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## Level 2

### New plants can produce light in the dark

18th December, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171218-plants-2.html>

## Contents

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| The Reading          | 2 |
| Phrase Matching      | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill   | 4 |
| No Spaces            | 5 |
| Survey               | 6 |
| Writing and Speaking | 7 |
| Writing              | 8 |

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

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171218-plants-2.html>

Scientists have made plants that glow in the dark. They want to make plants that can light up our lives. The scientists are from a university in the USA. They hope their plant lights could replace electric lights. Trees could produce light that could replace street lights. Lead author professor Michael Strano explained that his team wants to make light sources and help the environment. He said: "The vision is to make a plant that will function as a desk lamp - a lamp that you don't have to plug in. The light is...powered by the energy...of the plant itself."

The idea for the lighting plants came from fireflies. The researchers used the substance in fireflies that makes them glow. They put the substance into plant leaves to make them glow. The scientists made plants that glowed for nearly four hours. The research team tested the substance on spinach and watercress leaves. Professor Strano said: "Our target is to perform one treatment, when the plant is a seedling or a mature plant, and have it last for the lifetime of the plant." He said plant lights will be a part of our life. He said: "We think this is an idea whose time has come."

Sources: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/glowing-plants-streetlamps-lamps-replacement-new-invention-a8113191.html>  
<http://news.mit.edu/2017/engineers-create-nanobionic-plants-that-glow-1213>  
<https://phys.org/news/2017-12-engineers-create-plants-that-glow.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171218-plants-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. plants that glow         | a. function as a desk lamp    |
| 2. make plants that can     | b. in the dark                |
| 3. their plant lights could | c. energy of the plant itself |
| 4. replace street           | d. light up our lives         |
| 5. help the                 | e. have to plug in            |
| 6. make a plant that will   | f. lights                     |
| 7. a lamp that you don't    | g. environment                |
| 8. powered by the           | h. replace electric lights    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The idea for the lighting plants | a. leaves              |
| 2. They put the substance           | b. seedling            |
| 3. spinach and watercress           | c. time has come       |
| 4. Our target is to perform         | d. came from fireflies |
| 5. when the plant is a              | e. of our life         |
| 6. last for the lifetime            | f. into plant leaves   |
| 7. plant lights will be a part      | g. one treatment       |
| 8. We think this is an idea whose   | h. of the plant        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171218-plants-2.html>

Scientists have made plants (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the dark. They want to make plants that can (2) \_\_\_\_\_ lives. The scientists are from a university in the USA. They hope their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ replace electric lights. Trees could produce light that could replace street lights. Lead author professor Michael Strano explained that his team wants (4) \_\_\_\_\_ sources and help the environment. He said: "The vision is to make a plant that will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ desk lamp - a lamp that you don't have to plug in. The light is...powered by the energy...of (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The idea for the lighting plants (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The researchers used the substance in fireflies that makes them glow. They put (8) \_\_\_\_\_ plant leaves to make them glow. The scientists made plants that glowed (9) \_\_\_\_\_ hours. The research team tested the substance on spinach and watercress leaves. Professor Strano said: "Our (10) \_\_\_\_\_ perform one treatment, when the plant is a seedling or a mature plant, and have it (11) \_\_\_\_\_ lifetime of the plant." He said plant lights will be a part of our life. He said: "We think this is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ time has come."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171218-plants-2.html>

Scientists have made plants that glow in the dark. They want to make plants that can light up our lives. These scientists are from a university in the USA. They hope their plant lights could replace electric lights. Trees could produce light that could replace street lights. Lead author professor Michael Strano explained that his team wants to make light sources and help the environment. He said: "The vision is to make a plant that will function as a desk lamp - a lamp that you don't have to plug in. The light is... powered by the energy... of the plant itself." The idea for the lighting plants came from fireflies. The researchers used the substance in fireflies that makes them glow. They put the substance into plant leaves to make them glow. The scientists made plants that glowed for nearly four hours. The research team tested the substance on spinach and watercress leaves. Professor Strano said: "Our target is to perform one treatment, when the plant is a seedling or a mature plant, and have it last for the lifetime of the plant." He said plant lights will be a part of our life. He said: "We think this is an idea whose time has come."

# LIGHT PLANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171218-plants-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Light plants 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*New plants can produce light in the dark – 18th December, 2017*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

