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## Level 5

### Centipedes eat animals 15 times their size

26th January, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-5.html>

We should be very careful of centipedes. The venom from these creatures packs a serious punch. It can cause paralysis and death in small animals. A centipede's sting is highly poisonous and can kill humans. Scientists have discovered a deadly toxin in the venom that can stop the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than a centipede. The toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede, which can grow to be eight inches long, blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This prevents an animal's brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, which leads to a rapid death.

The venom rarely kills humans, but it can be unbelievably painful. It also causes swelling for up to two weeks. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert in toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, said: "The centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and nervous systems." This has not been found in other poisonous animals. Despite their name, centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a number of legs, ranging from 30 to 354. Centipedes always have an odd number of pairs of legs. This means 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](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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. We should be very careful       | a. punch                |
| 2. The venom from these            | b. inches long          |
| 3. packs a serious                 | c. death                |
| 4. It can cause paralysis          | d. of centipedes        |
| 5. 15 times bigger                 | e. from sending signals |
| 6. grow to be eight                | f. creatures            |
| 7. This prevents an animal's brain | g. than a centipede     |
| 8. leads to a rapid                | h. and death            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The venom rarely kills      | a. up to two weeks  |
| 2. it can be unbelievably      | b. of pairs of legs |
| 3. It also causes swelling for | c. exactly 100 legs |
| 4. muscular and                | d. from 30 to 354   |
| 5. found in other poisonous    | e. humans           |
| 6. a number of legs, ranging   | f. animals          |
| 7. have an odd number          | g. nervous systems  |
| 8. This means no centipede has | h. painful          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-5.html>

We should be very (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The venom from these creatures (2) \_\_\_\_\_ punch. It can cause paralysis and death in small animals. A centipede's sting is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ can kill humans. Scientists have discovered a deadly toxin in the venom that can stop the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that are 15 times bigger than a centipede. The toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede, which can grow to be (5) \_\_\_\_\_, blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This prevents an animal's brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, which leads to (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ humans, but it can be unbelievably painful. It also (8) \_\_\_\_\_ up to two weeks. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert in toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, said: "The centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously (9) \_\_\_\_\_, respiratory, muscular and nervous systems." This has not been found in other poisonous animals. (10) \_\_\_\_\_, centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a number of legs, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to 354. Centipedes always have an odd number of pairs of legs. This means no centipede (12) \_\_\_\_\_ legs.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180126-centipede-5.html>

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spacks a serious punch. It can cause paralysis and death in small animals.  
A centipede's sting is highly poisonous and can kill humans. Scientists have  
discovered a deadly toxin in the venom that can stop the heart of an animal  
that is 15 times bigger than a centipede. The toxin in the Chinese red-  
headed centipede, which can grow to be eight inches long, blocks potassium  
from moving in and out of cells. This prevents an animal's brain from sending  
signals to the heart to beat, which leads to a rapid death. The venom  
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for up to two weeks. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert in toxins at China's  
Kunming Institute of Zoology, said: "The centipede's venom has evolved to  
simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and nervous systems."  
This has not been found in other poisonous animals. Despite their name, centipedes  
do not have 100 legs. They have an number of legs, ranging from 30 to 354.  
Centipedes always have an odd number of pairs of legs. This means no centipede has  
exactly 100 legs.

# 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<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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Centipedes eat animals 15 times their size – 26th January, 2018*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

