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Level 5 – 3rd May, 2019

Could a friendly beluga whale be a spy?

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-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/1905/190503-beluga-whale-5.html>

A professor in Norway said a beluga whale found in the Arctic Ocean near Norway's northernmost point could be a Russian spy. Local residents report that the beluga was very tame and enjoyed being stroked. The professor said the whale had a harness and mount for a spy camera. He said: "It is most likely that the Russian Navy...was involved." However, images show there is "Equipment of St. Petersburg" written on the harness in English. A local said: "It could have escaped from a Russian military facility or...swum from St. Petersburg, Florida, because of the English-language text."

There is speculation online about the whale. Journalists say it could have come from a whale-training facility in St. Petersburg, Florida. The US uses dolphins to help navy divers. A Russian naval analyst downplayed links the beluga might have with the Russian military. He said: "Even if there are military programs for using marine animals for navy purposes, they are unlikely to be belugas." A Russian military official told the BBC: "If we were using this animal for spying, do you really think we'd attach a mobile phone number with the message 'please call this number?'"

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. near Norway's northernmost | a. a spy camera |
| 2. the beluga was very | b. facility |
| 3. a harness and mount for | c. in English |
| 4. It is most | d. text |
| 5. written on the harness | e. tame |
| 6. It could have | f. likely |
| 7. a Russian military | g. point |
| 8. the English-language | h. escaped |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. speculation | a. help navy divers |
| 2. a whale-training | b. for spying |
| 3. The US uses dolphins to | c. navy purposes |
| 4. A Russian naval analyst | d. told the BBC |
| 5. military | e. online |
| 6. using marine animals for | f. programs |
| 7. A Russian military official | g. facility |
| 8. we were using this animal | h. downplayed links |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-5.html>

A professor in Norway said a beluga whale found in the Arctic Ocean near Norway's (1) _____ be a Russian spy. Local residents report that the beluga (2) _____ and enjoyed being stroked. The professor said the whale had a (3) _____ for a spy camera. He said: "It is most likely that the Russian Navy...was involved." However, (4) _____ is "Equipment of St. Petersburg" written on the harness in English. A local said: "It (5) _____ from a Russian military facility or...swum from St. Petersburg, Florida, because of the (6) _____."

There is (7) _____ the whale. Journalists say it could have come from a whale-training facility in St. Petersburg, Florida. The US uses dolphins to (8) _____. A Russian naval analyst downplayed (9) _____ might have with the Russian military. He said: "Even if there (10) _____ for using marine animals for navy purposes, they are unlikely to be belugas." A Russian military official told the BBC: "If we were using this (11) _____, do you really think we'd (12) _____ phone number with the message 'please call this number?'"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190503-beluga-whale-5.html>

A professor in Norway said a beluga whale found in the Arctic Ocean near Norway's northernmost point could be a Russian spy. Local residents report that the beluga was very tame and enjoyed being stroked. The professor said the whale had a harness and mount for a spy camera. He said: "It is most likely that the Russian Navy... was involved." However, images show there is "Equipment of St. Petersburg" written on the harness in English. A local said: "It could have escaped from a Russian military facility or... swum from St. Petersburg, Florida, because of the English-language text." There is speculation online about the whale. Journalists say it could have come from a whale-training facility in St. Petersburg, Florida. The US uses dolphins to help navy divers. A Russian naval analyst downplayed links the beluga might have with the Russian military. He said: "Even if there are military programs for using marine animals for navy purposes, they are unlikely to be belugas." A Russian military official told the BBC: "If we were using this animal for spying, do you really think we'd attach a mobile phone number with the message 'please call this number?'"

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) _____

