

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

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

www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

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

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 2

Bananas in danger of becoming extinct

27th January, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-2.html>

The world's most common banana could become extinct, which is bad for banana lovers and the banana industry. A fungus called TP4 is killing millions of Cavendish banana plants. The Cavendish is the world's most common banana. The fungus blocks water tubes inside the plant, so the banana cannot get the water it needs and it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of Asia, and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of it spreads across large areas very quickly.

Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, it was the world's main banana. However, a fungus called Panama Disease killed it and it became extinct in 1965. Banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that burning all their banana plants will not help the situation. This is because the fungus stays in the ground, so new plants cannot grow. Scientists say one answer is genetically modified (GM) bananas that are resistant to diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

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>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The world's most | a. discovered TP4 in Malaysia |
| 2. bad for banana lovers and | b. the wind |
| 3. The fungus blocks water | c. common banana |
| 4. the banana cannot | d. tubes inside the plant |
| 5. Scientists first | e. across large areas |
| 6. It quickly spread to other | f. the banana industry |
| 7. carried by | g. parts of Asia |
| 8. A tiny amount of it spreads | h. get the water it needs |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. we ate a variety | a. stays in the ground |
| 2. it was the world's | b. modified |
| 3. it became extinct | c. called the Gros Michel |
| 4. The problem for | d. like TP4 |
| 5. This is because the fungus | e. main banana |
| 6. new plants cannot | f. the banana industry |
| 7. genetically | g. grow |
| 8. resistant to diseases | h. in 1965 |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-2.html>

The world's most common banana (1) _____, which is bad (2) _____ and the banana industry. A fungus called TP4 is killing millions of Cavendish banana plants. The Cavendish is the world's most common banana. The fungus (3) _____ inside the plant, so the banana cannot get the water (4) _____ dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread (5) _____ of Asia, and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of it spreads (6) _____ very quickly.

Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, (7) _____ called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, it was the world's main banana. However, (8) _____ Panama Disease killed it and it became extinct in 1965. Banana (9) _____ to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is (10) _____ their banana plants will not help the situation. This is because the fungus stays in the ground, (11) _____ cannot grow. Scientists say one answer is genetically modified (GM) bananas (12) _____ to diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160127-bananas-2.html>

The world's most common banana could become extinct, which is bad for banana lovers and the banana industry. A fungus called TP4 is killing millions of Cavendish banana plants. The Cavendish is the world's most common banana. The fungus blocks water tubes inside the plant, so the banana cannot get the water it needs and it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of Asia, and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of it spreads across large areas very quickly. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, it was the world's main banana. However, a fungus called Panama Disease killed it and it became extinct in 1965. Banana growers changed to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that burning all their banana plants will not help the situation. This is because the fungus stays in the ground, so new plants cannot grow. Scientists say one answer is genetically modified (GM) bananas that are resistant to diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

Bananas in danger of becoming extinct – 27th January, 2016
More free lessons at 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)

g)

h)
