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Level 2 – 16th October 2025

Drug-resistant superbugs spreading, says WHO

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-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/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-2.html>

The WHO has warned about the spread of superbugs that are resistant to drugs. Researchers tested many bugs in laboratories. One in six of the bugs they tested was drug-resistant. The drugs did not kill the bacteria. Many of the drugs have been saving lives for many years. Drug-resistant bugs will bring new risks to our health. Cuts and infections could be deadly in the future because the antibiotics will not kill harmful bacteria. The WHO said the research was "concerning". It added: "As antibiotic resistance continues to rise...we're putting lives at risk."

The WHO conducted a large study. It looked at data from over 100 countries. Drug resistance is highest in Southeast Asia. There, 1 in 3 reported infections was resistant. In Africa, 1 in 5 infections was resistant. Bugs are becoming drug-resistant faster than researchers can make new drugs. More bugs are becoming resistant to modern medicines. Between 2018 and 2023, drug resistance increased in over 40 per cent of the bacteria tested in labs. Another worry is that not enough testing is being done to create better drugs. The WHO said this will be a big "future threat".

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. superbugs that are | a. lives |
| 2. One in six | b. rise |
| 3. The drugs did | c. of the bugs |
| 4. the drugs have been saving | d. at risk |
| 5. Cuts and | e. resistant to drugs |
| 6. the antibiotics will not kill | f. infections |
| 7. antibiotic resistance continues to | g. harmful bacteria |
| 8. we're putting lives | h. not kill the bacteria |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The WHO conducted | a. medicines |
| 2. It looked at data | b. in Southeast Asia |
| 3. Drug resistance is highest | c. being done |
| 4. In Africa, 1 in 5 infections | d. a large study |
| 5. researchers can | e. was resistant |
| 6. becoming resistant to modern | f. threat |
| 7. not enough testing is | g. from over 100 countries |
| 8. a big future | h. make new drugs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-2.html>

The WHO has warned about (1) _____ superbugs that are resistant to drugs. Researchers tested many bugs in laboratories. One (2) _____ the bugs they tested was drug-resistant. The drugs did not kill the bacteria. Many of the drugs have been (3) _____ many years. Drug-resistant bugs will bring (4) _____ our health. Cuts and infections could (5) _____ the future because the antibiotics will not kill harmful bacteria. The WHO said the research was "concerning". It added: "As antibiotic resistance continues to rise...we're putting (6) _____."

The WHO (7) _____ study. It looked at data from over 100 countries. Drug resistance (8) _____ Southeast Asia. There, 1 in 3 reported infections was resistant. In Africa, 1 in 5 infections was resistant. Bugs (9) _____-resistant faster than researchers can (10) _____. More bugs are becoming resistant to modern medicines. Between 2018 and 2023, drug resistance increased in over 40 per cent of the bacteria tested in labs. Another (11) _____ not enough testing is being done to create better drugs. The WHO said this will be a (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-2.html>

The WHO has warned about the spread of superbugs that are resistant to drugs. Researchers tested many bugs in its laboratories. One in six of the bugs they tested was drug-resistant. The drugs did not kill the bacteria. Many of the drugs have been saving lives for many years. Drug-resistant bugs will bring new risks to our health. Cuts and infections could be deadly in the future because the antibiotics will not kill harmful bacteria. The WHO said the research was "concerning". It added: "As antibiotic resistance continues to rise... we're putting lives at risk." The WHO conducted a large study. It looked at data from over 100 countries. Drug resistance is high in Southeast Asia. There, 1 in 3 reported infections was resistant. In Africa, 1 in 5 infections was resistant. Bugs are becoming drug-resistant faster than researchers can make new drugs. More bugs are becoming resistant to modern medicines. Between 2018 and 2023, drug resistance increased in over 40 percent of the bacteria tested in labs. Another worry is that not enough testing is being done to create better drugs. The WHO said this will be a big "future threat".

SUPERBUGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251016-drug-resistant-superbugs-2.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-2.html>

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

[illegible]