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## Level 3

# Zika virus could affect 4 million people

2nd February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.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/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn into a global pandemic. Many scientists say the outbreak could be more serious than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO estimated that the Zika virus could infect four million people by the end of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America in the past year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading explosively". She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading worldwide.

The Zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In particular, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal, and with brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares to fewer than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected with the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical and ethical nightmare".

Sources: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/zika-virus-infects-more-than-2100-pregnant-colombian-women/>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/30/zika-virus-health-fears>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zika\\_virus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zika_virus)

# WARM-UPS

**1. ZIKA VIRUS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the Zika virus. 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?

*the WHO / outbreak / global / pandemic / infect / advancing / mild / frightening / linked / disease / babies / health officials / pregnant / virus / vaccine / nightmare*

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

**3. OUTBREAK:** What advice should governments give if there is a deadly global outbreak? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share often.

| Advice...    | Advice | Why? |
|--------------|--------|------|
| Travel       |        |      |
| Medicine     |        |      |
| Food         |        |      |
| Large groups |        |      |
| Becoming ill |        |      |
| Health       |        |      |

**4. VACCINE:** Students A **strongly** believe doctors should test a vaccine on pregnant women; Students B **strongly** believe they definitely should not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. WORRIES:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put your biggest worries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- outbreaks
- computer viruses
- war
- money
- terrorism
- the environment
- your looks
- your English

**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/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. The WHO has announced there is a global Zika virus pandemic.          | T / F |
| b. The Ebola virus killed over 10,000 people in West Africa.             | T / F |
| c. The WHO said four million people could have the Zika virus in 2016.   | T / F |
| d. The article says the mosquito with the Zika virus likes cold weather. | T / F |
| e. The Zika virus is linked to many birth defects in South America.      | T / F |
| f. Microcephaly is where a baby is born with a larger than average head. | T / F |
| g. There were 150 cases of microcephaly in Brazil in 2014.               | T / F |
| h. A doctor does not want to test a vaccine on pregnant women.           | T / F |

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

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. warned    | a. usual          |
| 2. global    | b. moving forward |
| 3. advancing | c. danger         |
| 4. mild      | d. tried out      |
| 5. threat    | e. slight         |
| 6. linked    | f. advised        |
| 7. normal    | g. moral          |
| 8. difficult | h. connected      |
| 9. tested    | i. hard           |
| 10. ethical  | j. worldwide      |

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

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. turn into a global          | a. explosively            |
| 2. the Zika virus could infect | b. the virus              |
| 3. Zika is spreading           | c. women                  |
| 4. a mild                      | d. rise in birth defects  |
| 5. the mosquito that carries   | e. pandemic               |
| 6. linked to a large           | f. damage                 |
| 7. in Brazil and               | g. threat                 |
| 8. brain                       | h. than 150 cases in 2014 |
| 9. This compares to fewer      | i. four million people    |
| 10. pregnant                   | j. surrounding countries  |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Zika virus (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Latin America could turn into a global pandemic. Many scientists say the outbreak could be more (2) \_\_\_\_\_ than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that the Zika virus could (4) \_\_\_\_\_ four million people by the end of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading explosively". She added that it has (6) \_\_\_\_\_ gone from being a mild (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to being frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*estimated*  
*past*  
*threat*  
*serious*  
*outbreak*  
*worldwide*  
*infect*  
*quickly*

The Zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in Brazil and surrounding countries. In (10) \_\_\_\_\_, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than (11) \_\_\_\_\_, and with brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just (13) \_\_\_\_\_ that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected with the virus. There is no (14) \_\_\_\_\_ for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be (15) \_\_\_\_\_ on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical and ethical (16) \_\_\_\_\_".

