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Level 3 – 18th December 2025

Less blinking may mean more active listening

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Blinking is something we do automatically, without thinking. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are several reasons why we blink. One is to stop our eyes from becoming dry. This helps our vision. Another reason is to protect our eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found another function of blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink less when we are listening to someone speak. This happens more when there is background noise. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more energy. This allows us to focus on what another person is saying.

The research team conducted two experiments on 49 participants. All of the test participants listened to sentences being read aloud. In one experiment, there was no background noise. In the other test, there was background noise, which made it harder for the people to hear the sentences. The scientists said that people in the test with background noise blinked a lot less. When the background noise increased, blink rates dropped even further. Study co-author Dr Mickael Deroche said we automatically blink less "when important information is coming". Ms Coupal agreed. She said: "We don't just blink randomly. In fact, we blink systematically less when important information is presented."

Sources: <https://www.sciencealert.com/want-to-know-if-somebody-is-truly-listening-count-their-blinks>
<https://www.earth.com/news/people-automatically-blink-less-while-listening-carefully/>
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1109190>

WARM-UPS

1. BLINKING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about blinking. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

blinking / eyes / vision / dust / insect attacks / scientist / listening / background noise
experiments / sentences / reading aloud / hearing / important information / author

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. LISTEN: Students A **strongly** believe we all need to learn to listen more; Students B **strongly** believe we don't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. LISTENING: How can listening improve these things? What examples of these do you have in your life Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Improvements	My Experiences
Building trust		
Arguments		
Learning		
Teamwork		
Leadership		
Friendships		

5. BLINK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "blink". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. LISTEN TO...: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important people to listen to at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Parents
- Teachers
- Religious leaders
- Police officers
- Elders
- Friends
- Doctors
- Yourself

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. automatically | a. What something does or is used for. |
| 2. several | b. Give your attention to doing one thing. |
| 3. vision | c. Done without a person thinking about it. |
| 4. dust | d. More than two, but not many. |
| 5. function | e. Very small, dry pieces of dirt. |
| 6. background noise | f. Sounds you hear that are not important or not the main sound. |
| 7. focus | g. The ability to see. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8. conducted | h. Without a plan or order. |
| 9. participants | i. More; or to a greater level. |
| 10. aloud | j. Numbers that show how often or how much something happens. |
| 11. rates | k. Done or carried out. |
| 12. further | l. In a careful and planned way, step by step. |
| 13. randomly | m. People who take part in or join something. |
| 14. systematically | n. Spoken so that other people can hear. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Scientists say we think about blinking before we blink. **T / F**
2. The article says blinking can protect us against insect attacks. **T / F**
3. We blink less often when we are trying to listen to someone. **T / F**
4. Blinking less means our brain has a little more energy to use. **T / F**
5. Researchers conducted tests on nearly 500 people. **T / F**
6. When there is background noise, we blink more. **T / F**
7. We blink more when we want to understand important information. **T / F**
8. Another doctor said people do not simply blink randomly. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. automatically | a. purpose |
| 2. several | b. valuable |
| 3. vision | c. a number of |
| 4. function | d. did |
| 5. focus | e. went up |
| 6. conducted | f. without thinking |
| 7. experiment | g. concentrate |
| 8. increased | h. more |
| 9. further | i. eyesight |
| 10. important | j. test |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Blinking is something we do automatically, | a. blinked a lot less |
| 2. There are several reasons | b. to someone speak |
| 3. This helps our | c. why we blink |
| 4. we blink less when we are listening | d. experiments |
| 5. focus on what another | e. randomly |
| 6. The research team conducted two | f. person is saying |
| 7. harder for the people to | g. without thinking |
| 8. people in the test with background noise | h. presented |
| 9. We don't just blink | i. hear the sentences |
| 10. when important information is | j. vision |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Blinking is something we do automatically, without (1) _____. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are (2) _____ reasons why we blink. One is to stop our eyes from becoming (3) _____. This helps our vision. Another reason is to protect our eyes from (4) _____ or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found another function of blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink (5) _____ when we are listening to someone speak. This happens more when there is background (6) _____. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our (7) _____ has a little more energy. This allows us to (8) _____ on what another person is saying.

