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## Level 6 – 25th October, 2021

### Scientists make wooden knife that is sharper than steel

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

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

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

In the near future, the world's top chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem somewhat counter-intuitive, but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times sharper than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would complement the assortment 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, sharpen them and perform the same regular upkeep."

Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or ceramics. The scientists improved the strength of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the main constituent of wood. It has a higher ratio of strength to density than most engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. Teng Li said the new cutting material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly slice through the toughest steak. There is an added advantage of wooden knives – they are environmentally friendly. They could end our dependence on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could be a boon to the building industry as they will not rust and weaken like conventional 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/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. WOOD:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about wood. 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?

future / chefs / wood / knives / dinner / kitchens / chopsticks / rolling pin / sharpen / steel / ceramics / strength / cellulose / density / ratio / steak / plastic / cutlery / rust

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

**3. END OF STEEL:** Students A **strongly** believe wooden knives will mean the end of steel knives; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WOODEN THINGS:** How practical or good are these wooden things? Would they have a future? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

|             | How Practical / Good | A Future |
|-------------|----------------------|----------|
| Knives      |                      |          |
| Cars        |                      |          |
| Smartphones |                      |          |
| Cups        |                      |          |
| Bath tubs   |                      |          |
| Bicycles    |                      |          |

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

**6. UTENSILS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best utensils at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Knife
- Chopsticks
- Colander
- Spoon
- Egg slicer
- Corkscrew
- Can opener
- Potato peeler

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. counter-intuitive | a. A varied set or collection of things or people.                            |
| 2. stainless steel   | b. Going against our common-sense expectations (but often nevertheless true). |
| 3. complement        | c. Add to something in a way that improves it; make perfect.                  |
| 4. assortment        | d. A solid cylinder used to flatten or shape pastry or dough.                 |
| 5. utensil           | e. The process of keeping something in good condition.                        |
| 6. rolling pin       | f. A form of metal that is resistant to tarnishing and rust.                  |
| 7. upkeep            | g. A container, tool, or other article, especially for household use.         |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. ceramics      | h. A part of something.  |
| 9. enhancing     | i. Based on or in accordance with what is generally done.  |
| 10. cellulose    | j. The degree of compactness of a substance.   |
| 11. constituent  | k. A substance which is the main constituent of plant cell walls and of vegetable fibers such as cotton and wood.    |
| 12. ratio        | l. The relation between two amounts showing the number of times one value contains or is contained within the other. |
| 13. density      | m. Pots and other articles made from clay that is hardened by heat.  |
| 14. conventional | n. Increasing, or further improving the quality, value, or extent of.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. All chefs will be using wooden knives from later this year. **T / F**
2. A new wooden knife is three times sharper than steel knives. **T / F**
3. A researcher said all kitchen utensils will be made from wood. **T / F**
4. The researcher said wooden knives would not last a long time. **T / F**
5. Knives are usually made of steel or ceramics. **T / F**
6. The main constituent of wood is something called cellulose. **T / F**
7. Wooden knives are not environmentally friendly. **T / F**
8. The researchers have also developed wooden nails. **T / F**

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

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>top</b>           | a. tools       |
| 2. <b>counter</b>       | b. increasing  |
| 3. <b>complement</b>    | c. maintenance |
| 4. <b>utensils</b>      | d. contrary to |
| 5. <b>upkeep</b>        | e. traditional |
| 6. <b>enhancing</b>     | f. reliance    |
| 7. <b>density</b>       | g. leading     |
| 8. <b>dependence</b>    | h. corrode     |
| 9. <b>rust</b>          | i. accompany   |
| 10. <b>conventional</b> | j. solidity    |

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

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. In the                          | a. the building industry |
| 2. This may seem somewhat counter- | b. of wooden utensils    |
| 3. complement the assortment       | c. upkeep                |
| 4. a rolling                       | d. weaken                |
| 5. perform the same regular        | e. intuitive             |
| 6. There is an added               | f. friendly              |
| 7. they are environmentally        | g. near future           |
| 8. end our dependence              | h. advantage             |
| 9. a boon to                       | i. on plastic cutlery    |
| 10. rust and                       | j. pin                   |

# GAP FILL

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

In the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ future, the world's top chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem somewhat (2) \_\_\_\_\_ -intuitive, but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times (3) \_\_\_\_\_ than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the assortment of wooden (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ board, chopsticks, or a rolling (7) \_\_\_\_\_. These new knives can also be used many times if you resurface them, sharpen them and perform the same regular (8) \_\_\_\_\_."

