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Level 2

Scientists make super-strong spider web silk

14th January, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-2.html>

Researchers in Sweden have unlocked one of nature's biggest secrets. They worked out how spiders make such strong silk for their spider webs. The spider's silk is very strong. It is tougher than steel. For decades, scientists looked into what makes spider silk so amazing. Finally, researchers in Sweden have found the answer. They found that a spider's silk gland has a special acid level. This helps to make the silk very strong. The researchers copied this process and made enough artificial spider-web silk to stretch for one kilometer.

The new artificial silk could be very useful. Doctors are interested in it for stitches. They also think it can help the skin after a burn and replace torn ligaments in the body. Airplane companies and makers of protective clothes also see many uses for the new silk. A researcher spoke about how important the discovery could be. She said: "This is the first successful example of [copying] spider silk spinning....This may allow industrial production of artificial silk for bio-material applications or...advanced textiles." The silk could be an important new material for us in the future.

Sources: <https://www.cnet.com/news/spider-web-artificial-swedish-university-agriculture/>
<http://www.livescience.com/57458-strong-spider-silk-produced.html>
<https://cosmosmagazine.com/chemistry/new-synthetic-spider-silk-that-s-almost-as-strong-as-the-real-thing>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. unlocked | a. man made |
| 2. secrets | b. incredible |
| 3. amazing | c. duplicated |
| 4. found | d. extend |
| 5. copied | e. opened |
| 6. process | f. discovered |
| 7. artificial | g. mysteries |
| 8. stretch | h. method |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. useful | a. manufacture |
| 2. think | b. manufacturers |
| 3. help | c. finding |
| 4. makers | d. believe |
| 5. discovery | e. reproducing |
| 6. copying | f. helpful |
| 7. production | g. modern |
| 8. advanced | h. heal |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-2.html>

Researchers in Sweden have (1) _____ of nature's biggest secrets. They worked out how spiders (2) _____ strong silk for their spider webs. The spider's silk is very strong. It is (3) _____ steel. For decades, scientists looked into what makes spider silk (4) _____. Finally, researchers in Sweden have found the answer. They found that a spider's silk gland has a special acid level. This (5) _____ the silk very strong. The researchers copied this process and made enough artificial spider-web silk (6) _____ one kilometer.

The new artificial silk (7) _____ useful. Doctors are interested in it for stitches. They also think it can help the skin after a burn and (8) _____ ligaments in the body. Airplane companies (9) _____ protective clothes also see many uses for the new silk. A researcher spoke about how important the discovery could be. She said: "(10) _____ successful example of [copying] spider silk spinning....This may allow industrial production (11) _____ for bio-material applications or...advanced textiles." The silk could be an important new material (12) _____ future.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-2.html>

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SPIDER WEBS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about spider webs 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) _____

