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**Level 3 – 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.html>

### Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

One of the most annoying things in life is an itch that won't go away. Scientists have worked for decades to find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have discovered that skin bacteria make us itch when they interact with our nerve cells. Lead researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness. The most common disease is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on you, for sure. 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 quite debilitating in patients who suffer from chronic skin conditions."

Dr Leng and her colleagues conducted their research on mice. They found an enzyme (which they dubbed V8) that was responsible for itching in the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered a protein that made the mice itch. The scientists engineered the protein and developed a drug to stop it making the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could block the itching process in humans. This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 million people globally. As well as itchiness, sufferers often get redness on their skin and a rash. They may also get small blisters and a thickening of the 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. ITCHINESS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about itchiness. 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?

annoying things / itch / decades / cure / skin / bacteria / diseases / patients / suffer / colleagues / enzyme / protein / drug / humans / globally / redness / rash / blisters

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

**3. DISEASES:** Students A **strongly** believe we should spend more money on curing diseases than on armies and weapons; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. ITCHES:** What do you think about itches in these places? How can you make them go away? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What You Think	Making The Itch Disappear
Your eye		
Your armpit		
Your toes		
Your nose		
Your stomach		
Your knee		

**5. CURE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "cure". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. ANNOYING THINGS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most annoying at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- An itchy nose
- Pins and needles
- A headache
- Cannot sleep
- Back pain
- Dizziness
- Sniffing
- Sore throat

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. annoying     | a. A large group of one-cell microorganisms that can cause disease.          |
| 2. decade       | b. End a disease or condition with medicine or help from doctors and nurses. |
| 3. cure         | c. A period of ten years.  |
| 4. discovered   | d. Of a disease or condition that makes someone very weak.                   |
| 5. bacteria     | e. Causing a feeling of impatience or anger.                                 |
| 6. cell         | f. Was the first to find a place, thing, or medical situation.               |
| 7. debilitating | g. The very smallest part of a living thing.                                 |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8. colleague   | h. Organized and carried out.  |
| 9. conducted   | i. Actions or steps taken in order to reach a particular goal or end.                                      |
| 10. triggered  | j. A small bubble on the skin filled with water or blood and caused by friction, burning, or other damage. |
| 11. medication | k. Caused an event or situation to happen.   |
| 12. process    | l. A person who is affected by an illness.   |
| 13. sufferer   | m. A drug or other form of medicine that is used to treat or stop disease.                                 |
| 14. blister    | n. A person with whom one works in a profession or business.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. The article says an itch is the most annoying thing in life. **T / F**
2. Researchers have tried for decades to find a cure for itching. **T / F**
3. Itchiness is caused by bacteria in our skin. **T / F**
4. A researcher said the bacteria that causes itching is not the nicest bug. **T / F**
5. Researchers carried out tests on itching in rats. **T / F**
6. The researchers made a drug to stop itching in their test animals. **T / F**
7. Around 245 million people around the world suffer from eczema. **T / F**
8. Men are twice as likely as women to have eczema. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>annoying</b>     | a. stop       |
| 2. <b>cure</b>         | b. long-term  |
| 3. <b>linked</b>       | c. treatment  |
| 4. <b>debilitating</b> | d. caused     |
| 5. <b>chronic</b>      | e. worldwide  |
| 6. <b>colleagues</b>   | f. irritating |
| 7. <b>triggered</b>    | g. prevalent  |
| 8. <b>block</b>        | h. connected  |
| 9. <b>globally</b>     | i. co-workers |
| 10. <b>common</b>      | j. tiring     |

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

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. One of the most annoying things in life | a. females as it is in males     |
| 2. Scientists have worked for decades      | b. diseases that cause itchiness |
| 3. bacteria are linked to many             | c. anti-itch medication          |
| 4. It's not the nicest                     | d. skin conditions               |
| 5. patients who suffer from chronic        | e. blisters                      |
| 6. Dr Leng and her colleagues conducted    | f. is an itch that won't go away |
| 7. The drug could be used to make          | g. their research on mice        |
| 8. This is good news for                   | h. bug to have on you            |
| 9. They may also get small                 | i. eczema sufferers              |
| 10. Eczema is twice as common in           | j. to find out why we itch       |

# GAP FILL

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

One of the most (1) \_\_\_\_\_ things in life is an itch that won't go away. Scientists have worked for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that skin bacteria make us itch when they interact with our nerve cells. Lead researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked to many (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that cause itchiness. The most (5) \_\_\_\_\_ disease is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on you, for sure. Many patients (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on their skin the very microbe we've now shown for the first time can (7) \_\_\_\_\_ itching." She added that: "Itches can be quite debilitating in patients who (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from chronic skin conditions."

