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**Level 4 – 31st August, 2020**

## **Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

Elon Musk put a computer chip in a pig's brain. This could lead to computer-to-brain technology in humans. Mr Musk is a technology pioneer. He makes electric cars and space rockets. Gertrude the pig shows his latest project - to allow us to control computers with our brains. This could enhance our brainpower. He believes his technology is a giant leap into the future. He said it will change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.

Results from Gertrude the pig show the potential the technology has. It could help people with brain conditions like strokes and dementia. It could wire our brain directly to the Internet. As in a science fiction movie, we could control devices just by using our thoughts. The most futuristic part of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This will help us to stop artificial intelligence becoming strong enough to destroy the human race.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53921596>  
<https://www.wired.com/story/elon-musk-neuralink-brain-implant-v2-demo/>  
<https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/8/28/21404802/elon-musk-neuralink-brain-machine-interface-research>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Musk put a computer chip | a. change our lives   |
| 2. computer-to-             | b. with our brains    |
| 3. Mr Musk is a             | c. brain technology   |
| 4. control computers        | d. powers             |
| 5. This could enhance       | e. into the future    |
| 6. a giant leap             | f. in a pig's brain   |
| 7. He said it will          | g. our brainpower     |
| 8. giving us superhuman     | h. technology pioneer |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. show the potential the   | a. to the Internet    |
| 2. conditions like strokes  | b. of the technology  |
| 3. wire our brain directly  | c. race               |
| 4. in a science             | d. and dementia       |
| 5. control devices just by  | e. intelligence       |
| 6. The most futuristic part | f. technology has     |
| 7. artificial               | g. using our thoughts |
| 8. destroy the human        | h. fiction movie      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

Elon Musk put a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a pig's brain. This could lead to computer-to-brain technology in humans. Mr Musk is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ . He makes electric cars and space rockets.

Gertrude the pig shows (3) \_\_\_\_\_ - to allow us to control computers with our brains. This (4) \_\_\_\_\_ brainpower. He believes his technology is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ into the future. He said it will change our (6) \_\_\_\_\_ us superhuman powers.

Results from Gertrude the pig (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the technology has. It could help people with brain (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and dementia. It could (9) \_\_\_\_\_ directly to the Internet. As in a science fiction movie, we (10) \_\_\_\_\_ just by using our thoughts. The most (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This will help us to stop artificial intelligence becoming strong enough to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ race.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

ElonMuskputacomputerchipinapig'sbrain.Thiscouldleadtocomputer  
-to-braintechologyinhumans.MrMuskisatechnologypioneer.Hema  
keselectriccarsandspacerockets.Gertrudethepigshowshislatestproj  
ect-toallowustocontrolcomputerswithourbrains.Thiscouldenhanc  
ourbrainpower.Hebelieveshistechnologyisagianteapintothefuture  
.Hesaiditwillchangeourlivesbygivingussuperhumanpowers.Resultsf  
romGertrudethepigshowthepotentialthetechnologyhas.Itcouldhelp  
peoplewithbrainconditionslikestrokesanddementia.Itcouldwireourb  
raindirectlytotheInternet.Asinasciencefictionmovie,wecouldcontrol  
devicesjustbyusingourthoughts.Themostfuturisticpartofthetechnol  
ogyiswhatMuskcalls"superhumancognition".Thiswillhelpustostopar  
tificialintelligencebecomingstrongenoughtodestroythehumanrace.

# SUPERHUMAN POWERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about superhuman powers 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers – 31st August, 2020*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

