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Level 2 – 16th May, 2021

Brain implant lets man write using thoughts

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-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/2105/210516-brain-implants-2.html>

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

The mindwriting system is simple, but it uses a lot of advanced technology. Scientists asked T5 to imagine writing a sentence on a paper. Sensors in his brain detected activity as he imagined writing. A computer turned this activity into text on a screen. The scientists used a special algorithm. A researcher hopes his system will help millions of paralyzed people to write again. It might also help people who cannot speak. The researcher said: "The goal is to restore their ability to communicate by text." 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A man who can't move | a. anonymous |
| 2. write on a | b. the neck down |
| 3. The man is paralyzed from | c. "brain-to-text" |
| 4. implanted two tiny sensors into | d. injury |
| 5. The scientists called this | e. his hands |
| 6. The man wants to be | f. per minute |
| 7. a spinal cord | g. computer screen |
| 8. He can write about 18 words | h. the man's brain |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The mindwriting system | a. of thought |
| 2. it uses a lot of advanced | b. a sentence |
| 3. imagine writing | c. activity into text |
| 4. Sensors in his brain | d. technology |
| 5. A computer turned this | e. to write again |
| 6. The scientists used a special | f. detected activity |
| 7. help millions of paralyzed people | g. is simple |
| 8. help us to write at the speed | h. algorithm |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-2.html>

A man (1) _____ his hands used his thoughts to write on a computer screen. The man (2) _____ the neck down. Scientists from Stanford University implanted two (3) _____ the man's brain. The scientists called this "brain-to-text" and "mindwriting". The man wants to be anonymous, so scientists call him T5. He became paralyzed after (4) _____ injury ten years ago. The implants allow him to use his mind to write. He can write about (5) _____ minute. This is five words slower than the average person writing (6) _____ on a smartphone.

The mindwriting system is simple, but it uses a (7) _____ technology. Scientists asked T5 to imagine writing a sentence on a paper. Sensors in (8) _____ activity as he imagined writing. A computer (9) _____ into text on a screen. The scientists used (10) _____. A researcher hopes his system will help millions of paralyzed people to write again. It might also help people who cannot speak. The researcher said: "The goal is to (11) _____ to communicate by text." In the future, this technology might help us to write at the (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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THE BRAIN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210516-brain-implants-2.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) _____

