mit scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair the hair causes tiny amounts of damage a blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session this means the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to be replaced regularly

the researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade they got a closeup view of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair the blade gets damaged in a variety of ways one way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade this chip becomes bigger as it cuts more hair after more shaving the blade loses its ability to cut cleanly and becomes blunt a researcher said we are metallurgists and want to make better metals in this case it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft like human hair with something very hard like steel the hard material would fail he said his team is aiming to solve an important engineering problem

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving.html>

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt after repeated use. They did research into why razor blades lose their sharpness. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hair they cut. Even though human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the edge of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually coated with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientist said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes tiny amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is limited and will need to be replaced regularly. The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up view of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a variety of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger as it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses its ability to cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to... make better metals. In this case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said his team is "aiming to solve an important engineering problem".

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

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

4. NO SHAVING: Write a magazine article about banning shaving. 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 shaving. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on shaving. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. h	8. e	9. b	10. f

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- MIT
- Fifty times harder
- Stainless steel
- Carbon
- Regularly
- A powerful microscope
- Tiny chips
- Cut cleanly
- Better metals
- An important engineering problem

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- Why razor blades become blunt after repeated use.
- Research into why razor blades lose their sharpness.
- Razor blades are 50 times harder than hairs.
- The hair damages the edge of the blade.
- The life of a razor blade is limited.
- A view of what happens during a shave.
- The blade loses its ability to cut cleanly.
- We're metallurgists and want to make better metals.
- Intriguing if you cut something soft like hair.
- Aiming to solve an important engineering problem.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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