The research team (9) _____ two experiments on 49 participants. All of the test participants listened to sentences being read (10) _____. In one experiment, there was no background noise. In the other test, there was background noise, which made it (11) _____ for the people to hear the sentences. The scientists said that people in the (12) _____ with background noise blinked a lot less. When the background noise increased, blink rates (13) _____ even further. Study co-author Dr Mickael Deroche said we (14) _____ blink less "when important information is coming". Ms Coupal (15) _____. She said: "We don't just blink randomly. In fact, we blink systematically less (16) _____ important information is presented."

dry

less

focus

thinking

brain

dust

several

noise

harder

when

dropped

conducted

agreed

aloud

test

automatically

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

- 1) Blinking is something we do _____
 - a. automatically, without think in
 - b. automatically, with doubt thinking
 - c. automatically, within thinking
 - d. automatically, without thinking
- 2) We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are several reasons _____
 - a. why we blink
 - b. why they blink
 - c. why us blink
 - d. why we've blink
- 3) Another reason is to protect our eyes from dust or _____
 - a. sudden insect attacks
 - b. suddenly insect attacks
 - c. sudden insects attacks
 - d. sudden insecticide
- 4) They found that we blink less when we are listening _____
 - a. to someone speaks
 - b. to someone speech
 - c. to someone speak
 - d. to someone spoke
- 5) This allows us to focus on what another _____
 - a. person is said
 - b. people is saying
 - c. person is saying
 - d. person is say in
- 6) All of the test participants listened to sentences _____
 - a. being read allowed
 - b. being read aloud
 - c. being read a loud
 - d. being read all loud
- 7) In the other test, there _____
 - a. was background noisy
 - b. was background nosey
 - c. was background noise
 - d. was background nice
- 8) The scientists said that people in the test with background noise blinked _____
 - a. a lots less
 - b. a lot less
 - c. a loads less
 - d. allot less
- 9) When the background noise increased, blink rates _____
 - a. dropped even farther
 - b. dropped even further
 - c. dropped evens further
 - d. dripped even further
- 10) In fact, we blink systematically less when important _____
 - a. information is present it
 - b. information is presentation
 - c. information is presents
 - d. information is presented

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Blinking is something (1) _____, without thinking. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are (2) _____ we blink. One is to stop our eyes from becoming dry. This helps our vision. Another reason is (3) _____ eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found (4) _____ blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink less when we are listening to someone speak. This (5) _____ there is background noise. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more energy. This allows us (6) _____ what another person is saying.

The research team conducted (7) _____ 49 participants. All of the test participants listened (8) _____ read aloud. In one experiment, there was no background noise. In the other test, there was background noise, which (9) _____ for the people to hear the sentences. The scientists said that people in the test with background noise (10) _____ less. When the background noise increased, blink rates (11) _____. Study co-author Dr Mickael Deroche said we automatically blink less "when important information is coming". Ms Coupal agreed. She said: "We don't just blink randomly. (12) _____ blink systematically less when important information is presented."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

1. How many times a minute do people blink?
2. What does blinking prevent happening to our eyes?
3. What might suddenly attack our eyes?
4. When do we blink less?
5. What does our brain have more of when we blink less?
6. How many people took part in the blinking experiments?
7. What did the test participants listen to being read aloud?
8. What increased that made people blink even less?
9. Who is Mickael Deroche?
10. What kind of information makes us blink less?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

