

Scientists develop COVID-19 vaccine

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In a year that has largely been full of bad and tragic news because of COVID-19, there is finally some good news. Scientists have announced a breakthrough in the fight against the virus. The scientists are from the U.S. drug company Pfizer and the

German pharmaceutical company BioNTech. Their researchers say they have developed a vaccine that has a 90 per cent success rate in protecting against COVID-19. The researchers also say the vaccine does not cause serious side effects. Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the USA's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the vaccine was positive news. He said: "The results are really quite good, I mean extraordinary."

Health experts say it will be months before the vaccine is widely available for people to take. It needs to be stored at temperatures of -80° Celsius. However, Pfizer CEO Dr. Albert Bourla was upbeat about his company's achievement. He said: "Today is a great day for science and humanity....We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most." He added: "Infection rates are setting new records, hospitals are nearing over-capacity and economies are struggling to reopen. With today's news, we are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis."

Sources: [latimes.com](https://www.latimes.com) / [nature.com](https://www.nature.com) / [pfizer.com](https://www.pfizer.com)

Writing

The world can get back to normal now there is a COVID-19 vaccine. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

year / tragic / good news / breakthrough / virus / drug company / vaccine / positive / health / experts / temperatures / a great day / infection rates / hospitals / global crisis

True / False

- a) The article said the year 2020 has been only bad news. T / F
- b) There is a COVID-19 vaccine from German and American companies. T / F
- c) The article said the vaccine has a 90.2% success rate. T / F
- d) A doctor of infectious diseases called the vaccine extraordinary. T / F
- e) Health experts say the vaccine will be available within weeks. T / F
- f) The vaccine has to be stored in temperatures just below freezing. T / F
- g) A drug company CEO said it was a great day for science and humanity. T / F
- h) The CEO said the global health crisis is now over. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. largely | a. amazing |
| 2. finally | b. created |
| 3. drug | c. positive |
| 4. developed | d. at last |
| 5. extraordinary | e. specialists |
| 6. experts | f. emergency |
| 7. stored | g. mainly |
| 8. upbeat | h. important |
| 9. significant | i. pharmaceutical |
| 10. crisis | j. kept |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Who should be among the first people to get the vaccine?
- c) How big an achievement is the vaccine?
- d) How has COVID-19 affected your country's economy?
- e) What will you do once the COVID-19 crisis is over?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) What should the world learn from the COVID-19 pandemic?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. In a year that has largely been full | a. side effects |
| 2. there is finally | b. developed a vaccine |
| 3. a breakthrough in the fight | c. closer |
| 4. researchers say they have | d. some good news |
| 5. the vaccine does not cause serious | e. and humanity |
| 6. the vaccine is widely available | f. of -80° Celsius |
| 7. stored at temperatures | g. of bad and tragic news |
| 8. Today is a great day for science | h. new records |
| 9. Infection rates are setting | i. against the virus |
| 10. we are a significant step | j. for people to take |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of this news?
- Has this news changed your life in any way?
- What do you know about COVID-19?
- What do you think of the year 2020?
- How worried are you about COVID-19?
- How has COVID-19 changed your life?
- Will you have the new vaccine?
- Would you be worried about the side effects of having the vaccine?

Spelling

- full of bad and giartc news
- there is fnaily some good news
- urogkhteabr in the fight against the virus
- a 90 per cent ceusscs rate
- csfeiinout diseases
- the vaccine was siipeovt news
- Health setrexp say it will be months
- widely bliavelaa for people to take
- a great day for sieccen
- We are reaching this atciricl milestone
- economies are grsgngtuli to reopen
- bring an end to this global health csrsii

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. a
6. e	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – A Cure For Cancer

You think a cure for cancer is the most important scientific breakthrough. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their breakthroughs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): zero-emission cars, bases on Mars or anti-ageing pills.

Role B – Zero-Emission Cars

You think zero-emission cars is the most important scientific breakthrough. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their breakthroughs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a cure for cancer, bases on Mars or anti-ageing pills.

Role C – Bases On Mars

You think bases on Mars is the most important scientific breakthrough. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their breakthroughs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): zero-emission cars, a cure for cancer or anti-ageing pills.

Role D – Anti-Ageing Pills

You think anti-ageing pills is the most important scientific breakthrough. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their breakthroughs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): zero-emission cars, bases on Mars or a cure for cancer.

Speaking – Breakthroughs

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest breakthroughs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • A cure for cancer | • Jet packs |
| • Zero emission cars | • Global wi-fi |
| • Ending dementia | • Anti-ageing pills |
| • Bases on Mars | • Laser pens to seal wounds |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.