

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 5 – 1st September 2025**

## **Ocean acidification a danger to sharks' teeth**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

**X (Twitter)**



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-5.html>

The climate crisis may be an existential threat to sharks. A new study shows that the acidification of the world's oceans is decaying sharks' teeth. It is well known among scientists that increasing ocean acidity is damaging species like corals and shell-dwelling sea creatures. This led biologists to look at whether shark teeth are at similar risk. Researcher Maximilian Baum investigated whether sharks that swim with their mouths open and have constant exposure to seawater "might also be vulnerable". He concluded that "the teeth of...predators show visible damage".

Baum analyzed 42 teeth from blacktip reef sharks at an aquarium in Germany. He put the teeth in two separate water tanks for eight weeks. The salt water in one tank had a pH level similar to current ocean averages. The water in the other tank was more acidic. Baum found that the teeth in the more acidic water had visible damage. This included cavities, root decay, and structural deterioration. He said ongoing damage could impact how sharks feed. He added that such damage could potentially trigger "domino effects" across many marine ecosystems.

Sources: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/sharks-may-losing-bite-170000952.html>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/08/27/science/ocean-acidification-shark-teeth>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/27/ocean-acidification-erodes-sharks-teeth-affecting-feeding>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The climate crisis may be an | a. with their mouths open |
| 2. decaying                     | b. dwelling sea creatures |
| 3. ocean acidity is damaging    | c. predators              |
| 4. shell-                       | d. sharks' teeth          |
| 5. shark teeth are at           | e. existential threat     |
| 6. sharks that swim             | f. species like corals    |
| 7. have constant exposure       | g. similar risk           |
| 8. the teeth of                 | h. to seawater            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. reef sharks at                | a. ocean averages         |
| 2. He put the teeth in two       | b. how sharks feed        |
| 3. a pH level similar to current | c. domino effects         |
| 4. The water in the other tank   | d. ecosystems             |
| 5. root                          | e. an aquarium in Germany |
| 6. ongoing damage could impact   | f. decay                  |
| 7. trigger                       | g. separate water tanks   |
| 8. across many marine            | h. was more acidic        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-5.html>

The climate crisis may be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to sharks. A new study shows that the acidification of the world's oceans is (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It is well known among scientists that increasing ocean acidity is damaging species like corals and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ creatures. This led biologists to look at whether shark teeth are (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Researcher Maximilian Baum investigated whether sharks that swim with (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and have constant exposure to seawater "might also be vulnerable". He concluded that "the teeth of...predators (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Baum analyzed 42 teeth from blacktip reef sharks at (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Germany. He put the teeth in two (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for eight weeks. The salt water in one tank had a pH level similar to current ocean averages. The water in the other tank (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Baum found that the teeth in the more acidic water (10) \_\_\_\_\_. This included cavities, root decay, and structural deterioration. He said ongoing damage could impact (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He added that such damage could potentially (12) \_\_\_\_\_ across many marine ecosystems.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-5.html>

The climate crisis may be an existential threat to sharks. A new study shows that the acidification of the world's oceans is decaying sharks' teeth. It is well known among scientists that increasing ocean acidity is damaging species like corals and shell-dwelling sea creatures. This led biologist to look at whether shark teeth are at similar risk. Researcher Maximilian Baum investigated whether sharks that swim with their mouths open and have constant exposure to seawater "might also be vulnerable". He concluded that "the teeth of...predators show visible damage". Baum analyzed 42 teeth from blacktip reef sharks at an aquarium in Germany. He put the teeth in two separate water tanks for eight weeks. The salt water in one tank had a pH level similar to current ocean averages. The water in the other tank was more acidic. Baum found that the teeth in the more acidic water had visible damage. This included cavities, root decay, and structural deterioration. He said ongoing damage could impact how sharks feed. He added that such damage could potentially trigger "domino effects" across many marine ecosystems.

# SHARKS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250901-shark-teeth-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about sharks 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Ocean acidification a danger to sharks' teeth – 1st September 2025*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## 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/2509/250901-shark-teeth-5.html>

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

[illegible]