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**Level 2 – 18th June, 2019**

**Smartphone use could be changing shape of our skulls**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190618-skull-shape-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190618-skull-shape-2.html>

Smartphones are changing the shape of our skulls. Some people spend so long looking at smartphones that a small bump is appearing above their neck. It is big enough to feel by pressing the bottom of the skull. A health scientist at a university in Australia spoke to the BBC about the discovery. He said: "I have been a [doctor] for 20 years....In the last decade, increasingly, I have been discovering that my patients have this growth on the skull." The bump is more frequent among 18 to 30-year-olds. They spend many hours a day bent over their smartphones.

A study looked at the smartphone use of 1,200 people aged 18 to 86. The 18 to 30-year-olds were more likely to have the skull bumps. A researcher said the bumps will be more common because we bend our necks while looking at our phones. The skull bump could come from always bending the neck at an angle to look at digital devices. Bending our head at the same angle for a long time can strain the neck. Doctors call this strain "text neck". They also say the skull bump rarely causes health issues. They told people to change their posture if their neck becomes sore.

Sources: <https://www.livescience.com/65711-humans-growing-bony-skull-spikes.html>  
<https://www.insider.com/smartphone-use-could-be-changing-our-skull-shape-scientists-find-2019-6>  
<https://www.fudzilla.com/news/mobile/48880-humans-evolving-a-spike-on-the-back-of-the-head>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190618-skull-shape-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. changing the shape           | a. 18 to 30-year-olds  |
| 2. people spend so long looking | b. about the discovery |
| 3. a small bump is appearing    | c. over                |
| 4. It is big enough             | d. decade              |
| 5. spoke to the BBC             | e. at smartphones      |
| 6. In the last                  | f. of our skulls       |
| 7. more frequent among          | g. to feel             |
| 8. spend many hours a day bent  | h. above their neck    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the smartphone use of 1,200 people | a. strain "text neck" |
| 2. The 18 to 30-year-olds were        | b. their posture      |
| 3. the bumps will be more             | c. at the same angle  |
| 4. Bending our head                   | d. becomes sore       |
| 5. Doctors call this                  | e. more likely        |
| 6. the skull bump rarely causes       | f. aged 18 to 86      |
| 7. They told people to change         | g. common             |
| 8. if their neck                      | h. health issues      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190618-skull-shape-2.html>

Smartphones are changing (1) \_\_\_\_\_ our skulls. Some people spend so long looking at smartphones that a small bump (2) \_\_\_\_\_ their neck. It is big enough to feel by pressing the bottom of the skull. A health scientist at a university in Australia spoke to the BBC (3) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "I have been a [doctor] for 20 years....In (4) \_\_\_\_\_, increasingly, I have been discovering that my patients have this growth on the skull." The bump is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 18 to 30-year-olds. They spend many hours a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their smartphones.

A (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the smartphone use of 1,200 people aged 18 to 86. The 18 to 30-year-olds were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ have the skull bumps. A researcher said the bumps will be more common because we (9) \_\_\_\_\_ while looking at our phones. The skull bump could come from always bending the neck (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to look at digital devices. Bending our head at the same angle for a long time can strain the neck. Doctors call this (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They also say the skull bump rarely causes health issues. They told people to change (12) \_\_\_\_\_ their neck becomes sore.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190618-skull-shape-2.html>

Smartphones are changing the shape of our skulls. Some people spend a long time looking at smartphones that a small bump is appearing above their neck. It is big enough to feel by pressing the bottom of the skull. A health scientist at a university in Australia spoke to the BBC about the discovery. He said: "I have been a [doctor] for 20 years.... In the last decade, increasingly, I have been discovering that my patients have this growth on the skull. "The bump is more frequent among 18 to 30-year-olds. They spend many hours a day bent over their smartphones. A study looked at the smartphone use of 1,200 people aged 18 to 86. The 18 to 30-year-olds were more likely to have the skull bumps. A researcher said the bumps will be more common because we bend our necks while looking at our phones. The skull bump could come from always bending the neck at an angle to look at digital devices. Bending our head at the same angle for a long time can strain the neck. Doctors call this strain "text neck". They also say the skull bump rarely causes health issues. They told people to change their posture if their neck becomes sore.

# THE SKULL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190618-skull-shape-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the skull 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Smartphone use could be changing shape of our skulls – 18th June, 2019*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