*normal*  
*vaccine*  
*particular*  
*reported*  
*nightmare*  
*defects*  
*tested*  
*fewer*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

- 1) the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn into \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a globally pandemic
  - b. a globalise pandemic
  - c. a globalised pandemic
  - d. a global pandemic
- 2) The WHO estimated that the Zika virus could infect four million people by \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the end for 2016
  - b. the end of 2016
  - c. the ends of 2016
  - d. the ending of 2016
- 3) Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - a. spread in explosively
  - b. spreading explosives
  - c. spread in explosives
  - d. spreading explosively
- 4) She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to being frightening
  - b. too been frightening
  - c. to been frightening
  - d. two being frightening
- 5) Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is \_\_\_\_\_ worldwide
  - a. and so spreading
  - b. a so spreading
  - c. also spreading
  - d. all so spreading
- 6) The Zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth defects in Brazil and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. surrounded countries
  - b. surrounds in countries
  - c. surround in countries
  - d. surrounding countries
- 7) This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal, and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. with brain damage
  - b. with brain damages
  - c. with brain damaged
  - d. with brain damaging
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. with the viruses
  - b. with the virus
  - c. with a virus
  - d. with the virus
- 9) There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to find some
  - b. to find ones
  - c. to find one
  - d. to find once
- 10) a vaccine would have to be tested on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. and unethical nightmare"
  - b. and ethical nightmare"
  - c. and an ethical nightmare"
  - d. and ethically nightmare"

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn into (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Many scientists say the outbreak could be (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO estimated that the Zika virus (4) \_\_\_\_\_ million people by the end of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading explosively". She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries (6) \_\_\_\_\_ spreading worldwide.

The Zika virus is linked (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In particular, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born (8) \_\_\_\_\_ head than normal, and with brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported (9) \_\_\_\_\_ babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on (12) \_\_\_\_\_, and that would be "a practical and ethical nightmare".

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

1. Who warned that the Zika outbreak could become a global pandemic?

---

2. Where did Ebola kill more than 11,000 people?

---

3. How many people could the Zika virus infect by the end of 2016?

---

4. What is the job title of Dr Margaret Chan?

---

5. What is helping the mosquito that carries the virus to spread?

---

6. What is the Zika virus linked to large rises in?

---

7. How many babies were born with microcephaly in Brazil last year?

---

8. How many pregnant women in Colombia have the virus?

---

9. What did the article say is difficult to find?

---

10. Who did a doctor say a vaccine would have to be tested on?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

1. Who warned that the Zika outbreak could become a global pandemic?
  - a) health officials in a hospital
  - b) Brazil's government
  - c) a pregnant woman
  - d) the WHO
2. Where did Ebola kill more than 11,000 people?
  - a) Colombia
  - b) West Africa
  - c) Brazil
  - d) India
3. How many people could the Zika virus infect by the end of 2016?
  - a) 4 billion
  - b) 40,000,000
  - c) 400,000
  - d) 4,000,000
4. What is the job title of Dr Margaret Chan?
  - a) General Surgeon of the WHO
  - b) Surgeon-General of the WHO
  - c) Director-General of the WHO
  - d) General Director of the WHO
5. What is helping the mosquito that carries the virus to spread?
  - a) the Internet
  - b) airplanes
  - c) globalisation
  - d) warmer weather
6. What is the Zika virus linked to large rises in?
  - a) pregnancies
  - b) population
  - c) birth defects
  - d) vaccines
7. How many babies were born with microcephaly in Brazil last year?
  - a) around 4,000
  - b) just over 4,000
  - c) slightly under 4,000
  - d) exactly 4,000
8. How many pregnant women in Colombia have the virus?
  - a) exactly 2,100
  - b) just under 2,100
  - c) over 2,100
  - d) about 2,100
9. What did the article say is difficult to find?
  - a) the virus
  - b) a vaccine
  - c) doctors
  - d) mosquitos
10. Who did a doctor say a vaccine would have to be tested on?
  - a) pregnant women
  - b) mosquitos
  - c) health officials
  - d) the WHO

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

## **Role A – Money**

You think money is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or hygiene.

## **Role B – Education**

You think education is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): money, a travel ban or hygiene.

## **Role C – Travel ban**

You think a travel ban is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, money or hygiene.

