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Level 1 – 16th October 2025

Drug-resistant superbugs spreading, says WHO

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-1.html>

The WHO has warned about an increase in superbugs that are resistant to drugs. Many of the drugs have been saving lives for many years. One in six bugs tested by researchers was drug-resistant. Drugs did not kill the bacteria. This will be a danger to our health. Cuts and infections could kill us in the future because the antibiotics will not kill the bacteria. The WHO said: "As antibiotic resistance continues to rise...we're putting lives at risk."

A large WHO study looked at data from 100 countries. Drug resistance is highest in Southeast Asia. There, 1 in 3 reported infections was resistant. In Africa, the number is 1 in 5. Bugs are becoming drug-resistant faster than we can make new drugs. Between 2018 and 2023, drug resistance increased in over 40 per cent of the bacteria tested in labs. Not enough testing is being done to create better drugs.

Sources: <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2025-who-warns-of-widespread-resistance-to-common-antibiotics-worldwide>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/superbugs-drug-resistant-spread-surg-ing-who/>
<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/who-warns-surg-ing-levels-antibiotic-resistance-2025-10-13/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The WHO has warned | a. bugs tested |
| 2. superbugs that are resistant | b. kill us |
| 3. drugs have been saving | c. to our health |
| 4. One in six | d. to drugs |
| 5. Drugs did not | e. at risk |
| 6. This will be a danger | f. lives |
| 7. Cuts and infections could | g. kill the bacteria |
| 8. we're putting lives | h. about an increase |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A large WHO study looked at data | a. tested in labs |
| 2. resistance is highest | b. better drugs |
| 3. In Africa, the number | c. is being done |
| 4. faster than we can | d. is 1 in 5 |
| 5. drug resistance | e. from 100 countries |
| 6. over 40 per cent of the bacteria | f. increased |
| 7. Not enough testing | g. in Southeast Asia |
| 8. create | h. make new drugs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-1.html>

The WHO has warned (1) _____ in superbugs that are resistant to drugs. Many of the drugs have (2) _____ for many years. One in six bugs tested by researchers was drug-resistant. Drugs did not kill the bacteria. This will be (3) _____ our health. Cuts and infections (4) _____ in the future because (5) _____ not kill the bacteria. The WHO said: "As antibiotic resistance continues to rise...we're putting (6) _____."

A large WHO study (7) _____ from 100 countries. Drug resistance (8) _____ Southeast Asia. There, 1 in 3 reported infections was resistant. In Africa, (9) _____ 1 in 5. Bugs are becoming drug-resistant faster than we can (10) _____. Between 2018 and 2023, drug resistance increased in over 40 per cent of the bacteria (11) _____. Not enough testing is being (12) _____ better drugs.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-1.html>

The WHO has warned about an increase in superbugs that are resistant to drugs. This will be a danger to our health. One in six bugs tested by researchers was drug-resistant. Drugs did not kill the bacteria. Many of the drugs have been saving lives for many years. Cuts and infections could kill us in the future because the antibiotics will not kill the bacteria. The WHO said: "As antibiotic resistance continues to rise... we're putting lives at risk." A large WHO study looked at data from 100 countries. Drug resistance is highest in Southeast Asia. There, 1 in 3 reported infections was resistant. In Africa, the number is 1 in 5. Bugs are becoming drug-resistant faster than we can make new drugs. Between 2018 and 2023, drug resistance increased in over 40 percent of the bacteria tested in labs. Not enough testing is being done to create better drugs.

SUPERBUGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about superbugs 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/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-1.html>

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

[illegible]