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## Level 6

# Centipedes eat animals 15 times their size

26th January, 2018

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

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Centipedes are the kind of creatures that are not to be messed with. Their venom packs a serious punch and can cause rapid paralysis and death in insects and small animals. They have even been known to kill people with their highly venomous sting. Scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can shut down the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than them. The scientists isolated a toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This beast can grow to roughly eight inches in length. The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, thus causing a rapid death.

The venom is rarely fatal for humans, but it can cause agonizing pain and swelling for up to two weeks. The scientists have called it SSM Spooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert in toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, explained: "The centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in other venomous animals." Despite their name (*centi* is "hundred" in Latin and *pedis* is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a varying 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)

# WARM-UPS

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

careful / centipedes / poisonous / deadly / small animals / venom / potassium / heart fatal / scientist / expert / cardiovascular / strategy / hundred / varying / odd numbers

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

**3. INSECTS:** Students A **strongly** believe we should never kill insects; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. CREATURES:** How dangerous are these creatures? Are there good things about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How dangerous?	Good things?
Centipedes		
Scorpions		
Snakes		
Spiders		
Hornets		
Frogs		

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

**6. INSECTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best insects / creatures at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- centipedes
- ants
- butterflies
- worms
- wasps
- beetles
- mosquitos
- bees

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. creatures   | a. Has something that is capable of hitting something powerfully.  |
| 2. messed with | b. Animals, birds, insects and similar living things, except human beings.   |
| 3. venom       | c. A poisonous liquid that animals such as snakes, spiders, and scorpions inject into other animals by biting or stinging them.      |
| 4. packs       | d. The loss of the ability to move (and sometimes to feel anything) in part or most of the body (due to illness, poison, or injury). |
| 5. rapid       | e. Identified something and examined or dealt with it separately.  |
| 6. paralysis   | f. Got involved with something that could cause you (big) trouble.   |
| 7. isolated    | g. Happening in a short time or at a fast pace.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. fatal        | h. A person who has a great deal of knowledge of or skill in a particular area.                     |
| 9. agonizing    | i. Causing great physical or mental pain.   |
| 10. swelling    | j. Relating to or affecting breathing or the organs of breathing (i.e. the lungs).                  |
| 11. expert      | k. An abnormal enlargement of a part of the body, usually because of a build-up of liquid or fluid. |
| 12. disrupt     | l. Interrupt an event, activity, or process by causing a disturbance or problem.                    |
| 13. respiratory | m. Causing death.   |
| 14. varying     | n. Differing in size, amount, degree, or nature from something else of the same general class.      |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. The article suggests people should mess with centipedes. **T / F**
- b. Centipedes punch insects and small animals. **T / F**
- c. Scientists looked at a toxin in a Chinese centipede. **T / F**
- d. The toxin pumps potassium from cells to an animal's brain. **T / F**
- e. A centipede sting can swell up for two weeks. **T / F**
- f. Scientists named the toxin SSM Spooky. **T / F**
- g. Centipede means 100 legs. **T / F**
- h. A centipede can have fifty pairs of legs. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1. creatures</b>      | a. differing    |
| <b>2. paralysis</b>      | b. pinpointed   |
| <b>3. deadly</b>         | c. severe       |
| <b>4. isolated</b>       | d. fatal        |
| <b>5. prevents</b>       | e. concurrently |
| <b>6. agonizing</b>      | f. beasts       |
| <b>7. expert</b>         | g. precisely    |
| <b>8. simultaneously</b> | h. stops        |
| <b>9. varying</b>        | i. immobility   |
| <b>10. exactly</b>       | j. specialist   |

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

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the kind of creatures that are not | a. and death in insects    |
| 2. Their venom packs                  | b. number of pairs of legs |
| 3. cause rapid paralysis              | c. signals to the heart    |
| 4. This beast can grow to roughly     | d. for humans              |
| 5. prevents the brain from sending    | e. animals                 |
| 6. The venom is rarely fatal          | f. to be messed with       |
| 7. respiratory, muscular and          | g. from 30 to 354          |
| 8. found in other venomous            | h. eight inches in length  |
| 9. ranging                            | i. a serious punch         |
| 10. Centipedes always have an odd     | j. nervous systems         |

# GAP FILL

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

Centipedes are the kind of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that are not to be messed with. Their venom packs a serious (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and can cause rapid paralysis and death in insects and small animals. They have even been known to kill people with their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ venomous sting. Scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can (4) \_\_\_\_\_ down the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than them. The scientists (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This beast can grow to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ eight inches in length. The toxin in its venom (7) \_\_\_\_\_ potassium from moving in and out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, thus causing a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ death.