*sharper*  
*cutting*  
*near*  
*utensils*  
*upkeep*  
*counter*  
*pin*  
*complement*

Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The scientists improved the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the main constituent of wood. It has a higher (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of strength to density than most engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. Teng Li said the new cutting material is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the extent that it can effortlessly slice through the toughest steak. There is an added (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of wooden knives – they are environmentally friendly. They could end our (14) \_\_\_\_\_ on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could be a (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to the building industry as they will not (16) \_\_\_\_\_ and weaken like conventional nails.

*ratio*  
*boon*  
*hardened*  
*ceramics*  
*dependence*  
*strength*  
*rust*  
*advantage*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. somewhat country-intuitive
  - b. somewhat counter-intuitive
  - c. somewhat counters-intuitive
  - d. somewhat countered-intuitive
- 2) created a wooden knife that is three times sharper than the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. stain less steely knives
  - b. stained steal knives
  - c. stainless steel knife
  - d. stainless steel knives
- 3) wooden knives would complement the assortment \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of wooden your tonsils
  - b. of wooden your tensile
  - c. of wooden utensils
  - d. of wooden your ten sills
- 4) things that we use for a very long time, like a cutting board, chopsticks, or \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a rolling pin
  - b. a rolling bin
  - c. a rolling sin
  - d. a rolling din
- 5) if you resurface them, sharpen them and perform the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. same regular at keep
  - b. same regular upper keep
  - c. same regular upkeep
  - d. same regular keep
- 6) Traditionally, knives have been made of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. steel nor ceramics
  - b. steel of ceramics
  - c. steel or ceramics
  - d. steel law ceramics
- 7) It has a higher ratio of strength to density than most \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. engineers' materials
  - b. engineering materials
  - c. engineered materials
  - d. engineer materials
- 8) hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly slice through \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the toughest steak
  - b. the toughies steak
  - c. the tough fest steak
  - d. the tar fest steak
- 9) They could end our dependence \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in plastic cutlery
  - b. at plastic cutlery
  - c. on plastic cutlery
  - d. off plastic cutlery
- 10) developed wooden nails, which could be a boon to the building industry as they \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. will not rust
  - b. will not adjust
  - c. will not trust
  - d. will not lust

Level 6

Scientists make wooden knife that is sharper than steel – 25th October,

2021

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# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

In the near future, the world's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ be using knives made from wood. This may seem somewhat counter-intuitive, but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would complement (3) \_\_\_\_\_ wooden utensils currently found in kitchens across the world. He said: "In our kitchen, we have many wooden things that we use for a (4) \_\_\_\_\_, like a cutting board, chopsticks, or (5) \_\_\_\_\_. These new knives can also be used many times if you resurface them, sharpen them and perform the (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or ceramics. The scientists (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ wood. It has a higher ratio of strength (9) \_\_\_\_\_ most engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. Teng Li said the new cutting material is hardened to the extent that it (10) \_\_\_\_\_ through the toughest steak. There is an added advantage of wooden knives – they are environmentally friendly. They could end our dependence on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to the building industry as they will not (12) \_\_\_\_\_ like conventional nails.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. When might many top chefs be using knives made from wood?
2. How many times sharper than steel knives are the wooden knives?
3. What did a researcher say the wooden knives would complement?
4. What kind of pin did the researcher talk about?
5. How many times can the wooden knives be used?
6. What is the main constituent of wood?
7. What can the wooden knives cut without effort?
8. What could wooden knives end our reliance on?
9. What could wooden nails be a boon to?
10. What does the article say wooden nails do not do?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) When might many top chefs be using knives made from wood?
  - a) next week
  - b) in the near future
  - c) later this decade
  - d) within 20 years
- 2) How many times sharper than steel knives are the wooden knives?
  - a) 6
  - b) 5
  - c) 4
  - d) 3
- 3) What did a researcher say the wooden knives would complement?
  - a) our kitchen utensils
  - b) our dinner tables
  - c) the taste of food
  - d) the chef
- 4) What kind of pin did the researcher talk about?
  - a) a hair pin
  - b) a bowling pin
  - c) a rolling pin
  - d) a sewing pin
- 5) How many times can the wooden knives be used?
  - a) a few times
  - b) many times
  - c) countless times
  - d) over 1,000 times
- 6) What is the main constituent of wood?
  - a) cellulose
  - b) pulp
  - c) bark
  - d) photosynthesis
- 7) What can the wooden knives cut without effort?
  - a) pumpkin
  - b) steel
  - c) steak
  - d) coconuts
- 8) What could wooden knives end our reliance on?
  - a) plastic cutlery
  - b) fossil fuels
  - c) trees
  - d) fast food
- 9) What could wooden nails be a boon to?
  - a) the building industry
  - b) chefs
  - c) restaurants
  - d) forests
- 10) What does the article say wooden nails do not do?
  - a) buckle
  - b) bend and break
  - c) change colour
  - d) rust and weaken

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Knife**

You think a knife is the most essential utensil. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their utensils. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): chopsticks, a corkscrew or a can opener.