*discovered*  
*common*  
*annoying*  
*suffer*  
*diseases*  
*cause*  
*decades*  
*carry*

Dr Leng and her (9) \_\_\_\_\_ conducted their research on mice. They found an enzyme (which they dubbed V8) that was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for itching in the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered a protein that made the mice itch. The scientists (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the protein and developed a drug to stop it (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could block the itching (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in humans. This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 million people (14) \_\_\_\_\_. As well as itchiness, sufferers often get redness on their skin and a rash. They may also get small (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and a thickening of the skin. Eczema is twice as common in (16) \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in males.

*females*  
*responsible*  
*process*  
*colleagues*  
*blisters*  
*making*  
*engineered*  
*globally*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) One of the most annoying things in life is an itch that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. won't goer way
  - b. won't go way
  - c. won't gore way
  - d. won't go away
- 2) Scientists have worked for decades to find out why we itch, and to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. find a cure
  - b. find a lure
  - c. find a pure
  - d. find a sure
- 3) discovered that skin bacteria make us itch when they interact with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. our nerve sells
  - b. our nerve calls
  - c. our nerve sales
  - d. our nerve cells
- 4) Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. you, for sures
  - b. you, four sure
  - c. you, fissure
  - d. you, for sure
- 5) Itches can be quite debilitating in patients who suffer from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. chronic skin conditions
  - b. chronic skins conditions
  - c. chronic skinny conditions
  - d. chronic skinned conditions
- 6) They found an enzyme (which \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - a. they daubed V8
  - b. they dabbed V8
  - c. they dubbed V8
  - d. they bud V8
- 7) The drug could be used to make \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. anti-itch medicated
  - b. anti-itch medicates
  - c. anti-itch medicating
  - d. anti-itch medication
- 8) This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. million peoples globally
  - b. million peopled globally
  - c. million people globally
  - d. million peep all globally
- 9) As well as itchiness, sufferers often get redness on their skin \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. and a lash
  - b. and abashed
  - c. and are rash
  - d. and a rash
- 10) Eczema is twice as common in females as it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. is in mails
  - b. is in mauls
  - c. is in mules
  - d. is in males

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

One of the most (1) \_\_\_\_\_ life is an itch that won't go away. Scientists have worked (2) \_\_\_\_\_ find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have discovered that skin bacteria make (3) \_\_\_\_\_ they interact with our nerve cells. Lead researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on you, for sure. Many patients carry on their skin (5) \_\_\_\_\_ we've now shown for the first time can cause itching." She added that: "Itches can be quite debilitating in (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from chronic skin conditions."

Dr Leng and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ their research on mice. They found an enzyme (which they dubbed V8) that was responsible for itching in the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered (8) \_\_\_\_\_ made the mice itch. The scientists engineered the protein and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to stop it making the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could block the itching (10) \_\_\_\_\_. This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 million people globally. As well as itchiness, sufferers often get redness on their skin and a rash. They may also (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and a thickening of the skin. Eczema is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in females as it is in males.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What does the article say an itch that won't go away is one of?
2. In which university was the research conducted?
3. What does the skin bacteria interact with?
4. What is the name of the most common disease that causes itching?
5. For whom can itches be debilitating?
6. In what creatures did researchers conduct their research?
7. What did the researchers call the enzyme they found?
8. What did the enzyme trigger?
9. How many people in the world suffer from eczema?
10. How much likelier is it that females will have eczema?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What does the article say an itch that won't go away is one of?
  - a) the things we have to accept
  - b) the things that drive you crazy
  - c) the most annoying things in life
  - d) many things we have to live with
- 2) In which university was the research conducted?
  - a) Harvard Medical School
  - b) MIT
  - c) UCLA
  - d) New York University
- 3) What does the skin bacteria interact with?
  - a) hair follicles
  - b) nerve cells
  - c) hair
  - d) sunburned skin
- 4) What is the name of the most common disease that causes itching?
  - a) edema
  - b) emphysema
  - c) asthma
  - d) eczema
- 5) For whom can itches be debilitating?
  - a) people with lots of body hair
  - b) older people
  - c) people with chronic skin conditions
  - d) older bald or balding men
- 6) In what creatures did researchers conduct their research?
  - a) snails
  - b) mice
  - c) goldfish
  - d) chimpanzees
- 7) What did the researchers call the enzyme they found?
  - a) V6
  - b) V4
  - c) V12
  - d) V8
- 8) What did the enzyme trigger?
  - a) a sugar
  - b) a protein
  - c) a fat
  - d) a carbohydrate
- 9) How many people in the world suffer from eczema?
  - a) fewer than 245 million
  - b) around 245 million
  - c) more than 245 million
  - d) exactly 245 million
- 10) How much likelier is it that females will have eczema?
  - a) twice as likely
  - b) three times as likely
  - c) 10 times as likely
  - d) 100 hundred times as likely

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – An Itchy Nose**

You think an itchy nose is the most annoying thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): pins and needles, being unable to sleep or sniffing.