*isolated*  
*punch*  
*roughly*  
*highly*  
*rapid*  
*creatures*  
*shut*  
*blocks*

The venom is rarely (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for humans, but it can cause agonizing pain and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for up to two weeks. The scientists have called it SSM Spooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, explained: "The "centipede's venom has (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in other (14) \_\_\_\_\_ animals." Despite their name (*centi* is "hundred" in Latin and *pedis* is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a varying number of legs, (15) \_\_\_\_\_ from 30 to 354. Centipedes always have an (16) \_\_\_\_\_ number of pairs of legs. This means no centipede has exactly 100 legs.

*expert*  
*muscular*  
*ranging*  
*fatal*  
*odd*  
*swelling*  
*venomous*  
*evolved*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Centipedes are the kind of creatures that are not to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be massed with
  - b. be mist with
  - c. be mess with
  - d. be messed with
- 2) Their venom packs a serious punch and can cause \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. rabid paralysis
  - b. vapid paralysis
  - c. rapid paralysis
  - d. wrap it paralysis
- 3) discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can shut down \_\_\_\_\_ animals
  - a. the hurts of
  - b. the harts of
  - c. the heats of
  - d. the hearts of
- 4) The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in \_\_\_\_\_ cells
  - a. and out of
  - b. and out off
  - c. and out if
  - d. and outer
- 5) blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. heart to be at
  - b. heart to be it
  - c. heart to beet
  - d. heart to beat
- 6) The venom is rarely fatal for humans, but it can cause agonizing \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. pain and swell ring
  - b. pain and swelling
  - c. pain and swell in
  - d. pain and swollen
- 7) disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nervous systems
  - b. nervously systems
  - c. nerve us systems
  - d. nerve as systems
- 8) This molecular strategy has not been found in \_\_\_\_\_ animals
  - a. another venom us
  - b. other venomous
  - c. others venomous
  - d. other venom as
- 9) They have a varying number of legs, \_\_\_\_\_ 30 to 354
  - a. range in from
  - b. ranged in from
  - c. rain gin from
  - d. ranging from
- 10) an odd number of pairs of legs. This means no centipede \_\_\_\_\_ 100 legs
  - a. had exactly
  - b. has exactly
  - c. have exactly
  - d. haste exactly

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Centipedes are the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that are not to be messed with. Their venom (2) \_\_\_\_\_ punch and can cause rapid paralysis and death in insects and small animals. They have even been known to kill people with their (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can shut down the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that are 15 times bigger than them. The scientists isolated a toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to roughly eight inches in length. The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, thus (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The venom is rarely (7) \_\_\_\_\_, but it can cause agonizing (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for up to two weeks. The scientists have called it SSM Spooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an (9) \_\_\_\_\_ at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, explained: "The "centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in other venomous animals." (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (*centi* is "hundred" in Latin and *pedis* is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a varying number of legs, ranging from 30 to 354. Centipedes always have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of pairs of legs. This means no centipede has exactly 100 legs.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What kind of punch does the article say the venom packed?
2. What did scientists discover in the venom?
3. What does the venom shut down in small animals?
4. How long can the Chinese red-headed centipede grow to?
5. What chemical does the venom block in animals' brains?
6. How long might humans suffer swelling after a centipede bite?
7. What did the scientists name the toxin?
8. What does the venom disrupt besides muscular and nervous systems?
9. What does "*pedis*" mean in Latin?
10. What do centipedes always have an odd pair of?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What kind of punch does the article say the venom packed?
  - a) a hammer punch
  - b) a serious punch
  - c) a left hook
  - d) a soft punch
- 2) What did scientists discover in the venom?
  - a) a new chemical
  - b) radiation
  - c) potassium
  - d) a toxin
- 3) What does the venom shut down in small animals?
  - a) their heart
  - b) their mouth
  - c) their lungs
  - d) their eyes
- 4) How long can the Chinese red-headed centipede grow to?
  - a) 7 cm
  - b) 8 cm
  - c) 8 inches
  - d) 7 inches
- 5) What chemical does the venom block in animals' brains?
  - a) magnesium
  - b) potassium
  - c) iron
  - d) calcium
- 6) How long might humans suffer swelling after a centipede bite?
  - a) two weeks
  - b) 10 days
  - c) a week
  - d) a few days
- 7) What did the scientists name the toxin?
  - a) SMM Moosky
  - b) SMS Poosky
  - c) SSM Spooky
  - d) MSM Moo Ski
- 8) What does the venom disrupt besides muscular and nervous systems?
  - a) cardiovascular and respiratory systems
  - b) immune and digestive systems
  - c) skeletal and reproductive systems
  - d) renal and endocrine systems
- 9) What does "*pedis*" mean in Latin?
  - a) foot
  - b) toe
  - c) ankle
  - d) heel
- 10) What do centipedes always have an odd pair of?
  - a) stingers
  - b) eyes
  - c) antenna
  - d) legs

