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Level 1 – 16th May, 2021

Brain implant lets man write using thoughts

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-1.html>

A man who can't move his hands used thoughts to write on a computer screen. The man is paralyzed from the neck down after a spinal cord injury ten years ago. He wants to be anonymous, so scientists call him T5. Scientists put two small sensors into his brain. These allow him to use his mind to write. The scientists call this "mindwriting". T5 can write about 18 words per minute. This is five words slower than writing a text message on a smartphone.

Mindwriting is simple to do, but it uses a lot of technology and a special algorithm. Scientists asked T5 to imagine writing on a paper. The two sensors turned his brain activity into text on a computer screen. A researcher hopes mindwriting will help millions of paralyzed people to write again. It might also help people who cannot speak. In the future, this technology might help us to write at the speed of thought.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/13/americas/paralyzed-handwriting-scn-scli-intl/index.html>
<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/brain-computer-interface-user-types-90-characters-per-minute-with-mind-68762>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00776-8>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A man who can't | a. anonymous |
| 2. write on a | b. down |
| 3. paralyzed from the neck | c. mind to write |
| 4. after a spinal cord | d. computer screen |
| 5. He wants to be | e. injury |
| 6. These allow him to use his | f. a text message |
| 7. T5 can write about 18 words | g. move his hands |
| 8. slower than writing | h. per minute |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mindwriting is simple | a. a paper |
| 2. it uses a lot of | b. speak |
| 3. imagine writing on a | c. of thought |
| 4. turned his brain activity | d. technology |
| 5. help millions of paralyzed | e. help us |
| 6. help people who cannot | f. into text |
| 7. this technology might | g. to do |
| 8. write at the speed | h. people |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-1.html>

A man who can't (1) _____ used thoughts to write on a computer screen. The (2) _____ from the neck down after a (3) _____ ten years ago. He wants to be anonymous, so scientists call him T5. Scientists put (4) _____ into his brain. These allow him to use his mind to write. The scientists call this "mindwriting". T5 can write about 18 (5) _____. This is five words slower than writing (6) _____ on a smartphone.

Mindwriting is (7) _____, but it uses a lot of technology and a special algorithm. Scientists asked T5 to (8) _____ a paper. The two sensors turned his brain activity (9) _____ a computer screen. A researcher hopes mindwriting (10) _____ of paralyzed people to write again. It (11) _____ people who cannot speak. In the future, this technology might help us to write at the (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-1.html>

A man who can't move his hands used thought to write on a computer screen. The man is paralyzed from the neck down after a spinal cord injury ten years ago. He wants to be anonymous, so scientists call him T5. Scientists put two small sensors into his brain. These allow him to use his mind to write. The scientists call this "mind writing". T5 can write about 18 words per minute. This is five words slower than writing a text message on a smartphone. Mind writing is simple to do, but it uses a lot of technology and a special algorithm. Scientists asked T5 to imagine writing on a paper. The sensor turned his brain activity into text on a computer screen. A researcher hopes mind writing will help millions of paralyzed people to write again. It might also help people who cannot speak. In the future, this technology might help us to write at the speed of thought.

THE BRAIN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the brain 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) _____