## **Role B – Pins and Needles**

You think pins and needles is the most annoying thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): an itchy nose, being unable to sleep or sniffing.

## **Role C – Being Unable to Sleep**

You think being unable to sleep is the most annoying thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): pins and needles, an itchy nose or sniffing.

## **Role D – Sniffing**

You think sniffing is the most annoying thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): pins and needles, being unable to sleep or an itchy nose.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

<b>cure</b>	<b>itch</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>• annoying</li><li>• cure</li><li>• nerve</li><li>• linked</li><li>• bug</li><li>• quite</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• conducted</li><li>• test</li><li>• developed</li><li>• block</li><li>• million</li><li>• males</li></ul>
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# ITCHINESS SURVEY

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

# ITCHINESS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'cure'?
3. What things in life are most annoying?
4. What do you know about eczema?
5. How annoying is itchy skin?
6. What do you do when you have an itch?
7. What do you do when you have an itch that won't go away?
8. Why do we itch?
9. What are the best things to put on an itch?
10. What do you do to look after your skin?

*Scientists hopeful of cure for itchiness and eczema – 30th November 2023*  
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# ITCHINESS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'itch'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why is scratching your head a sign of thinking?
15. Should research be done on mice?
16. How often do you get redness or rashes?
17. How often do you get a blister?
18. Why is eczema more common in females?
19. How often do you scratch?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

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

One of the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ annoying things in life is an itch that won't go away. Scientists have worked for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have discovered that skin bacteria make (3) \_\_\_\_\_ itch when they interact with our nerve cells. Lead researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked (4) \_\_\_\_\_ many diseases that cause itchiness. The most common disease is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on you, for sure. Many patients carry on their skin the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ microbe we've now shown for the first time can cause itching." She added that: "Itches can be quite debilitating in patients who suffer (6) \_\_\_\_\_ chronic skin conditions."

Dr Leng and her colleagues (7) \_\_\_\_\_ their research on mice. They found an enzyme (which they dubbed V8) that was responsible for itching in the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered a protein that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the mice itch. The scientists engineered the protein and developed a drug to stop it making the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the itching process in humans. This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 million people globally. As (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as itchiness, sufferers often get redness on their skin and a (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They may also get small blisters and a thickening of the skin. Eczema is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ as common in females as it is in males.

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

- |     |               |                |              |               |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) most      | (b) mast       | (c) must     | (d) mist      |
| 2.  | (a) decadence | (b) decants    | (c) decades  | (d) decides   |
| 3.  | (a) all       | (b) our        | (c) us       | (d) we        |
| 4.  | (a) in        | (b) at         | (c) of       | (d) to        |
| 5.  | (a) very      | (b) totally    | (c) really   | (d) too       |
| 6.  | (a) at        | (b) from       | (c) of       | (d) on        |
| 7.  | (a) conduct   | (b) conducting | (c) conducts | (d) conducted |
| 8.  | (a) did       | (b) made       | (c) had      | (d) took      |
| 9.  | (a) back      | (b) brick      | (c) block    | (d) book      |
| 10. | (a) good      | (b) nice       | (c) real     | (d) well      |
| 11. | (a) dash      | (b) cash       | (c) bash     | (d) rash      |
| 12. | (a) duo       | (b) twice      | (c) double   | (d) two       |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. One of the most ynnonaig things in life
2. Scientists have worked for deedsca
3. skin aacrbtie make us itch
4. linked to many aissdees
5. Itches can be quite atiigblntedi
6. rccnoih skin conditions

## Paragraph 2

7. Dr Leng and her osealucdge
8. a irnpoet that made the mice itch
9. make anti-itch aeincimdto
10. block the itching rscopse in humans
11. Eczema stafefc around 245 million people
12. They may also get small sriebtsl

