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Level 3

Bananas in danger of becoming extinct

27th January, 2016

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

There is bad news for banana lovers. The most common banana in the world is in danger of becoming extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana people eat it all over the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4 (TP4) is killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks small tubes inside the plant that absorb water. This means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is spread in dirt that is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly. Some scientists believe TP4 could kill the banana industry.

This is not the first time that a variety of banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel banana was the main banana grown around the world. However, it was hit by a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers switched to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that even if they burn all their banana plants, the fungus stays in the soil. This means new plants cannot be grown. Scientists say one option is genetically modified 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>

WARM-UPS

1. BANANAS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about bananas. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

bad news / banana lovers / common / fungus / small tubes / dirt / a tiny amount / variety / extinct / banana industry / new plants / genetically modified / resistant

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. EXTINCT: How bad would it be if these things became extinct? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How bad?	Why?
Bananas		
Rice		
Chickens		
Cows		
Ants		
Fish		

4. BEST FRUIT: Students A **strongly** believe bananas are the best fruit; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FRUITS: Rank these fruits with your partner. Put the most useful at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- pineapple
- strawberry
- papaya
- banana
- apple
- melon
- date
- blueberry

6. DISEASE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "disease". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The world's most common banana has just become extinct. | T / F |
| b. The world's most common banana is in danger from a fungus. | T / F |
| c. A banana disease is stopping banana plants from getting water. | T / F |
| d. The banana disease can spread via cars and on people's boots. | T / F |
| e. This is the first time a variety of banana could become extinct. | T / F |
| f. Today's banana disease was first discovered in Panama. | T / F |
| g. Burning all banana plants will not help solve the problem. | T / F |
| h. GM bananas would also not be able to resist the banana diseases. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. in danger | a. type |
| 2. absorb | b. dirt |
| 3. parts | c. very small |
| 4. tiny | d. premier |
| 5. kill | e. at risk |
| 6. variety | f. soak up |
| 7. main | g. changed |
| 8. switched | h. wipe out |
| 9. soil | i. choice |
| 10. option | j. areas |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. There is bad | a. water |
| 2. in danger of | b. called Panama Disease |
| 3. small tubes that absorb | c. by the wind |
| 4. TP4 is spread in dirt that is carried | d. modified |
| 5. A tiny amount of TP4 | e. diseases like TP4 |
| 6. the first time that a variety of banana | f. news for banana lovers |
| 7. it was hit by a fungus | g. in the soil |
| 8. the fungus stays | h. has become extinct |
| 9. genetically | i. becoming extinct |
| 10. bananas that are resistant to | j. can spread |

GAP FILL

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

There is bad (1) _____ for banana lovers. The most (2) _____ banana in the world is in danger of becoming extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana people eat it all over the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4 (TP4) is killing (3) _____ of banana plants. The fungus blocks small tubes inside the plant that (4) _____ water. This means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It (5) _____ spread to other parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is spread in (6) _____ that is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A (7) _____ amount of TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly. Some scientists believe TP4 could kill the banana (8) _____.

millions
dirt
common
absorb
industry
news
tiny
quickly

This is not the first time that a (9) _____ of banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years (10) _____, the Gros Michel banana was the main banana (11) _____ around the world. However, it was (12) _____ by a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana (13) _____ switched to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that even if they (14) _____ all their banana plants, the fungus stays in the soil. This means new plants cannot be (15) _____. Scientists say one (16) _____ is genetically modified bananas that are resistant to diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

grown
burn
variety
option
hit
grown
ago
growers

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The most common banana in the world is in danger _____ extinct
 - a. for becoming
 - b. off becoming
 - c. have becoming
 - d. of becoming
- 2) The fungus blocks small tubes that absorb water _____
 - a. inside a plant
 - b. inside the plant
 - c. inside that plant
 - d. inside this plant
- 3) This means the plant cannot get the water it needs _____
 - a. until it dies
 - b. then so it dies
 - c. and so it dies
 - d. and such it dies
- 4) TP4 is spread in dirt that is carried by the wind, water, cars and _____
 - a. evens people's boots
 - b. evenly people's boots
 - c. event people's boots
 - d. even people's boots
- 5) A tiny amount of TP4 can spread across large _____
 - a. area very quickly
 - b. area is very quickly
 - c. areas very quick
 - d. areas very quickly
- 6) Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety _____
 - a. called the Gros Michel
 - b. calls the Gros Michel
 - c. calling the Gros Michel
 - d. scald the Gros Michel
- 7) Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel banana was the main banana grown _____
 - a. abound the world
 - b. around the world
 - c. a round the world
 - d. all round the world
- 8) The Gros Michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers switched _____
 - a. up the Cavendish banana
 - b. by the Cavendish banana
 - c. to the Cavendish banana
 - d. at the Cavendish banana
- 9) even if they burn all their banana plants, the fungus _____
 - a. stays in the spoil
 - b. stays in the soil
 - c. stays in the swill
 - d. stays in the oil
- 10) Scientists say one option is genetically modified (GM) bananas _____
 - a. that are resistance
 - b. that are resistant
 - c. that are resist ant
 - d. that are resisting