## **Role D – Hygiene**

You think hygiene is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or money.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

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

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>virus</b> | <b>outbreak</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|

- 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"><li>• warned</li><li>• serious</li><li>• estimated</li><li>• end</li><li>• quickly</li><li>• gone</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• large</li><li>• particular</li><li>• 4,000</li><li>• 150</li><li>• 2,100</li><li>• find</li></ul> |
|---|---|

# ZIKA VIRUS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Zika virus 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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.

# ZIKA VIRUS 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 'virus'?
- 3) What do you know about the Zika virus?
- 4) How worried are you about the Zika virus?
- 5) What can we do about pandemics?
- 6) What would happen if there was a global pandemic?
- 7) Why do virus outbreaks always happen in poorer countries?
- 8) Should we start killing all mosquitos?
- 9) What would you do if the Zika virus came to your area?
- 10) What do you think viruses in the future will be like?

*Zika virus could affect 4 million people – 2nd February, 2016*  
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# ZIKA VIRUS DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What three adjectives best describe the Zika virus?
- 13) What can the WHO do to educate people about the Zika virus?
- 14) How will the Zika virus affect this year's Brazil Olympics?
- 15) Why is there no vaccine for the Zika virus?
- 16) Will there be a vaccine for all viruses one day?
- 17) If there are no diseases, will there be an overpopulation problem?
- 18) Why would it be a problem to find a vaccine for the Zika virus?
- 19) Why is it a 'nightmare' to test a vaccine on pregnant women?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the WHO?

# 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/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn into a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ pandemic. Many scientists say the outbreak could be more (3) \_\_\_\_\_ than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO estimated that the Zika virus could infect four million people by the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America in the past year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading (5) \_\_\_\_\_". She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the virus is also spreading worldwide.

The Zika virus is linked to a large (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In (8) \_\_\_\_\_, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal, and with brain damage. Health (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical and ethical (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

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

- |     |                 |                   |                  |                |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) warn        | (b) warning       | (c) warns        | (d) warned     |
| 2.  | (a) globalised  | (b) globalisation | (c) globally     | (d) global     |
| 3.  | (a) series      | (b) serious       | (c) seriously    | (d) sears      |
| 4.  | (a) ends        | (b) ending        | (c) end          | (d) ended      |
| 5.  | (a) explosively | (b) explosions    | (c) explodes     | (d) explosives |
| 6.  | (a) carries     | (b) grasps        | (c) holds        | (d) fetches    |
| 7.  | (a) rising      | (b) arise         | (c) raise        | (d) rise       |
| 8.  | (a) particular  | (b) peculiar      | (c) particularly | (d) peculiarly |
| 9.  | (a) offices     | (b) officials     | (c) official     | (d) officially |
| 10. | (a) few         | (b) fewest        | (c) fewer        | (d) a few      |
| 11. | (a) to          | (b) on            | (c) with         | (d) as         |
| 12. | (a) dream       | (b) nightmare     | (c) daydream     | (d) nightfall  |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. the Zika virus obrtkaue
2. a loalgb pandemic
3. the Zika virus could itcfne four million
4. The virus has been avagdnicn
5. a mild tthare
6. the somuotiq that carries the virus

## Paragraph 2

7. a large rise in birth esctfde
8. brain mdeaga
9. This msoraepc to fewer than 150
10. 2,100 negptran women
11. a ceicanv would have to be tested
12. a cliparcta and ethical nightmare



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) with the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have
- ( ) particular, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head
- ( ) year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading
- ( ) explosively". She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being
- ( ) over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO estimated that the Zika virus could infect four million people
- ( ) to be tested on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical and ethical nightmare".
- ( ) into a global pandemic. Many scientists say the outbreak could be more serious than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed
- ( ) government has just reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected
- ( ) The Zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In
- ( **1** ) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn
- ( ) frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading worldwide.
- ( ) born with microcephaly last year. This compares to fewer than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian
- ( ) than normal, and with brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were
- ( ) by the end of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America in the past

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

1. could turn into a global pandemic The Zika virus outbreak .

---

2. say could serious scientists outbreak more Many the be .