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) discovered that skin bacteria make us itch when they interact with our nerve cells. Lead
- ( ) Dr Leng and her colleagues conducted their research on mice. They found an
- ( ) making the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could block the itching process in
- ( ) researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness. The most
- ( ) sufferers often get redness on their skin and a rash. They may also get small
- ( **1** ) One of the most annoying things in life is an itch that won't go away. Scientists have worked for
- ( ) decades to find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have
- ( ) blisters and a thickening of the skin. Eczema is twice as common in females as it is in males.
- ( ) time can cause itching." She added that: "Itches can be quite debilitating in patients who suffer from chronic skin conditions."
- ( ) common disease is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on you, for
- ( ) enzyme (which they dubbed V8) that was responsible for itching in the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered a protein
- ( ) humans. This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 million people globally. As well as itchiness,
- ( ) that made the mice itch. The scientists engineered the protein and developed a drug to stop it
- ( ) sure. Many patients carry on their skin the very microbe we've now shown for the first

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

annoying life . in One of the things most

out . Scientists find for to have decades worked

Bacteria cause diseases are itchiness . to that linked

nicest to the not is It have . bug

skin conditions . chronic who in Debilitating patients have

on colleagues mice . their research her All conducted

drug to could help anti-itch The make medication .

news eczema is for very This good sufferers .

affects 245 people Eczema globally . around million

as Eczema twice in is females . common

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

One of the *most / must* annoying things in life is an *itchy / itch* that won't go away. Scientists have worked *to / for* decades to find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have *discovered / discovery* that skin bacteria make us itch when they *interactive / interact* with our nerve *sells / cells*. Lead researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked *to / on* many diseases that cause itchiness. The most common disease is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not *the / a* nicest bug to have on you, for sure. Many patients carry on their skin the *really / very* microbe we've now shown for the first time can cause itching." She added that: "Itches can be quite debilitating *in / of* patients who suffer from chronic skin conditions."

Dr Leng and her colleagues *contracted / conducted* their research on mice. They found an enzyme (which they *dabbed / dubbed* V8) that was responsible for itching *in / on* the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered a protein that made the *mouse / mice* itch. The scientists engineered the protein and developed a drug to stop *it / them* making the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could *dock / block* the itching process in humans. This is good news for eczema *suffers / sufferers*. Eczema *affects / affecting* around 245 million people globally. As well as itchiness, sufferers often get *readiness / redness* on their skin and a rash. They may also get small blisters and a thickening of the skin. Eczema is twice as *common / commonly* in females as it is in males.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

\_n\_ \_f th\_ m\_st \_nn\_y\_ng th\_ngs \_n l\_f\_ \_s \_n \_tch  
th\_t w\_n't g\_ \_w\_y. Sc\_\_nt\_sts h\_v\_ w\_rk\_d f\_r  
d\_c\_d\_s t\_ f\_nd \_\_t why w\_ \_tch, \_nd t\_ f\_nd \_  
c\_r\_. R\_s\_\_rch\_rs \_t H\_rv\_rd M\_d\_c\_l Sch\_\_l \_n th\_  
\_S\_ h\_v\_ d\_sc\_v\_r\_d th\_t sk\_n b\_ct\_r\_\_ m\_k\_ \_s \_tch  
wh\_n th\_y \_nt\_r\_ct w\_th \_\_r n\_rv\_ c\_lls. L\_\_d  
r\_s\_\_rch\_r L\_w\_n D\_ng s\_\_d th\_ b\_ct\_r\_\_ \_r l\_nk\_d  
t\_ m\_ny d\_s\_\_s\_s th\_t c\_\_s\_ \_tch\_n\_ss. Th\_ m\_st  
c\_mm\_n d\_s\_\_s\_ \_s \_cz\_m\_. Dr L\_ng wr\_t\_: "\_t's n\_t  
th\_ n\_c\_st b\_g t\_ h\_v\_ \_n y\_\_, f\_r s\_r\_. M\_ny  
p\_t\_\_nts c\_rry \_n th\_\_r sk\_n th\_ v\_ry m\_cr\_b\_ w\_'v\_  
n\_w sh\_wn f\_r th\_ f\_rst t\_m\_ c\_n c\_\_s\_ \_tch\_ng." Sh\_  
\_dd\_d th\_t: "\_tch\_s c\_n b\_ q\_\_t\_ d\_b\_l\_t\_t\_ng \_n  
p\_t\_\_nts wh\_ s\_ff\_r fr\_m chr\_n\_c sk\_n c\_nd\_t\_\_ns."

