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Level 1 – 12th May, 2021

IBM makes 'next-generation' microchip

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-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/2105/210512-microchips-1.html>

Smartphones can do more and more things. Fifteen years ago, they could not store movies. Computer chip technology has advanced quickly. We can now stream movies, store huge amounts of data and play amazing games. IBM announced a breakthrough. Its new chips have 45 per cent better performance and use 75 per cent less energy. This is good for the environment. Mobile phone battery life will improve. We will only need to charge phones every four days.

IBM has reduced the size of chips. Computer engineers measure them in nanometres. One nanometre is a billionth of a metre. IBM's new chip is just 2nm. A computer expert said: "We have seen semiconductor manufacturers moving from 14nm to 7nm." He said IBM's new chip could make artificial intelligence better. The chips could also let data centres store more information. However, data centres use one per cent of the world's electricity.

Sources: <https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252500454/IBM-Another-chip-in-the-wall>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57009930>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/06/tech/ibm-semiconductor-two-nanometer/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Smartphones can do more | a. will improve |
| 2. they could not store | b. technology |
| 3. computer chip | c. of data |
| 4. We can now | d. a breakthrough |
| 5. store huge amounts | e. and more things |
| 6. IBM announced | f. stream movies |
| 7. This is good for the | g. movies |
| 8. Mobile phone battery life | h. environment |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. IBM has reduced the | a. manufacturers |
| 2. One nanometre is a billionth | b. electricity |
| 3. A computer | c. intelligence |
| 4. semiconductor | d. of a metre |
| 5. artificial | e. centres |
| 6. let data centres | f. expert |
| 7. data | g. store more |
| 8. one per cent of the world's | h. size of chips |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-1.html>

Smartphones can (1) _____ more things. Fifteen years ago, they (2) _____ movies. Computer chip technology has advanced quickly. We can now stream movies, store huge (3) _____ and play amazing games. IBM announced a breakthrough. Its (4) _____ 45 per cent better performance and use 75 per cent less energy. This is good (5) _____. Mobile phone battery life will improve. We will only need to charge phones (6) _____.

IBM has (7) _____ of chips. Computer engineers measure them in nanometres. One nanometre (8) _____ of a metre. IBM's new chip is just 2nm. (9) _____ said: "We have seen semiconductor manufacturers moving from 14nm to 7nm." He said IBM's new chip (10) _____ intelligence better. The chips could also let data centres (11) _____. However, data centres use one per cent of (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-1.html>

Smartphones can do more and more things. Fifteen years ago, they could not store movies. Computer chip technology has advanced quickly. We can now stream movies, store huge amounts of data and play amazing games. IBM announced a breakthrough. Its new chips have 45 percent better performance and use 75 percent less energy. This is good for the environment. Mobile phone battery life will improve. We will only need to charge phones every four days. IBM has reduced the size of chips. Computer engineers measure them in nanometres. One nanometre is a billionth of a metre. IBM's new chip is just 2nm. A computer expert said: "We have seen semiconductor manufacturers moving from 14nm to 7nm." He said IBM's new chip could make artificial intelligence better. The chips could also let data centres store more information. However, data centres use one percent of the world's electricity.

MICROCHIPS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210512-microchips-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about microchips 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) _____

