

www.**Breaking News English**.com
Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Swine flu deaths expected to rise

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0904/090428-swine_flu.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE ARTICLE

Health officials from around the world have warned that swine flu may cause more deaths. Nearly 150 people have died so far in Mexico. There are fears that this death toll will rise, and that people will start dying in other countries. There are already around 2,000 reported cases of the virus in Mexico. Countries as far away as New Zealand, Spain, Canada and Scotland have also reported outbreaks. U.S. health officials have warned American citizens that there could be fatalities in the USA. Dr. Richard Besser of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters: "From what we understand in Mexico, I think people need to be ready for the idea that we could see more severe cases in this country and possibly deaths."

Health organizations everywhere are preparing for a pandemic. Scientists say the virus has not been seen before. This means there is not yet a vaccine against it. Dr. Besser warned it was not easy to predict how serious the virus is. He explained: "Outbreaks of infectious diseases are extremely unpredictable and variable, and so over time, what we say about this and what we learn will change." Many countries are taking precautions to prevent swine flu crossing their borders. However, it is almost impossible to stop the virus entering a country via airplane or ship passengers. The outbreak could be bad for the world's economy, especially the airline industry. Many would-be travelers are canceling their travel plans and staying at home.

WARM-UPS

1. PIGS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about pigs. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

health officials / flu / fears / death toll / viruses / outbreaks / fatalities / severe cases / health organizations / pandemics / vaccines / infectious diseases / borders / plans

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

3. HEALTH PROBLEMS: How do you deal with these health problems? Complete this table. Share your answers with your partner(s). Change partners and share again.

Problem	Remedy / Cure	Your experiences
Flu		
Headache / migraine		
Toothache		
Stress		
Sleeplessness		
Stomach ache		

4. BORDERS: Students A **strongly** believe all borders should close when there are flu pandemics; Students B **strongly** believe closing borders is useless. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. PREVENTION: Rank these things in order of which is best to stop swine flu from spreading. Share your ideas with your partner(s).

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| _____ close all borders | _____ everyone wears a mask |
| _____ educate people on TV / the Web | _____ ban pork products |
| _____ have a hand-washing campaign | _____ have a flu jab (injection) |
| _____ kill all pigs | _____ stay at home until it's over |

6. VIRUS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'virus'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. People believe more people will die because of swine flu. | T / F |
| b. So far, people have died in Mexico and several other countries. | T / F |
| c. A U.S. health expert believes the USA will escape the disease. | T / F |
| d. The official completely ruled out the possibility of American deaths | T / F |
| e. Swine flu is a virus that first appeared in the last century. | T / F |
| f. A doctor said it was difficult to guess if swine flu will be a big problem. | T / F |
| g. Many countries have taken precautions by closing their borders. | T / F |
| h. A lot of people who wanted to travel have cancelled their plans. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. warned | a. deaths |
| 2. so far | b. potential |
| 3. death toll | c. serious |
| 4. fatalities | d. to date |
| 5. severe | e. very |
| 6. pandemic | f. through |
| 7. extremely | g. cautioned |
| 8. via | h. particularly |
| 9. especially | i. outbreak |
| 10. would-be | j. number of dead |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one. combination is possible):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. swine flu may cause | a. the virus is |
| 2. There are fears that this death | b. in the USA |
| 3. Countries as far away | c. more deaths |
| 4. there could be fatalities | d. the world's economy |
| 5. people need to be ready | e. canceling their travel plans |
| 6. there is not yet a vaccine | f. toll will rise |
| 7. predict how serious | g. precautions |
| 8. Many countries are taking | h. for the idea |
| 9. The outbreak could be bad for | i. as New Zealand |
| 10. Many would-be travelers are | j. against it |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Health officials from around the world have _____ that swine flu may cause more deaths. Nearly 150 people have died so _____ in Mexico. There are _____ that this death toll will rise, and that people will start dying in other countries. There are already around 2,000 reported _____ of the virus in Mexico. Countries as far _____ as New Zealand, Spain, Canada and Scotland have also reported outbreaks. U.S. health _____ have warned American citizens that there could be fatalities in the USA. Dr. Richard Besser of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters: "From what we _____ in Mexico, I think people need to be ready for the _____ that we could see more severe cases in this country and possibly deaths."

