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## **Level 2**

### **Dirt is good for babies**

**19th July, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170719-dirt-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/1707/170719-dirt-2.html>

It seems sensible for parents to make sure their baby is in a clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their children. However, a scientist says dirt is important to make babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert studies bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He said: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a...flu virus going around....but if a dog licks their face, that's not a bad thing."

Dr Gilbert said letting children get dirty was beneficial. The dirt helps small kids to build their immune system. Gilbert said children often get allergies because parents try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now sterilize everything in the home too much. This makes children's immune systems very sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma and food allergies. Gilbert defended the "five-second rule". That is when you eat something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says that is OK as long as the floor isn't really dirty.

Sources: <http://www.scarymommy.com/jack-gilbert-scientist-dirt-good-for-kids/>  
<https://www.immortal.org/34249/dirt-good-kids/>  
<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/07/16/537075018/dirt-is-good-why-kids-need-exposure-to-germs>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170719-dirt-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. make sure their baby      | a. in a book           |
| 2. Most parents do their     | b. babies stronger     |
| 3. keep dirt                 | c. their face          |
| 4. dirt is important to make | d. best                |
| 5. how dirt and bacteria     | e. there's a flu virus |
| 6. He published his research | f. is in a clean place |
| 7. wash their hands if       | g. affect children     |
| 8. if a dog licks            | h. and bacteria away   |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. letting children get dirty     | a. than five seconds   |
| 2. helps small kids to build      | b. get allergies       |
| 3. children often                 | c. food allergies      |
| 4. parents try                    | d. their immune system |
| 5. lead to things like asthma and | e. isn't really dirty  |
| 6. when you eat something that    | f. was beneficial      |
| 7. for fewer                      | g. too hard            |
| 8. as long as the floor           | h. fell on the floor   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170719-dirt-2.html>

It seems sensible for parents to make sure their (1) \_\_\_\_\_ clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ their children. However, a scientist says (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to make babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert studies bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria (4) \_\_\_\_\_. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He said: "(5) \_\_\_\_\_ wash their hands if there's a...flu virus going around....but if a dog licks their face, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ bad thing."

Dr Gilbert said letting children (7) \_\_\_\_\_ beneficial. The dirt helps small kids to build (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Gilbert said children often (9) \_\_\_\_\_ because parents try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in the home too much. This makes children's immune systems very sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma and food allergies. Gilbert defended the "five-second rule". That (11) \_\_\_\_\_ something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says that is OK as long as the floor (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170719-dirt-2.html>

It seem sensible for parents to make sure their baby is in a clean place. Most parents do their best to keep dirt and bacteria away from their children. However, a scientist says dirt is important to make babies stronger. Dr Jack Gilbert studies bacteria. He did research into how dirt and bacteria affect children. He published his research in a book called 'Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child's Developing Immune System'. He said: "It's fine to wash their hands if there's a... flu virus going around.... but if a dog licks their face, that's not a bad thing." Dr Gilbert said letting children get dirty was beneficial. The dirt helps small kids to build their immune system. Gilbert said children often get allergies because parents try too hard to clean everything that children use. He said parents now sterilize everything in the home too much. This makes children's immune systems very sensitive, which can lead to things like asthma and food allergies. Gilbert defended the "five-second rule". That is when you eat something that fell on the floor for fewer than five seconds. Gilbert says that is OK as long as the floor isn't really dirty.

# DIRT SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170719-dirt-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dirt 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Dirt is good for babies – 19th July, 2017*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