## **Role B – Chopsticks**

You think chopsticks are the most essential utensil. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their utensils. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): a knife, a corkscrew or a can opener.

## **Role C – Corkscrew**

You think a corkscrew is the most essential utensil. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their utensils. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): chopsticks, a knife or a can opener.

## **Role D – Can Opener**

You think a can opener is the most essential utensil. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their utensils. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): chopsticks, a corkscrew or a knife.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| <b>wood</b> | <b>knife</b> |
|-------------|--------------|

- 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"><li>• near</li><li>• three</li><li>• utensils</li><li>• long</li><li>• pin</li><li>• upkeep</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• improved</li><li>• main</li><li>• ratio</li><li>• slice</li><li>• end</li><li>• rust</li></ul> |
|---|--|

# WOOD SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211025-wooden-knives.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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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.

## WOOD 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 'wood'?
3. What do you think of wooden knives?
4. Would you prefer to use a wooden or a steel knife?
5. What do you think of wooden knives being sharper than steel ones?
6. What kinds of kitchen utensils do you have?
7. How often do you use a cutting board or rolling pin?
8. How do you look after your knives?
9. How important is a sharp kitchen knife?
10. Which is better - chopsticks or a knife and fork?

*Scientists make wooden knife that is sharper than steel – 25th October, 2021*  
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## WOOD 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 'knife'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about cellulose?
15. Do you think we will stop using stainless steel in the future?
16. Are wooden knives environmentally friendly?
17. Do you need a very sharp knife when you eat?
18. What do you think of plastic cutlery?
19. Would you trust wooden nails?
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/2110/211025-wooden-knives.html>

In the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ future, the world's top chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem somewhat (2) \_\_\_\_\_-intuitive, but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times sharper than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would complement the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of wooden (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (5) \_\_\_\_\_. These new knives can also be used many times if you resurface them, sharpen them and perform the same regular (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or ceramics. The scientists improved the strength of the wood in their knives by (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the main constituent of wood. It has a higher ratio (8) \_\_\_\_\_ strength to density than most engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. Teng Li said the new cutting material is hardened to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that it can effortlessly slice through the toughest steak. There is an (10) \_\_\_\_\_ advantage of wooden knives – they are environmentally friendly. They could end our dependence (11) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could be a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the building industry as they will not rust and weaken like conventional nails.

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

- |     |                |                  |              |                 |
|-----|----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) nears      | (b) near         | (c) nearly   | (d) neared      |
| 2.  | (a) counting   | (b) counter      | (c) counts   | (d) count       |
| 3.  | (a) regiment   | (b) full         | (c) division | (d) assortment  |
| 4.  | (a) usefulness | (b) utensils     | (c) utility  | (d) utter       |
| 5.  | (a) badge      | (b) skittle      | (c) needle   | (d) pin         |
| 6.  | (a) oncoming   | (b) upbeat       | (c) upkeep   | (d) downbeat    |
| 7.  | (a) enhancing  | (b) calculating  | (c) catching | (d) overhauling |
| 8.  | (a) to         | (b) on           | (c) of       | (d) by          |
| 9.  | (a) toughen    | (b) hard         | (c) volume   | (d) extent      |
| 10. | (a) added      | (b) additionally | (c) add      | (d) adds        |
| 11. | (a) on         | (b) of           | (c) up       | (d) by          |
| 12. | (a) boon       | (b) boom         | (c) boot     | (d) book        |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. This may seem somewhat counter-tveintiui
2. sstesalni steel knives
3. complement the sanotmsret
4. wooden sneilsut
5. if you uesarcefr them
6. perform the same regular epekup

## Paragraph 2

7. made of steel or arcsecmi
8. enhancing the oeleulcls it contains
9. a higher ratio of strength to dytisen
10. They could end our npnddeeeec
11. plastic tucreyl
12. weaken like ietcoanonvln nails

