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**Level 5** – 21st December, 2020

## Botanists find world's ugliest orchid

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-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/2012/201221-orchids-5.html>

People believe orchids are the epitome of beauty. These colourful, delicate and fragrant blooms are often the centrepiece of floral displays. However, botanists from the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving grace for this newly-unearthed orchid is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful rose-like fragrance. There are over 25,000 individual species of orchid, so it is likely that one or two might not be so exquisite.

Researcher Johan Hermans described the "ugly" orchid. He said: "It's not very attractive...It's fleshy looking, red inside and brown on the outside." Scientists are excited at finding the plant. They believe there could be many more hiding in the undergrowth not yet discovered. The bad news for the new orchid is that it is already considered to be an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek 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](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/worlds-ugliest-orchid_n_5fdbb7b6c5b6aa861e5ce58d)

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the epitome of            | a. unearthed orchid |
| 2. colourful, delicate and   | b. species          |
| 3. the centrepiece of floral | c. fragrant blooms  |
| 4. One saving                | d. not be           |
| 5. this newly-               | e. displays         |
| 6. a beautiful rose-like     | f. grace            |
| 7. over 25,000 individual    | g. beauty           |
| 8. one or two might          | h. fragrance        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. It's fleshy                 | a. undergrowth        |
| 2. many more hiding in the     | b. plants             |
| 3. not yet                     | c. looking            |
| 4. already considered to be an | d. disappear          |
| 5. warned of a bleak           | e. discovered         |
| 6. it is a race                | f. reality            |
| 7. conserve                    | g. endangered species |
| 8. before they                 | h. against time       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-5.html>

People believe orchids are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ beauty. These colourful, delicate and fragrant (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the centrepiece of floral displays. However, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. It was found last year (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in Madagascar. One saving grace for this newly-unearthed orchid is its smell. The scientists say the flower (5) \_\_\_\_\_ rose-like fragrance. There are over 25,000 individual species of orchid, so it is likely that one or two might not (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Researcher Johan Hermans (7) \_\_\_\_\_ orchid. He said: "It's not very attractive...It's (8) \_\_\_\_\_ inside and brown on the outside." Scientists (9) \_\_\_\_\_ finding the plant. They believe there could be many more hiding in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ yet discovered. The bad news for the new orchid is that it is already (11) \_\_\_\_\_ an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek warned of a "bleak reality". He said: "With two in five plants threatened with extinction, it is a race against time to (12) \_\_\_\_\_, and conserve plants before they disappear."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201221-orchids-5.html>

People believe orchids are the epitome of beauty. These colourful, delicate and fragrant blooms are often the centrepiece of floral displays. However, botanists from the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK have just decided on the world's ugliest orchid. It was found last year in a forest in Madagascar. One saving grace for this newly-unearthed orchid is its smell. The scientists say the flower has a beautiful rose-like fragrance. There are over 25,000 individual species of orchid, so it is likely that one or two might not be so exquisite. Researcher Johan Hermans described the "ugly" orchid. He said: "It's not very attractive... It's fleshy looking, red inside and brown on the outside." Scientists are excited at finding the plant. They believe there could be many more hiding in the undergrowth not yet discovered. The bad news for the new orchid is that it is already considered to be an endangered species. Researcher Martin Cheek 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."

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