- 1) How many times a minute do people blink?
 - a) 10-15 times
 - b) 15-20 times
 - c) 20-25 times
 - d) 30-40 times
- 2) What does blinking prevent happening to our eyes?
 - a) crying
 - b) blurred vision
 - c) drying out
 - d) blindness
- 3) What might suddenly attack our eyes?
 - a) viruses
 - b) infrared light
 - c) UV light
 - d) insects
- 4) When do we blink less?
 - a) When we speak.
 - b) When we listen to someone speak.
 - c) When we study.
 - d) When we are stressed.
- 5) What does our brain have more of when we blink less?
 - a) energy
 - b) cells
 - c) electricity
 - d) thoughts
- 6) How many people took part in the blinking experiments?
 - a) 49
 - b) 59
 - c) 69
 - d) 79
- 7) What did the test participants listen to being read aloud?
 - a) names
 - b) letters of the alphabet
 - c) short stories
 - d) sentences
- 8) What increased that made people blink even less?
 - a) wind speeds
 - b) the temperature
 - c) background noise
 - d) the number of participants
- 9) Who is Mickael Deroche?
 - a) a communications expert
 - b) an optician
 - c) an expert on blinking
 - d) the study's co-author
- 10) What kind of information makes us blink less?
 - a) unnecessary information
 - b) important information
 - c) tourist information
 - d) basic information

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Role A – Parents

You think parents are the most important people to listen to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): teachers, friends or yourself.

Role B – Teachers

You think teachers are the most important people to listen to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): parents, friends or yourself.

Role C – Friends

You think friends are the most important people to listen to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): teachers, parents or yourself.

Role D – Yourself

You think it's most important to listen to yourself. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): teachers, friends or parents.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'blinking' and 'listening'.

blinking	listening

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• thinking• several• protect• function• someone• focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• two• read• other• a lot• coming• fact
---	--

BLINKING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Write five GOOD questions about blinking 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.

BLINKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'blink'?
3. What do you think of blinking?
4. Why do we blink?
5. What do you do if your eyes are dry?
6. For how long can you not blink?
7. Do you think you blink less when you listen to people?
8. What can we do to listen more actively?
9. What can we do to give our brain more energy?
10. What does the phrase "Blink and you'll miss it" mean?

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BLINKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'listen'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Do you ever think about blinking?
15. What kinds of background noises do you think are annoying?
16. What things make it hard to listen to people?
17. Are there any people you don't want to listen to?
18. What was the last piece of important information you heard?
19. What does the phrase "in the blink of an eye" mean?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Blinking is something we (1) _____ automatically, without thinking. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are several reasons (2) _____ we blink. One is to stop our eyes from becoming dry. This helps our vision. Another reason is (3) _____ protect our eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found another function (4) _____ blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink less (5) _____ we are listening to someone speak. This happens more when there is background noise. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more energy. This allows us to focus (6) _____ what another person is saying.

The research team conducted two experiments (7) _____ 49 participants. All of the test participants listened to sentences being read aloud. In one experiment, there was (8) _____ background noise. In the other test, there was background noise, which made it (9) _____ for the people to hear the sentences. The scientists said that people in the test with background noise blinked a lot less. When the background noise increased, blink rates dropped even (10) _____. Study co-author Dr Mickael Deroche said we automatically blink less "when important information is coming". Ms Coupal (11) _____. She said: "We don't just blink randomly. (12) _____ fact, we blink systematically less when important information is presented."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) done | (b) do | (c) doing | (d) does |
| 2. | (a) what | (b) how | (c) why | (d) which |
| 3. | (a) for | (b) at | (c) to | (d) of |
| 4. | (a) to | (b) by | (c) as | (d) of |
| 5. | (a) when | (b) what | (c) which | (d) that |
| 6. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) of | (d) by |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) in | (d) on |
| 8. | (a) not | (b) no | (c) non | (d) none |
| 9. | (a) hardly | (b) harden | (c) harder | (d) heard |
| 10. | (a) furrier | (b) further | (c) future | (d) farther |
| 11. | (a) agreeing | (b) agreement | (c) agree | (d) agreed |
| 12. | (a) On | (b) In | (c) To | (d) Of |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Paragraph 1

1. something we do aaolmcyttailu
2. There are varslee reasons why we blink
3. This helps our ivosin
4. otcrtep our eyes from dust
5. another niocftnu of blinking
6. kbangrudoc noise