away
fears
idea
warned
cases
understand
far
officials

Health organizations everywhere are _____ for a pandemic. Scientists say the virus has not been seen before. This means there is not yet a _____ against it. Dr. Besser warned it was not easy to predict how _____ the virus is. He explained: "Outbreaks of infectious diseases are extremely unpredictable and variable, and so over _____, what we say about this and what we learn will change." Many countries are _____ precautions to prevent swine flu crossing their borders. However, it is almost impossible to stop the virus entering a country _____ airplane or ship passengers. The outbreak could be bad for the world's economy, _____ the airline industry. Many would-be travelers are canceling their _____ plans and staying at home.

via
serious
travel
preparing
taking
vaccine
especially
time

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the gaps.

Health officials from around the world have warned that swine flu _____ . Nearly 150 people have died so far in Mexico. There are fears that this _____ , and that people will start dying in other countries. There are already around 2,000 reported cases of the virus in Mexico. Countries _____ New Zealand, Spain, Canada and Scotland have also reported outbreaks. U.S. health officials have warned American citizens that there _____ in the USA. Dr. Richard Besser of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters: " _____ understand in Mexico, I think people need to be ready for the idea that we could see _____ in this country and possibly deaths."

Health organizations everywhere are preparing _____. Scientists say the virus has not been seen before. This means there is not _____ it. Dr. Besser warned it was not easy to predict how serious the virus is. He explained: "Outbreaks of infectious diseases are extremely unpredictable and variable, _____, what we say about this and what we learn will change." Many countries are taking precautions to prevent swine flu crossing their borders. However, it is almost impossible _____ entering a country via airplane or ship passengers. The outbreak could be bad for the world's economy, especially the airline industry. Many _____ are canceling their travel plans and staying at home.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'health' and 'official'.

health	official
---------------	-----------------

- 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">• so far• toll• reported• away• could• severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preparing• vaccine• extremely• crossing• bad• plans
--	--

STUDENT DISEASE SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about disease 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.

SWINE FLU DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'flu'?
- c) What do you know about swine flu?
- d) How worried are you that swine flu might spread to your area?
- e) Do you think swine flu will become a pandemic?
- f) What's your country doing about swine flu?
- g) Do you think countries should close their borders?
- h) What do you think authorities should do at airports?
- i) What do people need to do to be ready for a possible outbreak?
- j) What would you do if swine flu hit your town?

Swine flu deaths expected to rise – 28th April, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

SWINE FLU DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Why do you think this disease has never been seen before?
- c) How do health organizations prepare for a pandemic?
- d) Why do you think it's difficult to predict the seriousness of this disease?
- e) What do you remember about recent outbreaks such as bird flu and SARS?
- f) What would you do if your government told you to stay at home for a month?
- g) How might swine flu affect the world's economy?
- h) Would you cancel your travel plans?
- i) Would you like to work in a lab to find a vaccine for swine flu?
- j) What questions would you ask Dr. Richard Besser?

Swine flu deaths expected to rise – 28th April, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright 2009

LANGUAGE

Health officials from around the world have (1) _____ that swine flu may cause more deaths. Nearly 150 people have died so far in Mexico. There are fears that this death toll will (2) _____, and that people will start dying in other countries. There are already around 2,000 (3) _____ cases of the virus in Mexico. Countries as far away as New Zealand, Spain, Canada and Scotland have also reported outbreaks. U.S. health officials have warned American citizens that there could be (4) _____ in the USA. Dr. Richard Besser (5) _____ the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters: "From what we understand in Mexico, I think people need to be ready (6) _____ the idea that we could see more severe cases in this country and possibly deaths."