---

3. could infect The four Zika million virus people .

---

4. added threat being quickly that a gone it She mild from has .

---

5. mosquito the also The carries is that virus spreading .

---

6. a is The birth large linked Zika defects rise to virus in .

---

7. causes a Scientists disease say called it microcephaly .

---

8. head smaller a with born is baby a where is This .

---

9. in 150 This 2014 fewer compares cases than to .

---

10. be tested on pregnant women A vaccine would have to .

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has *warning / warned* that the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could *turn / turning* into a global pandemic. Many scientists say the outbreak could be more *seriously / serious* than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO *estimated / estimate* that the Zika virus could *infect / infection* four million people by the end of 2016. The *viral / virus* has been advancing across South and Central America in the *past / passed* year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading explosively". She added that it has *quick / quickly* gone from being a mild threat to being *frightening / frightened*. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading *worldwide / world*.

The Zika virus is linked to a large *raise / rise* in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In *particular / peculiar*, scientists say it causes a disease *name / called* microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal, and *within / with* brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares to *fewer / smaller* than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just *reported / report* that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected *with / of* the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find *one / some*. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on *pregnancy / pregnant* women, and that would be "a *practical / practically* and ethical nightmare".

**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/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

Th\_ W\_rld H\_\_lth \_rg\_n\_s\_t\_\_n (WH\_) h\_s w\_rn\_d th\_t  
th\_ Z\_k\_ v\_r\_s \_\_tbr\_\_k\_n L\_t\_n \_m\_r\_c\_c\_\_ld t\_rn  
\_nt\_ \_\_gl\_b\_l p\_nd\_m\_c. M\_ny sc\_\_nt\_sts s\_y th\_  
\_\_tbr\_\_k c\_\_ld b\_m\_r\_s\_r\_\_s th\_n th\_\_b\_l\_v\_r\_s.  
\_b\_l\_k\_ll\_d\_v\_r 11,000 p\_\_pl\_ \_n W\_st\_fr\_c\_\_n  
2014 \_nd 2015. Th\_ WH\_ \_st\_m\_t\_d th\_t th\_ Z\_k\_  
v\_r\_s c\_\_ld \_nf\_ct f\_\_r m\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ by th\_ \_nd \_f  
2016. Th\_ v\_r\_s h\_s b\_\_n \_dv\_nc\_ng \_cr\_ss S\_\_th \_nd  
C\_ntr\_l \_m\_r\_c\_\_n th\_ p\_st\_y\_\_r. Dr M\_rg\_r\_t Ch\_n,  
D\_r\_ct\_r-G\_n\_r\_l \_f th\_ WH\_, w\_rn\_d th\_t Z\_k\_\_s  
"spr\_\_d\_ng \_\_pl\_s\_v\_ly". Sh\_ \_\_dd\_d th\_t \_t h\_s  
q\_\_ckly g\_n\_ fr\_m b\_\_ng \_m\_ld thr\_\_t t\_b\_\_ng  
fr\_ght\_n\_ng. W\_rm\_r w\_\_th\_r m\_\_ns th\_ m\_sq\_\_t\_ th\_t  
c\_rr\_\_s th\_ v\_r\_s\_s \_ls\_ spr\_\_d\_ng w\_rldw\_d\_.