Paragraph 2

7. The research team cdduotcne two experiments
8. test stptraicapn
9. eenetcssn being read aloud
10. blink rates dropped even hurterf
11. Study co-tahrou Dr Mickael Deroche
12. We don't just blink donmalyr

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () agreed. She said: "We don't just blink randomly. In fact, we blink systematically less when important information is presented."
- (**1**) Blinking is something we do automatically, without thinking. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are several
- () Dr Mickael Deroche said we automatically blink less "when important information is coming". Ms Coupal
- () energy. This allows us to focus on what another person is saying.
- () function of blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink
- () less when we are listening to someone speak. This happens more when there is background
- () less. When the background noise increased, blink rates dropped even further. Study co-author
- () noise. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more
- () participants listened to sentences being read aloud. In one experiment, there was no background noise. In the other
- () protect our eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found another
- () reasons why we blink. One is to stop our eyes from becoming dry. This helps our vision. Another reason is to
- () sentences. The scientists said that people in the test with background noise blinked a lot
- () test, there was background noise, which made it harder for the people to hear the
- () The research team conducted two experiments on 49 participants. All of the test

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

1. is Blinking we something automatically do, thinking without .
2. There several are why reasons blink we .
3. Another is reason protect to from eyes dust .
4. blink We when less are we listening .
5. focus To what on person another saying is .
6. All the of participants test to listened sentences .
7. one In there, experiment no was noise background .
8. This it made for harder to people hear .
9. people The the in with test noise background .
10. We less blink important when is information coming .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Blinking is something we do *automatic / automatically*, without thinking. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are several *reason / reasons* why we blink. *One / Once* is to stop our eyes from *becoming / become* dry. This helps our vision. *Another / Other* reason is to protect our eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found another function *of / to* blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink *few / less* when we are listening *to / for* someone speak. This happens more when there is background *noisy / noise*. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more energy. This allows us to focus *in / on* what another person is saying.

The research team conducted two experiments *on / in* 49 participants. All of the test participants listened to sentences being read *loud / aloud*. In one experiment, there was no background noise. In the *another / other* test, there was background noise, which *made / make* it harder for the people to hear the sentences. The scientists said that people in *the / a* test with background noise blinked a *lot / loads* less. When the background noise increased, blink *rates / rate* dropped even further. Study co-author Dr Mickael Deroche said we automatically blink less "when important information *are / is* coming". Ms Coupal agreed. She said: "We don't just blink *random / randomly*. In fact, we blink systematically less when important information is *presented / presentation*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Bl_nk_ng _s s_m_th_ng w_ d_ _t_m_t_c_lly, w_th__t th_nk_ng. W_ bl_nk 15-20 t_m_s _ m_n_t_. Th_r_ _r_ s_v_r_l r__s_ns why w_ bl_nk. _n_ _s t_ st_p __r _y_s fr_m b_c_m_ng dry. Th_s h_lps __r v_s__n. _n_th_r r__s_n _s t_ pr_t_ct __r _y_s fr_m d_st _r s_dd_n _ns_ct _tt_cks. Sc__nt_sts _n C_n_d_ th_nk th_y h_v_ f__nd _n_th_r f_nct__n _f bl_nk_ng. Th_r_s__rch_rs _r_ fr_m C_nc_rd__ _n_v_rs_ty _n M_ntr__l. Th_y f__nd th_t w_ bl_nk l_ss wh_n w_ _r_ l_st_n_ng t_ s_m__n_ sp__k. Th_s h_pp_ns m_r_ wh_n th_r_ _s b_ckgr__nd n__s_. L__d r_s__rch_r P_n_l_p_ C__p_l s__d bl_nk_ng l_ss m__ns __r br__n h_s _ lttl_ m_r_ _n_rgy. Th_s _ll_ws _s t_ f_c_s _n wh_t _n_th_r p_rs_n _s s_y_ng.