Health organizations everywhere are preparing (7) _____ a pandemic. Scientists say the virus has not been seen before. This means there is not yet a vaccine (8) _____ it. Dr. Besser warned it was not easy to predict (9) _____ serious the virus is. He explained: "Outbreaks of infectious diseases are extremely unpredictable and variable, and so over time, what we say about this and what we learn will change." Many countries are (10) _____ precautions to prevent swine flu crossing their borders. However, it is almost impossible to stop the virus entering a country (11) _____ airplane or ship passengers. The outbreak could be bad for the world's economy, especially the airline industry. Many (12) _____ travelers are canceling their travel plans and staying at home.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) warned | (b) warns | (c) warning | (d) warn |
| 2. | (a) arise | (b) rise | (c) raise | (d) rising |
| 3. | (a) reports | (b) reporting | (c) reported | (d) reporters |
| 4. | (a) fatality | (b) fatally | (c) fatal | (d) fatalities |
| 5. | (a) by | (b) to | (c) for | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) to | (c) for | (d) of |
| 7. | (a) for | (b) of | (c) by | (d) to |
| 8. | (a) counter | (b) against | (c) pushing | (d) opposed |
| 9. | (a) what | (b) that | (c) how | (d) which |
| 10. | (a) taking | (b) take | (c) took | (d) taken |
| 11. | (a) viva | (b) vial | (c) vibes | (d) via |
| 12. | (a) would have | (b) would-be | (c) wouldn't | (d) wouldn't've |

WRITING:

Write about **viruses** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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 swine flu. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. OUTBREAKS: Make a poster about three different outbreaks of viruses. What happened to stop the outbreak from killing more people? Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CLOSED BORDERS: Write a magazine article about whether it is good or not to close a country's borders to stop swine flu from entering. Include imaginary interviews with someone who thinks yes, and someone who thinks no.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to Dr. Richard Besser. Ask him three questions about swine flu. Give him three ideas on what to do to prevent a pandemic. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. F d. F e. F f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. warned | a. cautioned |
| 2. so far | b. to date |
| 3. death toll | c. number of dead |
| 4. fatalities | d. deaths |
| 5. severe | e. serious |
| 6. pandemic | f. outbreak |
| 7. extremely | g. very |
| 8. via | h. through |
| 9. especially | i. particularly |
| 10. would-be | j. potential |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. swine flu may cause | a. more deaths |
| 2. There are fears that this death | b. toll will rise |
| 3. Countries as far away | c. as New Zealand |
| 4. there could be fatalities | d. in the USA |
| 5. people need to be ready | e. for the idea |
| 6. there is not yet a vaccine | f. against it |
| 7. predict how serious | g. the virus is |
| 8. Many countries are taking | h. precautions |
| 9. The outbreak could be bad for | i. the world's economy |
| 10. Many would-be travelers are | j. canceling their travel plans |

GAP FILL:

Swine flu deaths expected to rise

Health officials from around the world have **warned** that swine flu may cause more deaths. Nearly 150 people have died so **far** in Mexico. There are **fears** that this death toll will rise, and that people will start dying in other countries. There are already around 2,000 reported **cases** of the virus in Mexico. Countries as far **away** as New Zealand, Spain, Canada and Scotland have also reported outbreaks. U.S. health **officials** have warned American citizens that there could be fatalities in the USA. Dr. Richard Besser of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters: "From what we **understand** in Mexico, I think people need to be ready for the **idea** that we could see more severe cases in this country and possibly deaths."

Health organizations everywhere are **preparing** for a pandemic. Scientists say the virus has not been seen before. This means there is not yet a **vaccine** against it. Dr. Besser warned it was not easy to predict how **serious** the virus is. He explained: "Outbreaks of infectious diseases are extremely unpredictable and variable, and so over **time**, what we say about this and what we learn will change." Many countries are **taking** precautions to prevent swine flu crossing their borders. However, it is almost impossible to stop the virus entering a country **via** airplane or ship passengers. The outbreak could be bad for the world's economy, **especially** the airline industry. Many would-be travelers are canceling their **travel** plans and staying at home.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a 2 - b 3 - c 4 - d 5 - d 6 - c 7 - a 8 - b 9 - c 10 - a 11 - d 12 - b