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Level 4 – 21st December, 2020

Botanists find world's ugliest orchid

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-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/2012/201221-orchids-4.html>

People think orchids epitomise beauty. These delicate and fragrant blooms are often in the centre of floral displays. However, botanists have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. It was found last year in Madagascar. One saving grace for this orchid is its smell. The scientists say it has a beautiful rose-like fragrance. There are over 25,000 species of orchid, so it is likely that one or two might not be so beautiful.

A researcher described the "ugly" orchid as being, "not very attractive" and "fleshy looking". Scientists are excited because there could be more hiding in the forests not yet discovered. The bad news is that the new orchid is already on the endangered list. Another researcher warned of a "bleak reality". He said: "With two in five plants threatened with extinction, it is a race against time to find, identify, name, and conserve plants before they disappear."

Sources: <https://www.sciencealert.com/botanists-have-finally-found-it-the-ugliest-orchid-in-the-world>
<https://nerdist.com/article/royal-botanical-gardens-ugliest-orchid/>
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/worlds-ugliest-orchid_n_5fdbb7b6c5b6aa861e5ce58d

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. People think orchids epitomise | a. grace |
| 2. delicate and fragrant | b. displays |
| 3. the centre of floral | c. be so beautiful |
| 4. botanists have | d. beauty |
| 5. One saving | e. just decided |
| 6. a beautiful rose- | f. of orchid |
| 7. 25,000 species | g. blooms |
| 8. one or two might not | h. like fragrance |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. not very attractive and fleshy | a. time |
| 2. not yet | b. list |
| 3. already on the endangered | c. five plants |
| 4. warned of a bleak | d. they disappear |
| 5. two in | e. discovered |
| 6. threatened with | f. looking |
| 7. it is a race against | g. extinction |
| 8. conserve plants before | h. reality |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-4.html>

People (1) _____ beauty. These delicate and fragrant blooms are often in the centre (2) _____. However, botanists have (3) _____ the world's ugliest orchid. It was found last year in Madagascar. One (4) _____ this orchid is its smell. The scientists say it (5) _____ rose-like fragrance. There are over 25,000 species of orchid, so it (6) _____ one or two might not be so beautiful.

A researcher described the "ugly" orchid as being, "(7) _____" and "fleshy looking". Scientists are excited because there could (8) _____ in the forests not yet discovered. The (9) _____ that the new orchid is already on the endangered list. Another researcher warned of (10) _____. He said: "With (11) _____ plants threatened with extinction, it is a race against time to find, identify, name, (12) _____ before they disappear."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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ORCHIDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about orchids 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) _____