Th_ r_s__rch t__m c_nd_ct_d tw_ _xp_r_m_nts _n 49 p_rt_c_p_nts. _ll _f th_ t_st p_rt_c_p_nts l_st_n_d t_ s_nt_nc_s b__ng r__d l__d. _n _n_ _xp_r_m_nt, th_r_ w_s n_ b_ckgr__nd n__s_. _n th_ _th_r t_st, th_r_ w_s b_ckgr__nd n__s_, whch m_d_ _t h_rdr fr th_ p__pl_ t_ h__r th_ s_nt_nc_s. Th_ sc__nt_sts s__d th_t p__pl_ _n th_ t_st w_th b_ckgr__nd n__s_ bl_nk_d _ l_t l_ss. Wh_n th_ b_ckgr__nd n__s_ _ncr__s_d, bl_nk r_t_s dr_pp_d _v_n f_rth_r. St_dy c__th_r Dr M_ck__l D_r_ch_ s__d w_ _t_m_t_c_lly bl_nk l_ss "wh_n _mp_rt_nt _nf_rm_t__n _s c_m_ng". Ms C__p_l _gr__d. Sh_ s__d: "W_ d_n't j_st bl_nk r_nd_mly. _n f_ct, w_ bl_nk syst_m_t_c_lly l_ss wh_n _mp_rt_nt _nf_rm_t__n _s pr_s_nt_d."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

blinking is something we do automatically without thinking we blink 1520 times a minute there are several reasons why we blink one is to stop our eyes from becoming dry this helps our vision another reason is to protect our eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks scientists in canada think they have found another function of blinking the researchers are from concordia university in montreal they found that we blink less when we are listening to someone speak this happens more when there is background noise lead researcher penelope coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more energy this allows us to focus on what another person is saying

the research team conducted two experiments on 49 participants all of the test participants listened to sentences being read aloud in one experiment there was no background noise in the other test there was background noise which made it harder for the people to hear the sentences the scientists said that people in the test with background noise blinked a lot less when the background noise increased blink rates dropped even further study coauthor dr mickael deroche said we automatically blink less when important information is coming ms coupal agreed she said we dont just blink randomly in fact we blink systematically less when important information is presented

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Blinking is something we do automatically, without thinking. We blink 15–20 times a minute. There are several reasons why we blink. One is to stop our eyes from becoming dry. This helps our vision. Another reason is to protect our eyes from dust or sudden insect attacks. Scientists in Canada think they have found another function of blinking. The researchers are from Concordia University in Montreal. They found that we blink less when we are listening to someone speak. This happens more when there is background noise. Lead researcher Penelope Coupal said blinking less means our brain has a little more energy. This allows us to focus on what another person is saying. The research team conducted two experiments on 49 participants. All of the test participants listened to sentences being read aloud. In one experiment, there was no background noise. In the other test, there was background noise, which made it harder for the people to hear the sentences. The scientists said that people in the test with background noise blinked a lot less. When the background noise increased, blink rates dropped even further. Study co-author Dr Mickael Deroches said we automatically blink less "when important information is coming". Ms Coupal agreed. She said: "We don't just blink randomly. In fact, we blink systematically less when important information is presented."

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

Write about **blinking** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251218-blinking-and-listening.html>

We all need to listen more to everyone we talk to. Discuss.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BLINKING: Make a poster about blinking. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. LISTENING PRACTICE: Write a magazine article about all of us having how-to-really-listen-to-people lessons. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on blinking. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on blinking. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. d 3. g 4. e 5. a 6. f 7. b
8. k 9. m 10. n 11. j 12. i 13. h 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. a	5. g
6. d	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. b

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Fifteen to twenty times
2. Drying out
3. Insects
4. When we listen to someone speak
5. Energy
6. Forty-nine
7. Sentences
8. Background noise
9. The study's co-author
10. Important information

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Blinking is something we do automatically, without thinking.
2. There are several reasons why we blink.
3. Another reason is to protect eyes from dust.
4. We blink less when we are listening.
5. To focus on what another person is saying.
6. All of the test participants listened to sentences.
7. In one experiment, there was no background noise.
8. This made it harder for people to hear.
9. The people in the test with background noise.
10. We blink less when important information is coming.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)