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Centipedes**

You think centipedes are the best creepy-crawlies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): ants, worms or beetles.

## **Role B – Ants**

You think ants are the best creepy-crawlies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): centipedes, worms or beetles.

## **Role C – Worms**

You think worms are the best creepy-crawlies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): ants, centipedes or beetles.

## **Role D – Beetles**

You think beetles are the best creepy-crawlies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): ants, worms or centipedes.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

<b>creature</b>	<b>poison</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>• messed</li><li>• death</li><li>• deadly</li><li>• shut</li><li>• moving</li><li>• beat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rarely</li><li>• called</li><li>• expert</li><li>• evolved</li><li>• strategy</li><li>• exactly</li></ul>
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# CENTIPEDES SURVEY

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

# CENTIPEDES 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 'serious'?
3. What do you think of centipedes?
4. What is your favourite insect, and why?
5. What other creatures should never be messed with?
6. Why do the centipedes have such a poisonous toxin?
7. What other ways do animals have of protecting themselves?
8. What function do centipedes play in the natural world?
9. What do you know about centipedes?
10. What would you do if a centipede was on you?

*Centipedes eat animals 15 times their size – 26th January, 2018*  
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# CENTIPEDES 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 'punch'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How painful do you think a centipede might be?
15. What would it be like to be an expert in zoology?
16. How could scientists use the centipede venom to help humans?
17. What do you think of the name "centipede"?
18. What would life be like with more legs?
19. Why do centipedes need so many legs?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## **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/1801/180126-centipede.html>

Centipedes are the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of creatures that are not to be messed with. Their venom packs a serious punch and can cause rapid (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and death in insects and small animals. They have even been known to kill people with their highly venomous sting. Scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin (3) \_\_\_\_\_ centipede venom that can shut (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than them. The scientists isolated a toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This beast can grow to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ eight inches in length. The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ causing a rapid death.

The venom is rarely fatal for humans, but it can cause agonizing pain and swelling for (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to two weeks. The scientists have called it SSM Spooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert (8) \_\_\_\_\_ toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, explained: "The "centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, (9) \_\_\_\_\_, muscular and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in other venomous animals." (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their name (*centi* is "hundred" in Latin and *pedis* is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ number of legs, ranging from 30 to 354. Centipedes always have an (12) \_\_\_\_\_ number of pairs of legs. This means no centipede has exactly 100 legs.

