

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5 – 29th November, 2021

Omicron coronavirus variant spreading worldwide

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-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.

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-5.html>

A new covid-19 variant is spreading worldwide. The WHO named it Omicron, after a letter of the Greek alphabet. It was first reported in Botswana on the 9th of November. Then it was detected in South Africa and flagged as a "virus of concern". Cases were then reported in Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. Epidemiologists warned that this new strain could be extremely infectious. It may be able to evade protections afforded us by current vaccines. Many countries have reinstated travel bans. Despite these, new cases have already been reported in the UK, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Scientists are analyzing Omicron for the dangers it might pose. They have found 50 genetic changes in the DNA in the spikes surrounding the crown of the virus. Vaccines focus on these spikes. Any changes in DNA could make the virus more virulent, transmissible and resistant against vaccines. It could take a few weeks to determine how effective our vaccines are. The White House warned that: "When you have a virus that is showing this degree of transmissibility, and you're already having travel-related cases...it is ultimately going to go all over [the world]."

Sources: <https://nypost.com/2021/11/27/omicron-variant-found-in-uk-germany-czech-republic/>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/27/omicron-variant-covid-southern-africa-travel-restrictions>
<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/11/27/1059501446/covid-coronavirus-omicron-variant>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A new covid-19 variant is | a. extremely infectious |
| 2. a letter of | b. in Botswana |
| 3. It was first reported | c. travel bans |
| 4. flagged as a virus of | d. reported in the UK |
| 5. this new strain could be | e. protections |
| 6. It may be able to evade | f. spreading worldwide |
| 7. countries have reinstated | g. concern |
| 8. new cases have already been | h. the Greek alphabet |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. the dangers it | a. virulent |
| 2. They have found 50 genetic | b. crown of the virus |
| 3. the spikes surrounding the | c. degree of transmissibility |
| 4. Any changes in | d. go all over the world |
| 5. make the virus more | e. DNA |
| 6. It could take a few weeks | f. might pose |
| 7. a virus that is showing this | g. to determine how |
| 8. it is ultimately going to | h. changes in the DNA |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-5.html>

A new covid-19 (1) _____ worldwide. The WHO named it Omicron, after a letter of (2) _____. It was first reported in Botswana on the 9th of November. Then it was detected in South Africa and flagged as a "(3) _____". Cases were then reported in Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. Epidemiologists warned that this new strain could (4) _____. It may be able to evade protections (5) _____ current vaccines. Many countries have (6) _____. Despite these, new cases have already been reported in the UK, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Scientists are analyzing Omicron for the dangers (7) _____. They have found 50 genetic changes in the DNA in (8) _____ the crown of the virus. Vaccines focus on these spikes. Any changes in DNA could make the (9) _____, transmissible and resistant against vaccines. It could take a few weeks to (10) _____ our vaccines are. The White House warned that: "When you have a virus that is (11) _____ of transmissibility, and you're already having travel-related cases...it (12) _____ to go all over [the world]."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-5.html>

A new covid-19 variant is spreading worldwide. The WHO named it Omicron, after a letter of the Greek alphabet. It was first reported in Botswana on the 9th of November. Then it was detected in South Africa and flagged as a "virus of concern". Cases were then reported in Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. Epidemiologists warned that this new strain could be extremely infectious. It may be able to evade protections afforded us by current vaccines. Many countries have reinstated travel bans. Despite these, new cases have already been reported in the UK, Germany and the Czech Republic. Scientists are analyzing Omicron for the dangers it might pose. They have found 50 genetic changes in the DNA in the spikes surrounding the crown of the virus. Vaccines focus on these spikes. Any changes in DNA could make the virus more virulent, transmissible and resistant against vaccines. It could take a few weeks to determine how effective our vaccines are. The White House warned that: "When you have a virus that is showing this degree of transmissibility, and you're already having travel-related cases... it is ultimately going to go all over [the world]."

OMICRON SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2111/211129-omicron-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Omicron 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) _____

Omicron coronavirus variant spreading worldwide – 29th November, 2021
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

