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**Level 2 – 3rd May, 2020**

## **Aquarium asks people to video-call lonely eels**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200503-aquarium-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/2005/200503-aquarium-2.html>

An aquarium is asking people to help some eels that are getting lonely. The aquarium in Tokyo, Japan has tanks of garden eels. The creatures are usually very shy. They go into their holes in the sand when someone passes. However, the eels are used to seeing visitors. They stay above their holes so people can see them. The aquarium closed because of the coronavirus emergency. Staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. The eels are forgetting what humans look like. The aquarium wants people to make video calls to the eels. The staff put special tablets in front of the eel tanks.

The lack of visitors means the eels have become very shy. This could make them stressed when visitors start returning. The coronavirus emergency makes it difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are staying in their holes. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us....Here is an urgent request. Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The aquarium wants to remind the eels that "humans are friendly". There is a three-day event called a "face-showing festival". People can make video calls to the eels.

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-tokyo-aquarium-appeals-for-people-to-video-call-the-eels-11981772>  
<https://metro.co.uk/2020/05/01/eels-seek-one-one-camchats-good-times-humans-12638678/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/01/japanese-aquarium-urges-public-to-video-chat-eels-who-are-forgetting-humans-exist>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200503-aquarium-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. some eels that are getting         | a. humans look like      |
| 2. The creatures are usually very     | b. can see them          |
| 3. stay above their holes so people   | c. eel tanks             |
| 4. The aquarium closed because of the | d. shy                   |
| 5. Staff are worried the eels         | e. calls to the eels     |
| 6. eels are forgetting what           | f. lonely                |
| 7. make video                         | g. are getting lonely    |
| 8. in front of the                    | h. coronavirus emergency |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the eels have become       | a. face-showing festival |
| 2. This could make them       | b. very shy              |
| 3. check on the eels'         | c. calls to the eels     |
| 4. they are forgetting about  | d. stressed              |
| 5. show your face             | e. "humans are friendly" |
| 6. remind the eels that       | f. us                    |
| 7. a three-day event called a | g. to our garden eels    |
| 8. People can make video      | h. health                |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200503-aquarium-2.html>

An aquarium is asking people to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that are getting lonely. The aquarium in Tokyo, Japan has tanks of garden eels. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ very shy. They go into their holes in the sand when someone passes. However, the eels are used (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They stay above their holes so people can see them. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the coronavirus emergency. Staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. The eels are forgetting (5) \_\_\_\_\_ like. The aquarium wants people to make video calls to the eels. The staff put special (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the eel tanks.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ means the eels have become very shy. This could make them stressed when visitors start returning. The coronavirus (8) \_\_\_\_\_ difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are staying in their holes. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't (9) \_\_\_\_\_ they are forgetting about us....Here is (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The aquarium wants to remind the eels that "(11) \_\_\_\_\_". There is a three-day event called a "(12) \_\_\_\_\_". People can make video calls to the eels.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200503-aquarium-2.html>

An aquarium is asking people to help some eels that are getting lonely. The aquarium in Tokyo, Japan has tanks of garden eels. The creatures are usually very shy. They go into their holes in the sand when someone passes. However, the eels are used to seeing visitors. They stay above their holes so people can see them. The aquarium closed because of the coronavirus emergency. Staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. The eels are forgetting what humans look like. The aquarium wants people to make video calls to the eels. The staff puts special tablets in front of the eel tanks. The lack of visitors means the eels have become very shy. This could make them stressed when visitors start returning. The coronavirus emergency makes it difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are staying in their holes. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us.... Here is an urgent request. Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The aquarium wants to remind the eels that "humans are friendly". There is a three-day event called a "face-showing festival". People can make video calls to the eels.

# AQUARIUMS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200503-aquarium-4.html>

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

*Aquarium asks people to video-call lonely eels – 3rd May, 2020*  
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) \_\_\_\_\_

