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Level 0

Bananas in danger of becoming extinct

27th January, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas.html>

The world's most common banana, the Cavendish, could die. A disease called TP4 is killing it. The disease stops the banana from getting water. Scientists found TP4 in 1990. It quickly spread across Asia. Then it went to Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and people. A small amount of TP4 spreads across large areas.

Fifty years ago we ate a different banana. This was killed by Panama Disease. By 1965, banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. This is now in trouble. TP4 stays in the ground for a long time, so new plants cannot grow. We could grow GM bananas. Diseases like TP4 cannot kill them.

Sources: <http://www.theinertia.com/health/big-problem-bananas-are-going-extinct/>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/banana-fungus-could-be-potentially-devastating-if-it-spreads-across-the-americas-warn-experts-a6830956.html>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-35131751>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The world's most | a. of TP4 |
| 2. A disease called | b. in 1990 |
| 3. The disease stops the banana | c. large areas |
| 4. Scientists found TP4 | d. TP4 is killing it |
| 5. It quickly | e. common banana |
| 6. TP4 is carried | f. spread across Asia |
| 7. A small amount | g. by the wind |
| 8. spreads across | h. from getting water |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Fifty years | a. trouble |
| 2. we ate a different | b. by Panama Disease |
| 3. This was killed | c. cannot grow |
| 4. banana growers changed | d. ago |
| 5. This is now in | e. for a long time |
| 6. TP4 stays in the ground | f. banana |
| 7. new plants | g. TP4 cannot kill them |
| 8. Diseases like | h. to the Cavendish banana |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas.html>

The (1) _____ common banana, the Cavendish, could die. A (2) _____ TP4 is killing it. The disease (3) _____ from getting water. Scientists found TP4 in 1990. It (4) _____ across Asia. (5) _____ Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and people. A small amount of TP4 (6) _____ large areas.

Fifty years (7) _____ different banana. This was killed by Panama Disease. By 1965, banana (8) _____ to the Cavendish banana. (9) _____ trouble. TP4 stays (10) _____ for a long time, so new plants cannot grow. We (11) _____ GM bananas. Diseases like TP4 (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas.html>

The world's most common banana, the Cavendish, could die. A disease called TP4 is killing it. The disease stops the banana from getting water. Scientists found TP4 in 1990. It quickly spread across Asia. Then it went to Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and people. A small amount of TP4 spreads across large areas. Fifty years ago we ate a different banana. This was killed by Panama Disease. By 1965, banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. This is now in trouble. TP4 stays in the ground for a long time, so new plants cannot grow. We could grow GM bananas. Diseases like TP4 cannot kill them.

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) _____

