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**Level 4 – 3rd May, 2019**

## Could a friendly beluga whale be a spy?

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-4.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 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-4.html>

A professor said a beluga whale found in the Arctic Ocean near Norway's northernmost point could be a Russian spy. Locals said the beluga was very tame and enjoyed being touched. The professor said the whale had a harness for a spy camera that was "most likely" from the Russian Navy. However, images show "Equipment of St. Petersburg" written on the harness in English. A local said: "It could have swum from St. Petersburg, Florida."

There is online speculation about the whale. The US Navy uses dolphins so it could have come from Florida. A Russian naval analyst downplayed links to the Russian military. He said: "Even if there are military programs for using marine animals for navy purposes, they are unlikely to be belugas." Another Russian military official said: "If we were using this animal for spying, do you really think we'd attach a mobile phone number with [a] message?"

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/beluga-whale-linked-to-russian-military-is-affectionate-fetches-rings-for-locals-in-norway/>  
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/norway-thinks-captured-beluga-whale-030744381.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-48090616>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. near Norway's northernmost | a. Russian Navy |
| 2. the beluga was very        | b. point        |
| 3. the whale had              | c. camera       |
| 4. a spy                      | d. swum         |
| 5. most                       | e. tame         |
| 6. from the                   | f. in English   |
| 7. written on the harness     | g. likely       |
| 8. It could have              | h. a harness    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. There is online               | a. from Florida         |
| 2. The US Navy uses              | b. for spying           |
| 3. it could have come            | c. the Russian military |
| 4. A Russian naval               | d. purposes             |
| 5. downplayed links to           | e. speculation          |
| 6. Even if there are military    | f. analyst              |
| 7. using marine animals for navy | g. dolphins             |
| 8. using this animal             | h. programs             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-4.html>

A professor said a beluga (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Arctic Ocean near Norway's northernmost (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a Russian spy. Locals said the beluga (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoyed being touched. The professor said the whale (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for a spy camera that was "most likely" from the Russian Navy. (5) \_\_\_\_\_

"Equipment of St. Petersburg" written on the harness in English. A local said:

"It could (6) \_\_\_\_\_ St. Petersburg, Florida."

There (7) \_\_\_\_\_ about the whale. The US Navy uses dolphins so it could have come from Florida. A (8) \_\_\_\_\_

downplayed links to the Russian military. He said:

"(9) \_\_\_\_\_ are military programs for using marine animals

for navy purposes, they (10) \_\_\_\_\_ be belugas." Another

Russian military official said: "If we were using this

(11) \_\_\_\_\_, do you really think we'd

(12) \_\_\_\_\_ phone number with [a] message?"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-4.html>

A professor said a beluga whale found in the Arctic Ocean near Norway's northernmost point could be a Russian spy. Locals said the beluga was very tame and enjoyed being touched. The professor said the whale had a harness for a spy camera that was "most likely" from the Russian Navy. However, images show "Equipment of St. Petersburg" written on the harness in English. A local said: "It could have swum from St. Petersburg, Florida." There is online speculation about the whale. The US Navy uses dolphins so it could have come from Florida. A Russian naval analyst downplayed links to the Russian military. He said: "Even if there are military programs for using marine animals for navy purposes, they are unlikely to be belugas." Another Russian military official said: "If we were using this animal for spying, do you really think we'd attach a mobile phone number with a message?"

# SPYING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about spying 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) \_\_\_\_\_

