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**Level 2 – 2nd December, 2021**

## **Scientists create living robots that can have babies**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-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/2112/211202-xenobots-2.html>

Scientists say a new kind of robot can create baby robots. This is science fiction becoming science fact. The scientists are from universities in the USA. In 2020, they created the world's first "living" robots, called "xenobots". They came from the stem cells of an African frog. The xenobots are less than one millimetre wide. They can move, work together in groups and repair themselves. They are not what we imagine robots to be. The scientists say they are technically robots. They are a machine-animal hybrid. They are "an entirely new life-form".

The scientists said the bots reproduce because of their shape. Researchers tested billions of body shapes. The result was a C-shaped robot. The inside of the "C" became the xenobot's mouth. It gathered small cells in its mouth. These cells became a new, "baby" xenobot. The xenobots are very early technology. However, they could change science, medicine, the environment and the way we live. They could repair damage to our organs, attack micro-plastics in our oceans, and clean up oil spills. Despite the benefits, some people are worried about robots that can reproduce.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/29/americas/xenobots-self-replicating-robots-scn/index.html>  
<https://inews.co.uk/news/scientists-create-worlds-first-reproductive-robots-1325805>  
<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2021/11/xenobots-reproduce/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a new kind of robot can        | a. in groups          |
| 2. science                        | b. an African frog    |
| 3. they created the world's first | c. animal hybrid      |
| 4. the stem cells of              | d. fiction            |
| 5. xenobots are less than one     | e. robots to be       |
| 6. work together                  | f. "living" robots    |
| 7. They are not what we imagine   | g. millimetre wide    |
| 8. They are a machine-            | h. create baby robots |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the bots reproduce because   | a. the xenobot's mouth |
| 2. Researchers tested billions  | b. shaped robot        |
| 3. The result was a C-          | c. spills              |
| 4. The inside of the "C" became | d. change science      |
| 5. they could                   | e. of their shape      |
| 6. the way                      | f. to our organs       |
| 7. repair damage                | g. of body shapes      |
| 8. clean up oil                 | h. we live             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-2.html>

Scientists say a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ robot can create baby robots. This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ becoming science fact. The scientists are from universities in the USA. In 2020, they created the world's (3) \_\_\_\_\_, called "xenobots". They came from the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ an African frog. The xenobots are less than one millimetre wide. They can move, work together in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. They are not what we imagine robots to be. The scientists say they are technically robots. They are a (6) \_\_\_\_\_. They are "an entirely new life-form".

The scientists said the bots reproduce because (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers tested billions of body shapes. The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ C-shaped robot. The inside of the "C" became the xenobot's mouth. It gathered small cells in its mouth. These (9) \_\_\_\_\_ new, "baby" xenobot. The xenobots are very early technology. However, they could change science, medicine, the environment and the (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They could repair damage to our organs, attack micro-plastics in our oceans, and clean (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Despite the benefits, some (12) \_\_\_\_\_ about robots that can reproduce.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-2.html>

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# XENOBOTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about xenobots 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211202-xenobots-2.html>

Write about **xenobots** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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