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

- |     |                 |                  |                  |                   |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) kindness    | (b) kindly       | (c) kind         | (d) kinds         |
| 2.  | (a) paralysis   | (b) paralyze     | (c) paralytic    | (d) parallel      |
| 3.  | (a) in          | (b) on           | (c) at           | (d) to            |
| 4.  | (a) down        | (b) on           | (c) up           | (d) in            |
| 5.  | (a) rough-up    | (b) rough        | (c) rougher      | (d) roughly       |
| 6.  | (a) those       | (b) this         | (c) these        | (d) thus          |
| 7.  | (a) up          | (b) as           | (c) for          | (d) by            |
| 8.  | (a) by          | (b) to           | (c) at           | (d) in            |
| 9.  | (a) respiratory | (b) perspiration | (c) constipation | (d) contamination |
| 10. | (a) Spite       | (b) Despite      | (c) Spiteful     | (d) In spite      |
| 11. | (a) varies      | (b) varying      | (c) variety      | (d) various       |
| 12. | (a) odd         | (b) add          | (c) udder        | (d) eddy          |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. eesucrtra that are not to be messed with
2. cause rapid rsaiysalp
3. highly uonsoevm sting
4. The scientists ioeatdls a toxin
5. grow to rulgyoh eight inches in length
6. prevents the brain from sending ilsgasn

## Paragraph 2

7. it can cause nagiionzg pain
8. wsilgenl for up to two weeks
9. an rtpeex in toxins
10. The centipede's venom has eovldve
11. respiratory, arsumulc and nervous systems
12. They have a nvgayri number of legs

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) known to kill people with their highly venomous sting. Scientists have now discovered a deadly
- ( ) (centi is "hundred" in Latin and pedis is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a varying
- ( ) in length. The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents
- ( ) in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This beast can grow to roughly eight inches
- ( ) and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in other venomous animals." Despite their name
- ( **1** ) Centipedes are the kind of creatures that are not to be messed with. Their venom packs a serious
- ( ) punch and can cause rapid paralysis and death in insects and small animals. They have even been
- ( ) weeks. The scientists have called it SSM Spooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert in toxins at China's Kunming Institute
- ( ) number of pairs of legs. This means no centipede has exactly 100 legs.
- ( ) of Zoology, explained: "The "centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular
- ( ) toxin in centipede venom that can shut down the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than them. The scientists isolated a toxin
- ( ) the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, thus causing a rapid death.
- ( ) number of legs, ranging from 30 to 354. Centipedes always have an odd
- ( ) The venom is rarely fatal for humans, but it can cause agonizing pain and swelling for up to two

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. to Creatures be with . are that messed not
2. known to even been people . kill They have
3. 15 that times than them . bigger Animals are
4. The potassium . in its venom blocks toxin
5. prevents Potassium brain the from signals . sending
6. is humans . fatal for The venom rarely
7. two pain weeks . to up Cause for agonizing
8. number They have legs . of a varying
9. of always number odd have an pairs . Centipedes
10. exactly no 100 centipede has This legs . means

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Centipedes are the kind of *creatures / creatives* that are not to be messed with. Their venom packs a *serious / seriously* punch and can cause *rapid / rapidly* paralysis and death in insects and small animals. They have even been *knowing / known* to kill people with their *highly / high* venomous sting. Scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can shut *up / down* the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than *these / them*. The scientists isolated a toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This *baste / beast* can grow to roughly eight inches *on / in* length. The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in *and / to* out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, thus *causing / cause* a rapid death.

The venom is *rare / rarely* fatal for humans, but it can cause *agonizing / agony* pain and swelling for up to two weeks. The scientists have called it SSM Spooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an *expertly / expert* in toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, explained: "The "centipede's venom has *evolved / evolution* to simultaneously *depart / disrupt* cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in *another / other* venomous animals." *Despite / Spite* their name (*centi* is "hundred" in Latin and *pedis* is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a *vary / varying* number of legs, *ranging / range* from 30 to 354. Centipedes always have an odd number *of / from* pairs of legs. This means no centipede has exactly 100 legs.