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

There (1) _____ banana lovers. The most common banana in the world (2) _____ becoming extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana people eat it all over the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4 (TP4) is killing millions of banana plants. The (3) _____ tubes inside the plant that absorb water. This means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It (4) _____ other parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is spread in dirt that is carried by the wind, water, cars and (5) _____. A tiny amount of TP4 can spread across large (6) _____. Some scientists believe TP4 could kill the banana industry.

This is not the first time (7) _____ banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel (8) _____ banana grown around the world. However, it was hit by a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers (9) _____ Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that (10) _____ all their banana plants, the fungus stays in the soil. This means new plants cannot be grown. Scientists (11) _____ is genetically modified bananas that (12) _____ diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What kind of news did the article say there was for banana lovers?

2. What is the name of the banana that is going extinct?

3. What is it that the disease is stopping the banana plant from getting?

4. Where was TP4 first discovered?

5. How much TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly?

6. When was the Gros Michel the world's main banana?

7. When did the Gros Michel become extinct?

8. Why is burning all banana plants not an effective solution?

9. What cannot be grown because of the fungus?

10. What do scientists say could be a solution?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. What kind of news did the article say there was for banana lovers?
 - a) breaking
 - b) fruity
 - c) bad
 - d) old
2. What is the name of the banana that is going extinct?
 - a) Cavendish
 - b) Gros Michel
 - c) Minions
 - d) Chiquita
3. What is it that the disease is stopping the banana plant from getting?
 - a) water
 - b) skin
 - c) oxygen
 - d) fruit
4. Where was TP4 first discovered?
 - a) Panama
 - b) Malaysia
 - c) Africa
 - d) Australia
5. How much TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly?
 - a) around 100kg
 - b) just one
 - c) about 2kg
 - d) a tiny amount
6. When was the Gros Michel the world's main banana?
 - a) in the 16th century
 - b) 50 years ago
 - c) 1980
 - d) last month
7. When did the Gros Michel become extinct?
 - a) 1965
 - b) 1955
 - c) 1945
 - d) 1975
8. Why is burning all banana plants not an effective solution?
 - a) banana plants do not burn
 - b) burning will spread the disease
 - c) the disease stays in the soil
 - d) a new disease will come
9. What cannot be grown because of the fungus?
 - a) GM bananas
 - b) fungus
 - c) pineapples
 - d) new plants
10. What do scientists say could be a solution?
 - a) GM bananas
 - b) grow bananas indoors
 - c) water the bananas more
 - d) do more research on the fungus

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Pineapples

You think pineapples are the most useful fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): bananas, melons or dates.

Role B – Bananas

You think bananas are the most useful fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): pineapples, melons or dates.

Role C – Melons

You think melons are the most useful fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): bananas, pineapples or dates.

Role D – Dates

You think dates are the most useful fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): bananas, melons or pineapples.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'banana' and 'variety'.

banana	variety
---------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bad• danger• killing• small• dirt• some	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• ate• hit• switched• even• option
--	--

BANANAS SURVEY

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

Write five GOOD questions about bananas 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.

BANANAS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'banana'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) How bad is this news?
- 5) How much of a banana lover are you?
- 6) How surprised are you at this news?
- 7) Why do you think scientists cannot help the banana plants?
- 8) How useful are bananas?
- 9) How would you feel if all bananas died?
- 10) What three adjectives best describe bananas, and why?

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BANANAS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What's the best way to eat bananas?
- 13) What do you know about bananas?
- 14) What could people eat instead of bananas?
- 15) Who would suffer if bananas died out?
- 16) What are the health benefits of bananas?
- 17) What do you know about the different varieties of banana?
- 18) Would you eat GM bananas?
- 19) What other options are there for the banana industry?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask a banana grower?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

There is bad news for banana (1) _____. The most common banana in the world is in danger of (2) _____ extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana people eat it all over the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4 (TP4) is killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks small tubes inside the plant that (3) _____ water. This means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It (4) _____ spread to other parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is spread in dirt that is (5) _____ by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A (6) _____ amount of TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly. Some scientists believe TP4 could kill the banana industry.

