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Level 1 – 9th August, 2020

Scientists discover why shaving blunts razors

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-1.html>

Scientists have found why razor blades become blunt after use. They found out why blades lose their sharpness. Razors are 50 times harder than hair, but hair damages the edge of a blade. Razor blades are made from steel. They are toughened with carbon. Each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair damages the blade a little. A blade can cut thousands of hairs. This means the life of a razor blade is short. It needs to be replaced often.

The scientists used microscopes to get a close-up view of what happens when a blade cuts a hair. They said a hair made a small chip on the blade. This chip got bigger as it cut more hair. After more shaving, the blade could not cut cleanly. A scientist was interested that, "if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said this is "an important engineering problem".

Sources: <http://news.mit.edu/2020/why-shaving-dulls-razors-0806>
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6504/689>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2251202-we-just-figured-out-why-shaving-soft-hair-blunts-steel-razor-blades/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. why razor blades become | a. a little |
| 2. blades lose their | b. razor blade |
| 3. They are toughened with | c. blunt |
| 4. Each time a blade | d. replaced often |
| 5. the hair damages the blade | e. cuts a hair |
| 6. A blade can cut thousands | f. sharpness |
| 7. the life of a | g. of hairs |
| 8. It needs to be | h. carbon |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The scientists used | a. like steel |
| 2. get a close- | b. cuts a hair |
| 3. what happens when a blade | c. problem |
| 4. hair made a small chip | d. up view |
| 5. very soft, like human | e. fail |
| 6. something very hard, | f. microscopes |
| 7. the hard material would | g. on the blade |
| 8. an important engineering | h. hair |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-1.html>

Scientists (1) _____ razor blades become blunt after use. They found out why (2) _____ sharpness. Razors are 50 times (3) _____, but hair damages the edge (4) _____. Razor blades are made from steel. They are toughened with carbon. Each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair (5) _____ a little. A blade can cut thousands of hairs. This means the life of a razor blade is short. It needs to (6) _____.

The scientists used microscopes to get a (7) _____ what happens when a blade cuts a hair. They said a hair made a (8) _____ the blade. This chip got bigger as it (9) _____. After more shaving, the blade could (10) _____. A scientist was interested that, "if you cut something very soft, (11) _____, with something very hard, like steel, the hard (12) _____." He said this is "an important engineering problem".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-1.html>

Scientists have found why razor blades become blunt after use. They found out why blades lose their sharpness. Razors are 50 times harder than hair, but hair damages the edge of a blade. Razor blades are made from steel. They are toughened with carbon. Each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair damages the blade a little. A blade can cut thousands of hairs. This means the life of a razor blade is short. It needs to be replaced often. The scientists used a microscope to get a close-up view of what happens when a blade cuts a hair. They said a hair made a small chip on the blade. This chip got bigger as it cut more hair. After more shaving, the blade could not cut cleanly. A scientist was interested that, "if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said this is "an important engineering problem".

SHAVING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200809-shaving-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about shaving 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) _____

