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**Level 2 – 30th November 2023**

## **Scientists hopeful of cure for itchiness and eczema**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

Having an itch that won't go away is annoying. Scientists have worked for many years to find out why we itch. Researchers in the USA have found that bacteria in our skin make us itch. The lead researcher said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness. The most common of these is eczema. A researcher wrote: "Many patients carry on their skin the very microbe we've now shown for the first time can cause itching." She added that itches can be very tiring for people who have from long-term skin problems.

The researchers conducted their research on mice. They found a kind of protein was responsible for itching in the test mice. The protein made the mice itch. The researchers changed the protein and made a drug to stop it making the mice itch. This drug could help to make anti-itch drugs for humans. This is good news for the 245 million eczema sufferers around the world. Eczema sufferers get itchiness, redness on the skin, and rashes. They can also get small blisters on their skin. Eczema is twice as common in females as it is in males.

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/why-do-we-itch-scientists-have-been-scratching-their-heads-and-now-have-the-answer-13013524>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/67519448>  
<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/new-clues-head-scratching-mystery-itch>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Having an itch that    | a. make us itch      |
| 2. Scientists have worked | b. we itch           |
| 3. find out why           | c. tiring for people |
| 4. Researchers            | d. for many years    |
| 5. bacteria in our skin   | e. to many diseases  |
| 6. bacteria are linked    | f. these is eczema   |
| 7. The most common of     | g. won't go away     |
| 8. itches can be very     | h. in the USA        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. researchers conducted their      | a. on the skin       |
| 2. They found a kind                | b. get itchiness     |
| 3. make anti-itch drugs             | c. as it is in males |
| 4. 245 million eczema sufferers     | d. for humans        |
| 5. Eczema sufferers                 | e. of protein        |
| 6. redness                          | f. on their skin     |
| 7. They can also get small blisters | g. around the world  |
| 8. twice as common in females       | h. research on mice  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

Having an itch that won't go (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists have worked for many years to find out (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers in the USA have found that bacteria in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ us itch. The lead researcher said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness. The most (4) \_\_\_\_\_ is eczema. A researcher wrote: "Many patients carry on their skin the very microbe we've now shown for (5) \_\_\_\_\_ can cause itching." She added that itches can be very tiring for people who have from long-(6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The researchers conducted their (7) \_\_\_\_\_. They found a kind of protein was responsible for itching in the test mice. The protein (8) \_\_\_\_\_ itch. The researchers changed the protein and made a drug to stop it making the mice itch. This drug could help to make anti-itch (9) \_\_\_\_\_. This is good news for the 245 million eczema sufferers around the world. Eczema (10) \_\_\_\_\_, redness on the skin, and rashes. They can also (11) \_\_\_\_\_ on their skin. Eczema is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in females as it is in males.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

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# ITCHINESS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about itchiness 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Scientists hopeful of cure for itchininess and eczema – 30th November 2023*  
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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/2311/231130-eczema-cure-2.html>

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

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