This is not the first (7) _____ that a variety of banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel banana was the (8) _____ banana grown around the world. However, it was hit by a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers switched (9) _____ the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that (10) _____ if they burn all their banana plants, the fungus stays in the (11) _____. This means new plants cannot be grown. Scientists say one option is genetically modified bananas that are resistant (12) _____ diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) lovelies | (b) lovers | (c) loves | (d) loveless |
| 2. | (a) becomes | (b) becoming | (c) became | (d) become |
| 3. | (a) energy | (b) reject | (c) milk | (d) absorb |
| 4. | (a) quick | (b) quickly | (c) quicken | (d) quicker |
| 5. | (a) carry | (b) carrying | (c) carries | (d) carried |
| 6. | (a) tin | (b) tinned | (c) tiny | (d) tinny |
| 7. | (a) time | (b) timing | (c) timed | (d) times |
| 8. | (a) mine | (b) mean | (c) main | (d) moan |
| 9. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) by | (d) to |
| 10. | (a) even | (b) evens | (c) event | (d) events |
| 11. | (a) soil | (b) spoil | (c) spoiler | (d) soiling |
| 12. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) on | (d) by |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. There is bad news for banana seovlr
2. The most nommoc banana in the world
3. A snguuf called Tropical Race 4
4. small tubes that sbabro water inside the plant
5. A tiny oauntm of TP4 can spread
6. TP4 could kill the banana uytrsnid

Paragraph 2

7. a eaivyrt of banana
8. banana growers whtidsce to the Cavendish banana
9. new plants cannot be orwng
10. one toonpi
11. genetically idmedfoi (GM) bananas
12. bananas that are resistant to sdesasei

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Africa. TP4 is spread in dirt that is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of TP4 can
- () option is genetically modified (GM) bananas that are resistant to diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.
- () around the world. However, it was hit by a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel
- (**1**) There is bad news for banana lovers. The most common banana in the world is in danger of becoming
- () banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers switched to the Cavendish banana. The problem
- () This is not the first time that a variety of banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we
- () ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel banana was the main banana grown
- () water inside the plant. This means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies. Scientists first
- () spread across large areas very quickly. Some scientists believe TP4 could kill the banana industry.
- () discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and
- () for the banana industry is that even if they burn all their banana plants, the fungus stays
- () in the soil. This means new plants cannot be grown. Scientists say one
- () (TP4) is killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks small tubes that absorb
- () extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana and people eat it all over the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. most common banana in the world is in danger The .

2. absorb blocks water small tubes The that fungus .

3. is that dirt in spread is TP4 wind the by carried .

4. large areas A tiny amount of TP4 can spread across .

5. banana believe the Scientists kill could industry TP4 .

6. has banana of variety a that time first The extinct become .

7. around grown banana main The world the .

8. banana Cavendish the to switched growers Banana .

9. their if banana they plants burn all Even .

10. that like are TP4 resistant to Bananas diseases .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

There is *badly* / *bad* news for banana lovers. The most common banana in the world is in *danger* / *endanger* of becoming extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana people eat it all *under* / *over* the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4 (TP4) *is* / *are* killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks small tubes inside the plant that *absorbs* / *absorb* water. This means the plant cannot get the water it *need* / *needs* and so it dies. Scientists first *discovery* / *discovered* TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to *other* / *another* parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is spread in *dirt* / *dirty* that is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly. Some scientists *belief* / *believe* TP4 could kill the banana industry.

This is not the first time that a *various* / *variety* of banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a *variety* / *vary* called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel banana was the *main* / *mainly* banana grown around the world. However, it was hit *at* / *by* a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel banana became *distinct* / *extinct* in 1965 and banana growers *exited* / *switched* to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that *even* / *ever* if they burn all their banana plants, the fungus stays in the soil. This *meaning* / *means* new plants cannot be *grown* / *growing*. Scientists say one option is genetically modified bananas that are resistant *to* / *at* diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_r_ _s b_d n_ws f_r b_n_n_ l_v_rs. Th_ m_st
c_mm_n b_n_n_ _n th_ w_rld _s _n d_ng_r _f
b_c_m_ng _xt_nct. _t _s c_ll_d th_ C_v_nd_sh b_n_n_
p__pl_ __t _t _ll _v_r th_ w_rld. _ f_ng_s c_ll_d
Tr_p_c_l R_c_ 4 (TP4) _s k_ll_ng m_ll__ns _f b_n_n_
pl_n_ts. Th_ f_ng_s bl_ck_s sm_ll t_b_s _ns_d_ th_ pl_nt
th_t _bs_rb w_t_r. Th_s m__ns th_ pl_nt c_nn_t g_t th_
w_t_r _t n__ds _nd s_ _t d__s. Sc__nt_sts f_rst
d_sc_v_r_d TP4 _n M_l_ys__ _n 1990. _t q__ckly
spr__d t_ _th_r p_rts _f S__th-__st _s__ _nd th_n t_
__str_l__ _nd _fr_c_. TP4 _s spr__d _n d_rt th_t _s
c_rr__d by th_ w_nd, w_t_r, c_rs _nd _v_n p__pl_'s
b__ts. _t ny _m__nt _f TP4 c_n spr__d _cr_ss l_rg_
_r__s v_ry q__ckly. S_m_ sc__nt_sts b_l__v_ TP4 c__ld
k_ll th_ b_n_n_ _nd_stry.

