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Level 4 – 23rd June 2025

Grow a Garden game breaks record for concurrent users

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

An online gardening game has broken the record for the most users being online at the same time. The Grow a Garden game broke the record on the 14th of June with 16.4 million users. This beat the previous 14.3 million set by the game Fortnite. Grow a Garden then shattered its own record a week later with 21.3 million players. It is the most-played game ever at a single moment. The game's owners said its success is "fuelled by...vibrant social interactions".

In Grow a Garden, players care for a virtual garden. They buy seeds and plant vegetables and flowers. They then sell these to get in-game money. Users can upgrade their garden to get better tools. They can also unlock rare seeds, exotic crops, and underwater gardens and magical forests. A behavioural expert on the BBC said Grow a Garden may not lead to a love of gardening. He said that was like saying Super Mario would encourage plumbing.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj4edkdxz2xo>
<https://sherwood.news/markets/roblox-hits-a-52-week-high-as-a-wildly-simple-gardening-game-created-by-a-16/>
<https://www.soapcentral.com/pop-culture/roblox-s-grow-garden-breaks-world-record-16-4m-players-surpassing-fortnite-s-peak>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grow_a_Garden

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. An online gardening | a. a week later |
| 2. the most users being online | b. moment |
| 3. This beat the previous | c. at the same time |
| 4. set by the game | d. 14.3 million |
| 5. shattered its own record | e. social interactions |
| 6. It is the most-played game | f. game |
| 7. at a single | g. ever |
| 8. fuelled by vibrant | h. Fortnite |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. players care for | a. to get in-game money |
| 2. They buy seeds | b. of gardening |
| 3. sell these | c. crops |
| 4. Users can | d. and plant vegetables |
| 5. get better | e. expert |
| 6. exotic | f. tools |
| 7. A behavioural | g. a virtual garden |
| 8. lead to a love | h. upgrade their garden |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

An online (1) _____ broken the record for the
(2) _____ online at the same time. The Grow a
Garden game broke the record on the 14th of June with 16.4 million users.
This (3) _____ 14.3 million set by the game
Fortnite. Grow a Garden then (4) _____ record a
week later with 21.3 million players. It is the most-played game ever
(5) _____ moment. The game's owners said its
success is "fuelled by... (6) _____".

In Grow a Garden, players care for (7) _____.
They buy seeds and plant vegetables and flowers. They then sell these to
get in-game money. Users (8) _____ garden to get
better tools. They can also unlock rare (9) _____,
and underwater gardens and magical forests.
(10) _____ on the BBC said Grow a Garden may
not lead to a (11) _____. He said that was like
saying Super Mario (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

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GARDENING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gardening 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/2506/250623-grow-a-garden-4.html>

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

[illegible]