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Level 4 – 2nd December 2024

Scientists find that rats love driving

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-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/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-4.html>

The term "rat race" may soon mean real rats racing in cars. Scientists have taught rats to drive tiny cars in a laboratory. A neuroscientist has worked with rats since 2019. She told a news agency that the creatures learned to rev the engines of their small vehicles and seemed to "get a kick out of it". She said the rats had an "intense motivation" for driving. She added they often jumped into the car, revved the engine, and then "hit the road".

The research explored the relationship between rats and their environment. It looked at how the rats' thought developed, and how they processed new skills. In the tests, one group of lab rats got toys and companions. The other test rodents got no toys and fewer friends. The rats got rewards for good driving. The rats with the toys learned to drive better. The research supported the idea that complex environments enhanced learning in the rats.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20241128-i-taught-rats-to-drive-a-car-and-it-may-help-us-lead-happier-lives>
<https://nypost.com/2024/11/17/science/scientists-teaching-rats-how-to-drive-discover-that-the-rodents-have-a-need-for-speed/>
<https://theconversation.com/im-a-neuroscientist-who-taught-rats-to-drive-their-joy-suggests-how-anticipating-fun-can-enrich-human-life-239029>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The term rat | a. to drive tiny cars |
| 2. Scientists have taught rats | b. the engine |
| 3. A neuroscientist has | c. out of it |
| 4. the engines of their | d. road |
| 5. get a kick | e. small vehicles |
| 6. they often jumped | f. race |
| 7. revved | g. worked with rats |
| 8. hit the | h. into the car |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The research explored | a. rats got toys |
| 2. how the rats' thought | b. learning |
| 3. how they processed | c. developed |
| 4. one group of lab | d. no toys |
| 5. The other test rodents got | e. for good driving |
| 6. The rats got rewards | f. idea |
| 7. The research supported the | g. the relationship |
| 8. complex environments enhanced | h. new skills |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-4.html>

The (1) _____ may soon mean real rats racing in cars. Scientists have taught rats (2) _____ cars in a laboratory. A neuroscientist has worked with rats since 2019. She told a news agency that the creatures (3) _____ the engines of their small vehicles and seemed to "get a (4) _____ it". She said the rats had an (5) _____ driving. She added they often jumped into the car, revved the engine, and then "(6) _____".

The research (7) _____ between rats and their environment. It looked at how the (8) _____, and how they (9) _____. In the tests, one group of lab rats got toys and companions. The (10) _____ got no toys and fewer friends. The rats (11) _____ good driving. The rats with the toys learned to drive better. The research supported the idea that complex environments (12) _____ the rats.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-4.html>

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DRIVING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about driving 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241202-rats-love-driving-4.html>

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