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

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

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C \_ n \_ t \_ p \_ d \_ s \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ k \_ n \_ d \_ f \_ c \_ r \_ t \_ r  
\_ s \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ r \_ n \_ t \_ t \_ b \_ m \_ s \_ s \_ d \_ w \_ t \_ h .  
T h \_ r \_ v \_ n \_ m \_ p \_ c \_ k \_ s \_ s \_ r \_ s \_ p \_ n \_ c \_ h  
\_ n \_ d \_ c \_ n \_ c \_ s \_ r \_ p \_ d \_ p \_ r \_ l \_ y \_ s \_ s \_ n \_ d  
d \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ n \_ s \_ c \_ t \_ s \_ n \_ d \_ s \_ m \_ l \_ l \_ n \_ m \_ l \_ s  
. T h \_ y \_ h \_ v \_ v \_ n \_ b \_ n \_ k \_ n \_ w \_ n \_ t \_ k \_ l  
l \_ p \_ p \_ l \_ w \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ h \_ g \_ h \_ l \_ y \_ v \_ n \_ m \_  
\_ s \_ s \_ t \_ n \_ g . S \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ s \_ h \_ v \_ n \_ w \_ d \_ s \_ c  
\_ v \_ r \_ d \_ d \_ d \_ l \_ y \_ t \_ x \_ n \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ p \_ d  
\_ v \_ n \_ m \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ c \_ n \_ s \_ h \_ t \_ d \_ w \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ h \_  
\_ r \_ t \_ s \_ f \_ n \_ m \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ r \_ 1 5 \_ t \_ m \_ s  
b \_ g \_ g \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ m . T h \_ s \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ s \_  
s \_ l \_ t \_ d \_ t \_ x \_ n \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ C \_ h \_ n \_ s \_ r \_ d  
\_ h \_ d \_ d \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ p \_ d . T h \_ s \_ b \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ n  
g \_ r \_ w \_ t \_ r \_ g \_ h \_ l \_ y \_ g \_ h \_ t \_ n \_ c \_ h \_ s \_ n \_ l \_  
n \_ g \_ t \_ h . T h \_ t \_ x \_ n \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ v \_ n \_ m \_ b \_ l \_ c \_ k  
s \_ p \_ t \_ s \_ s \_ m \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ m \_ v \_ n \_ g \_ n \_ n \_ d \_  
t \_ f \_ c \_ l \_ l \_ s . T h \_ s \_ b \_ l \_ c \_ k \_ n \_ g \_ f \_ p \_ t \_ s \_ s  
\_ m \_ p \_ r \_ v \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ h \_ b \_ r \_ n \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ s \_ n \_ d \_  
n \_ g \_ s \_ g \_ n \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ h \_ r \_ t \_ t \_ b \_ t , \_ t \_ h  
\_ s \_ c \_ s \_ n \_ g \_ r \_ p \_ d \_ d \_ t \_ h .

T h \_ v \_ n \_ m \_ s \_ r \_ r \_ l \_ y \_ f \_ t \_ l \_ f \_ r \_ h \_ m \_  
n \_ s , \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ c \_ n \_ c \_ s \_ g \_ n \_ z \_ n \_ g \_ p \_  
n \_ n \_ d \_ s \_ w \_ l \_ l \_ n \_ g \_ f \_ r \_ p \_ t \_ t \_ w \_ w \_ k \_ s  
. T h \_ s \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ s \_ h \_ v \_ c \_ l \_ l \_ d \_ t \_ S \_ S  
M \_ S \_ p \_ k \_ y \_ T \_ x \_ n . R \_ s \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ r \_ S \_ h \_ l \_ n  
g \_ Y \_ n \_ g , \_ n \_ x \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ n \_ t \_ x \_ n \_ s \_ t \_ C \_ h \_  
n \_ ' \_ s \_ K \_ n \_ m \_ n \_ g \_ I \_ n \_ s \_ t \_ t \_ t \_ f \_ Z \_ l \_ g \_ y ,  
\_ x \_ p \_ l \_ n \_ d : " T h \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ p \_ d \_ ' \_ s \_ v \_ n \_  
m \_ h \_ s \_ v \_ l \_ v \_ d \_ t \_ s \_ m \_ l \_ t \_ n \_ s \_ l \_ y \_ d  
\_ s \_ r \_ p \_ t \_ c \_ r \_ d \_ v \_ s \_ c \_ l \_ r , \_ r \_ s \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ r \_ y  
, \_ m \_ s \_ c \_ l \_ r \_ n \_ d \_ n \_ r \_ v \_ s \_ s \_ y \_ s \_ t \_ m \_ s . T h  
\_ s \_ m \_ l \_ c \_ l \_ r \_ s \_ t \_ r \_ t \_ g \_ y \_ h \_ s \_ n \_ t \_ b \_ n  
f \_ n \_ d \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ v \_ n \_ m \_ s \_ n \_ m \_ l \_ s . "  
D \_ s \_ p \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ n \_ m \_ ( \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ " \_ h \_ n  
d \_ r \_ d " \_ n \_ L \_ t \_ n \_ n \_ d \_ p \_ d \_ s \_ s \_ " \_ f \_ t \_  
) , \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ p \_ d \_ s \_ d \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ v \_ 1 0 0 \_ l \_ g \_ s  
. T h \_ y \_ h \_ v \_ v \_ r \_ y \_ n \_ g \_ n \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ f \_ l \_  
g \_ s , \_ r \_ n \_ g \_ n \_ g \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ 3 0 \_ t \_ 3 5 4 . C \_ n \_ t \_ p  
\_ d \_ s \_ l \_ w \_ y \_ s \_ h \_ v \_ n \_ d \_ d \_ n \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ f  
p \_ r \_ s \_ f \_ l \_ g \_ s . T h \_ s \_ m \_ n \_ s \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_  
p \_ d \_ h \_ s \_ x \_ c \_ t \_ l \_ y \_ 1 0 0 \_ l \_ g \_ s .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