Th_s _s n_t th_ f_rst t_m_ th_t _v_r__ty _f b_n_n_
h_s b_c_m_ _xt_nct. B_f_r_ w_ st_rt_d __t_ng th_
C_v_nd_sh b_n_n_, w__t_ _v_r__ty c_ll_d th_ Gr_s
M_ch_l. F_fty y__rs _g_, th_ Gr_s M_ch_l b_n_n_ w_s
th_ m__n b_n_n_ gr_wn _r__nd th_ w_rld. H_w_v_r, _t
w_s h_t by _f_ng_s c_ll_d P_n_m_ D_s__s. Th_ Gr_s
M_ch_l b_n_n_ b_c_m_ _xt_nct _n 1965 _nd b_n_n_
gr_w_rs sw_tch_d t_ th_ C_v_nd_sh b_n_n_. Th_
pr_bl_m f_r th_ b_n_n_ _nd_stry _s th_t _v_n _f th_y
b_rn _ll th__r b_n_n_ pl_n_ts, th_ f_ng_s st_ys _n th_
s__l. Th_s m__ns n_w pl_n_ts c_nn_t b_ gr_wn.
Sc__nt_sts s_y _n _pt__n _s g_n_t_c_lly m_d_f__d
b_n_n_s th_t _r_r_s st_nt t_ d_s__s s_l_k_ TP4 _nd
P_n_m_ D_s__s_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

there is bad news for banana lovers the most common banana in the world is in danger of becoming extinct it is called the cavendish banana people eat it all over the world a fungus called tropical race 4 (tp4) is killing millions of banana plants the fungus blocks small tubes inside the plant that absorb water this means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies scientists first discovered tp4 in malaysia in 1990 it quickly spread to other parts of south-east asia and then to australia and africa tp4 is spread in dirt that is carried by the wind water cars and even people's boots a tiny amount of tp4 can spread across large areas very quickly some scientists believe tp4 could kill the banana industry

this is not the first time that a variety of banana has become extinct before we started eating the cavendish banana we ate a variety called the gros michel fifty years ago the gros michel banana was the main banana grown around the world however it was hit by a fungus called panama disease the gros michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers switched to the cavendish banana the problem for the banana industry is that even if they burn all their banana plants the fungus stays in the soil this means new plants cannot be grown scientists say one option is genetically modified bananas that are resistant to diseases like tp4 and panama disease

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

There is bad news for banana lovers. The most common banana in the world is in danger of becoming extinct. It is called the Cavendish banana and people eat it all over the world. A fungus called Tropical Race 4 (TP4) is killing millions of banana plants. The fungus blocks small tubes that absorb water inside the plant. This means the plant cannot get the water it needs and so it dies. Scientists first discovered TP4 in Malaysia in 1990. It quickly spread to other parts of South-East Asia and then to Australia and Africa. TP4 is spread in dirt that is carried by the wind, water, cars and even people's boots. A tiny amount of TP4 can spread across large areas very quickly. So some scientists believe TP4 could kill the banana industry. This is not the first time that a variety of banana has become extinct. Before we started eating the Cavendish banana, we ate a variety called the Gros Michel. Fifty years ago, the Gros Michel banana was the main banana grown around the world. However, it was hit by a fungus called Panama Disease. The Gros Michel banana became extinct in 1965 and banana growers switched to the Cavendish banana. The problem for the banana industry is that even if they burn all their banana plants, the fungus stays in the soil. This means new plants cannot be grown. Scientists say one option is genetically modified (GM) bananas that are resistant to diseases like TP4 and Panama Disease.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the Cavendish banana. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BANANAS: Make a poster about bananas. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. EXTINCT: Write a magazine article about bananas becoming. Include imaginary interviews with banana farmers and banana lovers.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on bananas. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d T e F f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. in danger | a. at risk |
| 2. absorb | b. soak up |
| 3. parts | c. areas |
| 4. tiny | d. very small |
| 5. kill | e. wipe out |
| 6. variety | f. type |
| 7. main | g. premier |
| 8. switched | h. changed |
| 9. soil | i. dirt |
| 10. option | j. choice |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Bad news
2. The Cavendish
3. Water
4. Malaysia
5. A tiny amount
6. Fifty years ago
7. 1965
8. The disease stays in the soil
9. New plants
10. Genetically modified (GM) bananas

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)