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) sharper than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland
- ( ) and ceramics. Teng Li said the new cutting material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly slice
- ( ) can also be used many times if you resurface them, sharpen them and perform the same regular upkeep."
- ( ) very long time, like a cutting board, chopsticks, or a rolling pin. These new knives
- ( **1** ) In the near future, the world's top chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem
- ( ) be a boon to the building industry as they will not rust and weaken like conventional nails.
- ( ) through the toughest steak. There is an added advantage of wooden knives – they are environmentally
- ( ) of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the main
- ( ) somewhat counter-intuitive, but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times
- ( ) constituent of wood. It has a higher ratio of strength to density than most engineered materials, like steel
- ( ) in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would complement the assortment 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
- ( ) friendly. They could end our dependence on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could
- ( ) Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or ceramics. The scientists improved the strength

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. knives Chefs from be using may wood . made
2. scientists knife . created a Materials wooden have
3. knives the would complement of Wooden assortment utensils .
4. things we have that many We wooden use .
5. new can many These knives used times . be
6. have knives of Traditionally, steel . made been
7. a has higher It strength density to ratio .
8. end They could plastic our on cutlery . dependence
9. a building the boon to This is industry .
10. like Rust conventional nails . and many weaken

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

In the *near / nearly* future, the world's top chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem *something / somewhat* counter-intuitive, but *materialistic / materials* scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times *sharper / sharpened* than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would *complement / compliment* the assortment of wooden utensils currently found in kitchens *crossing / across* the world. He said: "In our kitchen, we have many *woody / wooden* things that we use for a very long time, like a cutting board, chopsticks, or a *strolling / rolling* pin. These new knives can also be used many times if you *suffice / resurface* them, sharpen them and perform the same regular *uptake / upkeep*."

Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or ceramics. The scientists improved the *strengthen / strength* of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it *containing / contains*. Cellulose is the main *constituent / constituency* of wood. It has a higher ratio of strength to *dense / density* than most engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. Teng Li said the new *cutting / cut* material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly *sluice / slice* through the toughest steak. There is an *added / addition* advantage of wooden knives – they are environmentally friendly. They could end our *independence / dependence* on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could be a *boon / boom* to the building industry as they will not *rust / lust* and weaken like conventional nails.

**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/2110/211025-wooden-knives.html>

\_n th\_ n\_\_r f\_t\_r\_, th\_ w\_rld's t\_p ch\_fs m\_y b\_ \_s\_ng kn\_v\_s m\_d\_ fr\_m w\_\_d. Th\_s m\_y s\_\_m s\_m\_what c\_\_nt\_r-nt\_\_t\_v\_, b\_t m\_t\_r\_\_ls sc\_\_nt\_sts h\_v\_ cr\_\_t\_d \_ w\_\_d\_n kn\_f\_ th\_t \_s thr\_\_ t\_m\_s sh\_rp\_r th\_n th\_ st\_\_nl\_ss st\_\_l kn\_v\_s w\_ \_s\_ f\_r d\_nn\_r. Th\_ sc\_\_nt\_sts \_r\_ fr\_m th\_ \_n\_v\_rs\_ty \_f M\_ryl\_nd \_n th\_ \_S\_. R\_s\_\_rch\_r T\_ng L\_ s\_\_d w\_\_d\_n kn\_v\_s w\_\_ld c\_mpl\_m\_nt th\_ \_ss\_rtm\_nt \_f w\_\_d\_n \_t\_ns\_ls c\_rr\_ntly f\_\_nd \_n k\_tch\_ns \_cr\_ss th\_ w\_rld. H\_ s\_\_d: " \_n \_\_r k\_tch\_n, w\_ h\_v\_ m\_ny w\_\_d\_n th\_ngs th\_t w\_ \_s\_ f\_r \_ v\_ry l\_ng t\_m\_, l\_k\_ \_c\_tt\_ng b\_\_rd, ch\_pst\_ck\_s, \_r \_ r\_ll\_ng p\_n. Th\_s \_n\_w kn\_v\_s c\_n \_ls\_ b\_ \_s\_d m\_ny t\_m\_s \_f y\_\_r\_s\_rf\_c\_ th\_m, sh\_rp\_n th\_m \_nd p\_rf\_rm th\_ s\_m\_r\_g\_l\_r \_pk\_\_p."