centipedes are the kind of creatures that are not to be messed with their venom packs a serious punch and can cause rapid paralysis and death in insects and small animals they have even been known to kill people with their highly venomous sting scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can shut down the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than them the scientists isolated a toxin in the chinese redheaded centipede this beast can grow to roughly eight inches in length the toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells this blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat thus causing a rapid death

the venom is rarely fatal for humans but it can cause agonizing pain and swelling for up to two weeks the scientists have called it ssm spooky toxin researcher shilong yang an expert in toxins at chinas kunming institute of zoology explained the centipedes venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular respiratory muscular and nervous systems this molecular strategy has not been found in other venomous animals despite their name *centi* is hundred in latin and *pedis* is foot centipedes do not have 100 legs they have a varying 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.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Centipedes are the kind of creature that are not to be messed with. Their venom packs a serious punch and can cause rapid paralysis and death in insects and small animals. They have even been known to kill people with their highly venomous sting. Scientists have now discovered a deadly toxin in centipede venom that can shut down the hearts of animals that are 15 times bigger than them. The scientist isolated a toxin in the Chinese red-headed centipede. This beast can grow to roughly eight inches in length. The toxin in its venom blocks potassium from moving in and out of cells. This blocking of potassium prevents the brain from sending signals to the heart to beat, thus causing a rapid death. The venom is rarely fatal for humans, but it can cause agonizing pain and swelling for up to two weeks. The scientist has called it SSMSpooky Toxin. Researcher Shilong Yang, an expert in toxins at China's Kunming Institute of Zoology, explained: "The centipede's venom has evolved to simultaneously disrupt cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and nervous systems. This molecular strategy has not been found in other venomous animals." Despite their name (*centii* is "hundred" in Latin and *pedis* is "foot"), centipedes do not have 100 legs. They have a varying 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.





# 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. CENTIPEDES:** Make a poster about centipedes. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. INSECT KILLER:** Write a magazine article about insect killers (sprays, etc.) and whether we should ban them. 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 centipedes. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what we can learn from insects. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. creatures      | a. beasts       |
| 2. paralysis      | b. immobility   |
| 3. deadly         | c. fatal        |
| 4. isolated       | d. pinpointed   |
| 5. prevents       | e. stops        |
| 6. agonizing      | f. severe       |
| 7. expert         | g. specialist   |
| 8. simultaneously | h. concurrently |
| 9. varying        | i. differing    |
| 10. exactly       | j. precisely    |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A serious punch
2. A toxin
3. Their heart
4. Eight inches
5. Potassium
6. Two weeks
7. SSM Spooky
8. Cardiovascular and respiratory systems
9. Foot
10. Legs

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. a    4. c    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. a    10. d

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)