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Level 1 – 2nd December, 2021

Scientists create living robots that can have babies

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-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/2112/211202-xenobots-1.html>

There is a new robot that can create baby robots. This is like science fiction. In 2020, scientists from universities in the USA made the world's first "living" robots. They came from the stem cells of an African frog and are called xenobots. They are less than one millimetre wide. They move and work in groups, and repair themselves. They don't look like robots. The scientists say they are a machine-animal hybrid. They are "a new life-form".

Researchers tested billions of body shapes to make a C-shaped robot. The inside of the "C" is the xenobot's mouth. It gathers small cells in its mouth and these become baby xenobots. This is new technology. It could change science, medicine, the environment and the way we live. They could repair damage to our body and clean up oil and plastic in the oceans. There are many benefits, but some people are worried about robots that can reproduce.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/29/americas/xenobots-self-replicating-robots-scn/index.html>
<https://inews.co.uk/news/scientists-create-worlds-first-reproductive-robots-1325805>
<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2021/11/xenobots-reproduce/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. This is like science | a. robots |
| 2. scientists from universities | b. millimetre wide |
| 3. stem | c. form |
| 4. They are less than one | d. in the USA |
| 5. They move and work | e. animal hybrid |
| 6. They don't look like | f. fiction |
| 7. they are a machine- | g. in groups |
| 8. They are a new life | h. cells |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. make a C- | a. in the oceans |
| 2. This is new | b. reproduce |
| 3. the way we | c. shaped robot |
| 4. They could repair damage | d. technology |
| 5. clean up oil and plastic | e. about robots |
| 6. There are many | f. to our body |
| 7. some people are worried | g. benefits |
| 8. robots that can | h. live |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-1.html>

There is a new robot that (1) _____ robots. This is (2) _____. In 2020, scientists from universities in the USA made the world's first "living" robots. They came from the (3) _____ an African frog and are called xenobots. They are less than (4) _____. They move and work in groups, (5) _____. They don't look like robots. The scientists say they are a machine-animal hybrid. They are "a (6) _____".

Researchers (7) _____ body shapes to make a C-shaped robot. The (8) _____ "C" is the xenobot's mouth. It gathers small cells (9) _____ and these become baby xenobots. This is new technology. It (10) _____, medicine, the environment and the way we live. They could repair damage to our body and (11) _____ and plastic in the oceans. There are many benefits, but some (12) _____ about robots that can reproduce.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-1.html>

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XENOBOTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about xenobots 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-1.html>

Write about **xenobots** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