Dr L\_ng \_nd h\_r c\_ll\_\_g\_\_s c\_nd\_ct\_d th\_\_r r\_s\_\_rch  
\_n m\_c\_. Th\_y f\_\_nd \_n \_nzym\_ (wh\_ch th\_y d\_bb\_d  
V8) th\_t w\_s r\_sp\_ns\_bl\_ f\_r \_tch\_ng \_n th\_ t\_st  
m\_c\_. Th\_ V8 \_nzym\_ tr\_gg\_r\_d \_ pr\_t\_\_n th\_t m\_d\_  
th\_ m\_c\_ \_tch. Th\_ sc\_\_nt\_sts \_ng\_n\_\_r\_d th\_ pr\_t\_\_n  
\_nd d\_v\_l\_p\_d \_ dr\_g t\_ st\_p \_t m\_k\_ng th\_ m\_c\_  
\_tch. Th\_ dr\_g c\_\_ld b\_ \_s\_d t\_ m\_k\_ \_nt-\_tch  
m\_d\_c\_t\_\_n. Th\_s c\_\_ld bl\_ck th\_ \_tch\_ng pr\_c\_ss \_n  
h\_m\_ns. Th\_s \_s g\_\_d n\_ws f\_r \_cz\_m\_ s\_ff\_r\_rs.  
\_cz\_m\_ \_ff\_cts \_r\_\_nd 245 m\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ gl\_b\_lly. \_s  
w\_ll \_s \_tch\_n\_ss, s\_ff\_r\_rs \_ft\_n g\_t r\_dn\_ss \_n th\_\_r  
sk\_n \_nd \_r\_sh. Th\_y m\_y \_ls\_ g\_t sm\_ll bl\_st\_rs  
\_nd \_ th\_ck\_n\_ng \_f th\_ sk\_n. \_cz\_m\_ \_s tw\_c\_ \_s  
c\_mm\_n \_n f\_m\_l\_s \_s \_t \_s \_n m\_l\_s.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

one of the most annoying things in life is an itch that wont go away  
scientists have worked for decades to find out why we itch and to find a cure  
researchers at harvard medical school in the usa have discovered that skin  
bacteria make us itch when they interact with our nerve cells lead researcher  
liwen deng said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness  
the most common disease is eczema dr leng wrote its not the nicest bug to  
have on you for sure many patients carry on their skin the very microbe  
weve now shown for the first time can cause itching she added that itches  
can be quite debilitating in patients who suffer from chronic skin conditions  
dr leng and her colleagues conducted their research on mice they found an  
enzyme which they dubbed v8 that was responsible for itching in the test  
mice the v8 enzyme triggered a protein that made the mice itch the  
scientists engineered the protein and developed a drug to stop it making the  
mice itch the drug could be used to make antiitch medication this could  
block the itching process in humans this is good news for eczema sufferers  
eczema affects around 245 million people globally as well as itchiness  
sufferers often get redness on their skin and a rash they may also get small  
blisters and a thickening of the skin eczema is twice as common in females  
as it is in males

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

One of the most annoying things in life is a itch that won't go away. Scientists have worked for decades to find out why we itch, and to find a cure. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the USA have discovered that skin bacteria make us itch when they interact with our nerve cells. Lead researcher Liwen Deng said the bacteria are linked to many diseases that cause itchiness. The most common disease is eczema. Dr Leng wrote: "It's not the nicest bug to have on you, for sure. Many patients carry on their skin the very microbe we've now shown for the first time can cause itching." She added that: "Itch can be quite debilitating in patients who suffer from chronic skin conditions." Dr Leng and her colleagues conducted their research on mice. They found an enzyme (which they dubbed V8) that was responsible for itching in the test mice. The V8 enzyme triggered a protein that made the mice itch. The scientists engineered the protein and developed a drug to stop it making the mice itch. The drug could be used to make anti-itch medication. This could block the itching process in humans. This is good news for eczema sufferers. Eczema affects around 245 million people globally. As well as itchiness, sufferers often get redness on their skin and a rash. They may also get small blisters and a thickening of the skin. Eczema is twice as common in females as it is in males.

# FREE WRITING

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

Write about **itchiness** 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. LIFESTYLE CHANGE:** Write a magazine article about everyone changing their lifestyles so they don't interact with things that make them itch. 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 itchiness. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on what to do when you have an itch. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e    2. c    3. b    4. f    5. a    6. g    7. d  
8. n    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. c	3. h	4. j	5. b
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. e	10. g

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The most annoying things in life
2. Harvard Medical School
3. Nerve cells
4. Eczema
5. People with chronic skin conditions
6. Mice
7. V8
8. A protein
9. Around 245 million
10. Twice as likely

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. One of the most annoying things in life.
2. Scientists have worked for decades to find out.
3. Bacteria are linked to diseases that cause itchiness.
4. It is not the nicest bug to have.
5. Debilitating in patients who have chronic skin conditions.
6. All her colleagues conducted their research on mice.
7. The drug could help to make anti-itch medication.
8. This is very good news for eczema sufferers.
9. Eczema affects around 245 million people globally.
10. Eczema is twice as common in females.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    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 ;-)