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Level 5

Sesame Street and IBM make vocabulary app

11th June, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app-5.html>

The hugely successful children's TV show Sesame Street and IBM have teamed up to make a new app for kids to learn vocabulary. It is the first vocabulary learning app using IBM's artificial intelligence (AI) software. The app finds a child's current reading and vocabulary levels, and then uses its AI to give the child new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. The app personalizes learning for children. As the child uses the app more, it makes sure he or she has learned and understood the new words before introducing additional vocabulary items.

IBM has completed a pilot program testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice tests given to kindergarteners. The researchers said the results were promising. They said the kids learned words like "amplify," "camouflage," and "applause," which are usually learned at a later age. The children could also use these words in context. Sesame Workshop said the next generation of learning tools and educational technology are a great new way, "for learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, and we're excited to explore it further".

Sources: <https://techcrunch.com/2017/06/07/sesame-workshop-and-ibm-team-up-to-test-a-new-a-i-powered-teaching-method/>
<http://kidscreen.com/2017/06/07/sesame-and-ibm-watson-test-vocab-app-in-us-schools/>
<https://techdigg.com/2017/06/07/ibm-and-sesame-street-join-forces-to-tackle-education/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The hugely successful | a. to learn vocabulary |
| 2. Sesame Street and IBM have teamed | b. more |
| 3. a new app for kids | c. levels |
| 4. using IBM's artificial | d. child's skills |
| 5. reading and vocabulary | e. children's TV show |
| 6. improve the | f. items |
| 7. the child uses the app | g. up |
| 8. introducing additional vocabulary | h. intelligence |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. IBM has completed a pilot program | a. a later age |
| 2. It collected 18,000 multiple- | b. promising |
| 3. the results were | c. tools |
| 4. the kids learned words | d. it further |
| 5. usually learned at | e. testing the app |
| 6. use these words in | f. like "amplify" |
| 7. the next generation of learning | g. choice tests |
| 8. we're excited to explore | h. context |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app-5.html>

The hugely successful children's TV show Sesame Street and IBM have (1) _____ make a new app for kids to learn vocabulary. It is the first vocabulary (2) _____ IBM's artificial intelligence (AI) software. The app (3) _____ current reading and vocabulary levels, and (4) _____ to give the child new vocabulary to improve the child's skills. The app personalizes learning for children. As the (5) _____ more, it makes sure he or she has learned and understood the new words (6) _____ additional vocabulary items.

IBM has completed (7) _____ testing the app. It collected 18,000 multiple-choice (8) _____ kindergarteners. The researchers said the results were promising. They said the kids learned (9) _____ "camouflage," and "applause," which are usually learned (10) _____. The children could also use these words in context. Sesame Workshop said the next (11) _____ learning tools and educational technology are a great new way, "for learning opportunities (12) _____ the classroom, and we're excited to explore it further".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app-5.html>

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VOCABULARY SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170611-vocabulary-app-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vocabulary 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) _____

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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) _____

