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Level 4

Centipedes eat animals 15 times their size

26th January, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

We must be careful of centipedes. The poison from them is highly poisonous and can be deadly. It can paralyze and kill small animals. It can sometimes kill humans. Scientists found a deadly poison in the venom that can stop the hearts of animals 15 times bigger than a centipede. The toxin was in the Chinese red-headed centipede. It works by blocking potassium in cells. This stops an animal's brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, causing a quick death.

The venom rarely kills humans, but it causes pain and swelling for two weeks. An expert in toxins at an institute of zoology said the centipede's venom harms the heart, lungs, and muscular and nervous systems. It has not been found in other poisonous animals. The word "centipede" means 100 legs, but centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have between 30 and 354. They always have an odd number of pairs of legs, so no centipede has exactly 100 legs.

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/giant-centipede-can-kill-animals-15-times-bigger-and-scientists-have-just-discovered-how-11220533>
<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/blogs/centipede-toxin-potent-venom>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/01/22/centipedes-eat-animals-15-times-their-size-thanks-to-this-powerful-toxin-study-finds/?utm_term=.5bb67ddc33d4

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The poison from them is highly | a. beat |
| 2. It can sometimes kill | b. than a centipede |
| 3. Scientists found a deadly | c. humans |
| 4. 15 times bigger | d. death |
| 5. It works by | e. poison |
| 6. This stops an animal's brain from | f. poisonous |
| 7. the heart to | g. blocking potassium |
| 8. causing a quick | h. sending signals |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. it causes pain | a. harms the heart |
| 2. the centipede's venom | b. number |
| 3. muscular and nervous | c. and swelling |
| 4. other poisonous | d. 100 legs |
| 5. The word "centipede" | e. of legs |
| 6. They always have an odd | f. animals |
| 7. pairs | g. systems |
| 8. no centipede has exactly | h. means 100 legs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

We (1) _____ of centipedes. The poison from them is highly poisonous and can be deadly. It can (2) _____ small animals. It can sometimes kill humans. Scientists found (3) _____ in the venom that can (4) _____ of animals 15 times bigger than a centipede. The toxin was in the Chinese red-headed centipede. It (5) _____ potassium in cells. This stops an animal's brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, (6) _____ death.

The (7) _____ humans, but it causes pain and swelling for two weeks. An expert in toxins at an (8) _____ said the centipede's (9) _____ heart, lungs, and muscular and nervous systems. It has not been (10) _____ poisonous animals. The word "centipede" means 100 legs, but centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have (11) _____ 354. They always have an odd number of pairs of legs, so no centipede (12) _____ legs.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

Wemustbecarefulofcentipedes.Thepoisonfromthemishighlypoisono
usandcanbedeadly.Itcanparalyseandkillsmallanimals.Itcansometi
meskillhumans.Scientistsfoundadeadlypoisoninthevenomthatcanst
optheheartsofanimals15timesbiggerthanacentipede.Thetoxinwasin
theChinesered-headedcentipede.Itworksbyblockingpotassiumince
lls.Thisstopsananimal'sbrainfromsendingsignalstothehearttobeat,c
ausingaquickdeath.Thevenomrarelykillshumans,butitcausespainan
dswellingfortwoweeks.Anexpertintoxinsataninstituteofzoologysaidt
hecentipede'svenomharmstheheart,lungs,andmuscularandnervous
systems.Ithasnotbeenfoundinotherpoisonousanimals.Theword"cen
tipede"means100legs,butcentipedesdonothave100legs.Theyhaveb
etween30and354.Theyalwayshaveanoddnumberofpairsoflegs,sono
centipedehasexactly100legs.

CENTIPEDES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about centipedes 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/1801/180126-centipede-4.html>

Write about **centipedes** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