Th\_ Z\_k\_ v\_r\_s \_s l\_nk\_d t\_ \_\_l\_rg\_ r\_s\_\_n b\_rth  
d\_f\_cts \_n Br\_z\_l \_nd s\_rr\_\_nd\_ng c\_\_ntr\_\_s. \_n  
p\_rt\_c\_l\_r, sc\_\_nt\_sts s\_y \_t c\_\_s\_s \_d\_s\_\_s c\_ll\_d  
m\_cr\_c\_ph\_ly. Th\_s \_s wh\_r\_\_b\_by \_s b\_rn w\_th \_  
sm\_ll\_r h\_\_d th\_n n\_rm\_l, \_nd w\_th br\_\_n d\_m\_g\_\_.  
H\_\_lth \_ff\_c\_\_ls \_n Br\_z\_l r\_p\_rt\_d th\_t r\_\_nd 4,000  
b\_b\_\_s w\_r\_ b\_rn w\_th m\_cr\_c\_ph\_ly l\_st\_y\_\_r. Th\_s  
c\_mpr\_s\_t\_ f\_w\_r th\_n 150 c\_s\_s \_n 2014. Th\_  
C\_l\_mb\_\_n g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s j\_st r\_p\_rt\_d th\_t m\_r\_  
th\_n 2,100 pr\_gn\_nt w\_m\_n \_n C\_l\_mb\_\_r \_nf\_ct\_d  
w\_th th\_ v\_r\_s. Th\_r\_\_s n\_v\_cc\_n\_ f\_r Z\_k\_ \_nd \_t  
w\_ll b\_d\_ff\_c\_lt t\_f\_nd\_n\_. \_d\_ct\_r\_s\_\_d \_v\_cc\_n\_  
w\_\_ld h\_v\_t\_b\_t\_st\_d \_n pr\_gn\_nt w\_m\_n, \_nd th\_t  
w\_\_ld b\_ " \_pr\_ct\_c\_l \_nd th\_c\_l\_n\_ghtm\_r\_".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

the world health organisation (who) has warned that the zika virus outbreak in latin america could turn into a global pandemic many scientists say the outbreak could be more serious than the ebola virus ebola killed over 11000 people in west africa in 2014 and 2015 the who estimated that the zika virus could infect four million people by the end of 2016 the virus has been advancing across south and central america in the past year dr margaret chan director-general of the who warned that zika is "spreading explosively" she added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being frightening warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading worldwide

the zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth defects in brazil and surrounding countries in particular scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly this is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal and with brain damage health officials in brazil reported that around 4000 babies were born with microcephaly last year this compares to fewer than 150 cases in 2014 the colombian government has just reported that more than 2100 pregnant women in colombia are infected with the virus there is no vaccine for zika and it will be difficult to find one a doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on pregnant women and that would be "a practical and ethical nightmare"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Zika virus outbreak in Latin America could turn into a global pandemic. Many scientists say the outbreak could be more serious than the Ebola virus. Ebola killed over 11,000 people in West Africa in 2014 and 2015. The WHO estimated that the Zika virus could infect four million people by the end of 2016. The virus has been advancing across South and Central America in the past year. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO, warned that Zika is "spreading explosively". She added that it has quickly gone from being a mild threat to being frightening. Warmer weather means the mosquito that carries the virus is also spreading worldwide. The Zika virus is linked to a large rise in birth defects in Brazil and surrounding countries. In particular, scientists say it causes a disease called microcephaly. This is where a baby is born with a smaller head than normal, and with brain damage. Health officials in Brazil reported that around 4,000 babies were born with microcephaly last year. This compares to fewer than 150 cases in 2014. The Colombian government has just reported that more than 2,100 pregnant women in Colombia are infected with the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika and it will be difficult to find one. A doctor said a vaccine would have to be tested on pregnant women, and that would be "a practical and ethical nightmare".

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160202-zika-virus.html>

Write about the **Zika virus** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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# 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 Zika Virus. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. ZIKA VIRUS:** Make a poster about the Zika virus. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. PREGNANT WOMEN:** Write a magazine article about the Zika virus and whether vaccines should be tested on pregnant women. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 the Zika virus. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how people can stay safe. 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 F    d F    e T    f F    g T    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. warned    | a. advised        |
| 2. global    | b. worldwide      |
| 3. advancing | c. moving forward |
| 4. mild      | d. slight         |
| 5. threat    | e. danger         |
| 6. linked    | f. connected      |
| 7. normal    | g. usual          |
| 8. difficult | h. hard           |
| 9. tested    | i. tried out      |
| 10. ethical  | j. moral          |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The WHO
2. West Africa
3. Four million
4. Director-General (of the WHO)
5. Warmer weather
6. Brain defects in babies
7. Around 4,000
8. More than 2,100
9. A vaccine
10. Pregnant women

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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