Tr\_d\_t\_\_n\_lly, kn\_v\_s h\_v\_ b\_\_n m\_d\_ \_f st\_\_l \_r c\_r\_m\_cs. Th\_ sc\_\_nt\_sts \_mpr\_v\_d th\_ str\_ngth \_f th\_ w\_\_d \_n th\_\_r kn\_v\_s by \_nh\_nc\_ng th\_ c\_ll\_l\_s\_ \_t c\_\_nt\_\_ns. C\_ll\_l\_s\_ \_s th\_ m\_\_n c\_nst\_t\_\_nt \_f w\_\_d. \_t h\_s \_ h\_gh\_r r\_t\_\_ \_f str\_ngth t\_ d\_ns\_ty th\_n m\_st \_ng\_n\_\_r\_d m\_t\_r\_\_ls, l\_k\_ st\_\_l \_nd c\_r\_m\_cs. T\_ng L\_ s\_\_d th\_ n\_w c\_tt\_ng m\_t\_r\_\_l \_s h\_r\_d\_n\_d t\_ th\_ \_xt\_\_nt th\_t \_t c\_n \_ff\_rtl\_ssly sl\_c\_ thr\_\_gh th\_ t\_\_gh\_st st\_\_k. Th\_r\_ \_s \_n \_dd\_d \_dv\_nt\_g\_ \_f w\_\_d\_n kn\_v\_s - th\_y \_r\_ \_nv\_r\_nm\_nt\_lly fr\_\_ndly. Th\_y c\_\_ld \_nd \_\_r d\_p\_nd\_nc\_ \_n pl\_st\_c c\_tl\_ry. Th\_ sc\_\_nt\_sts h\_v\_ \_ls\_ d\_v\_l\_p\_d w\_\_d\_n n\_\_ls, wh\_ch c\_\_ld b\_ \_ b\_\_n t\_ th\_ b\_\_ld\_ng \_ndstry \_s th\_y w\_ll n\_t r\_st \_nd w\_\_k\_n l\_k\_ c\_nv\_nt\_\_n\_l n\_\_ls.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

in the near future the worlds top chefs may be using knives made from wood this may seem somewhat counterintuitive but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times sharper than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner the scientists are from the university of maryland in the usa researcher teng li said wooden knives would complement the assortment 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 sharpen them and perform the same regular upkeep

traditionally knives have been made of steel or ceramics the scientists improved the strength of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it contains cellulose is the main constituent of wood it has a higher ratio of strength to density than most engineered materials like steel and ceramics teng li said the new cutting material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly slice through the toughest steak there is an added advantage of wooden knives they are environmentally friendly they could end our dependence on plastic cutlery the scientists have also developed wooden nails which could be a boon to the building industry as they will not rust and weaken like conventional nails

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

In the near future, the world's top chefs may be using knives made from wood. This may seem somewhat counter-intuitive, but materials scientists have created a wooden knife that is three times sharper than the stainless steel knives we use for dinner. The scientists are from the University of Maryland in the USA. Researcher Teng Li said wooden knives would complement the assortment of wooden utensils currently found in kitchens across the world. He said: "In our kitchen, we have many wood 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, sharpen them and perform the same regular upkeep." Traditionally, knives have been made of steel or ceramics. The scientists improved the strength of the wood in their knives by enhancing the cellulose it contains. Cellulose is the main constituent of wood. It has a high ratio of strength to density than most engineered materials, like steel and ceramics. Teng Li said the new cutting material is hardened to the extent that it can effortlessly slice through the toughest steak. There is an added advantage of wooden knives – they are environmentally friendly. They could end our dependence on plastic cutlery. The scientists have also developed wooden nails, which could be a boon to the building industry as they will not rust and weaken like conventional nails.







# 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. WOOD:** Make a poster about wood. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. WOODEN UTENSILS:** Write a magazine article about replacing steel utensils with wooden ones. 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 wood. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can use it more. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 F    4 F    5 T    6 T    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. In the near future
2. Three
3. Our kitchen utensils
4. A rolling pin
5. Many times
6. Cellulose
7. Steak
8. Plastic cutlery
9. The building industry
10. Rust and weaken

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Chefs may be using knives made from wood.
2. Materials scientists have created a wooden knife.
3. Wooden knives would complement the assortment of utensils.
4. We have many wooden things that we use.
5. These new knives can be used many times.
6. Traditionally, knives have been made of steel.
7. It has a higher strength to density ratio.
8. They could end our dependence on plastic cutlery.
9. This is a boon to the building industry.
10. Rust and weaken like many conventional nails.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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