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Level 5 – 25th October, 2021

Scientists make wooden knife that is sharper than steel

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives-5.html>

In the future, the world's chefs may be using wooden knives. This may seem somewhat illogical, but scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times sharper than the stainless steel knives we use. The scientists are from the University of Maryland. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would add to the range of wooden utensils currently found in kitchens across the world. He said: "In our kitchen, we have many wooden things that we use for a very long time, like a cutting board, chopsticks, or a rolling pin. These new knives can also be used many times if you resurface them and sharpen them."

The scientists improved the strength of their wood by enhancing the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the main constituent of wood. It has a higher strength to density ratio than engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. The new material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly slice through the toughest steak. An additional advantage of wooden knives is that they are environmentally friendly. They could end our dependence on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails. These could help the building industry as they will not rust and weaken like many nails.

Sources: <https://www.cnet.com/news/scientists-made-a-wooden-knife-thats-three-times-sharper-than-steel-blades/>
<https://www.slashgear.com/hardened-wood-knife-boasts-three-times-the-sharpness-of-stainless-steel-21696201/>
<https://www.iflscience.com/technology/hardened-wood-steak-knife-is-three-times-as-sharp-as-a-steel-one/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. In the | a. pin |
| 2. This may seem somewhat | b. times sharper |
| 3. a wooden knife that is three | c. across the world |
| 4. add to the range of wooden | d. and sharpen them |
| 5. found in kitchens | e. board |
| 6. a cutting | f. illogical |
| 7. a rolling | g. utensils |
| 8. if you resurface them | h. future |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. enhancing the cellulose it | a. cutlery |
| 2. a higher strength to density | b. through |
| 3. effortlessly slice | c. industry |
| 4. environmentally | d. our dependence |
| 5. They could end | e. contains |
| 6. plastic | f. and weaken |
| 7. These could help the building | g. ratio |
| 8. rust | h. friendly |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives-5.html>

In the future, the world's chefs (1) _____ wooden knives. This may (2) _____, but scientists have created a wooden knife that is three (3) _____ the stainless steel knives we use. The scientists are from the University of Maryland. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would add to the range of wooden (4) _____ in kitchens across the world. He said: "In our kitchen, we have many wooden things that we use for a very long time, like (5) _____, chopsticks, or a rolling pin. These new knives can also be used many times if you resurface them (6) _____."

The scientists (7) _____ of their wood by enhancing the (8) _____. Cellulose is the main constituent of wood. It has a higher strength to (9) _____ engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. The new material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly (10) _____ toughest steak. An additional advantage of wooden knives is that they are environmentally friendly. They could (11) _____ on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails. These could help the building industry as they will not (12) _____ like many nails.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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WOOD SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wood 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives-5.html>

Write about **wood** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
