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**Level 3 – 8th January 2026**

### **Moss is effective in solving crimes, says study**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.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/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

The police have many different ways to find criminals. The most well-known are fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA. A new study shows that moss is used to solve crimes. Moss grows everywhere. Scientists say these tiny plants can be big clues in police investigations. The scientists' research is in the latest edition of the journal *Forensic Sciences Research*. The scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was used to help solve crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance of botanical evidence because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can be."

The earliest reported case of police using moss to help in an investigation was in 1929. The amount of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists analyzed tiny bits of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's baby daughter was buried. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted of murder. Study author and forensic scientist Jenna Merkel said: "Through this paper, we aim to raise awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to better understand how moss can help during investigations.

Sources: <https://www.greenmatters.com/pn/this-overlooked-plant-has-been-quietly-helping-forensic-experts-solve-crimes-new-study-reveals>  
<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/moss-is-so-unique-its-acted-like-fingerprints-to-help-solve-a-dozen-crimes/>  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/12/251225080738.htm>

# WARM-UPS

**1. MOSS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about moss. 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?

police / criminals / fingerprints / CCTV / DNA / moss / crimes / clues / journal / plants investigation / skeleton / baby / daughter / habitat / murder / scientist / botany

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

**3. CRIMES:** Students A **strongly** believe the police are great at solving crimes; Students B **strongly** believe they are not so good. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. POLICE:** How good are the police in your country at doing these things? How do they do them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	<b>How Good?</b>	<b>How They Do Them</b>
Prevent crime		
Protect life		
Investigate crimes		
Control traffic		
Help the public		
Maintain law and order		

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

**6. HELPING POLICE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to help solve crimes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Moss
- Fingerprints
- CCTV
- DNA
- Eyewitnesses
- Drones
- AI
- Digital devices

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

1. criminals	a. Things that show that something is true.
2. fingerprints	b. Find the answer to a problem or mystery.
3. solve	c. Careful work to find out what happened.
4. plant (noun)	d. People who do bad or illegal things.
5. investigation	e. Importance or how important something is.
6. significance	f. The special design and marks on a person's finger tips.
7. evidence	g. A living thing that grows in the ground.

## Paragraph 2

8. case	h. Said by a court to be guilty of a crime.
9. skeleton	i. The crime of killing a person.
10. bits	j. The study of plants.
11. convicted	k. All the bones of a body (without the skin and muscles).
12. murder (noun)	l. Related to using science to help the police.
13. forensic	m. Small pieces of something.
14. botany	n. A situation that the police or a court looks at.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

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

1. The police only have a few ways to find criminals and solve crimes. **T / F**
2. The study says moss only grows in a few places. **T / F**
3. Moss can be a big help in police investigations. **T / F**
4. A researcher said the police might not know just how important moss is. **T / F**
5. The first known case of moss being used in an investigation was in 1929. **T / F**
6. In 2013, police used moss to find where a baby had been buried. **T / F**
7. The mother of a baby girl was found guilty of her murder. **T / F**
8. A researcher wants police to know about how useful forensic botany is. **T / F**

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

1. <b>ways</b>	a. very small
2. <b>solve</b>	b. searching
3. <b>highlight</b>	c. work out
4. <b>significance</b>	d. examined
5. <b>tiny</b>	e. focus on
6. <b>died</b>	f. increase
7. <b>analyzed</b>	g. methods
8. <b>looking</b>	h. writer
9. <b>author</b>	i. importance
10. <b>raise</b>	j. passed away

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

1. The police have many different	a. police using moss
2. fingerprints, CCTV,	b. botanical evidence
3. these tiny plants can be big clues	c. murder
4. highlight the significance of	d. tiny plants can be
5. show how important these	e. in police investigations
6. The earliest reported case of	f. looking for
7. scientists analyzed tiny	g. ways to find criminals
8. what sort of micro-habitat we were	h. bits of moss
9. The father was convicted of	i. of forensic botany
10. we aim to raise awareness	j. and DNA

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

The police have many different (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to find criminals. The most well-(2) \_\_\_\_\_ are fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA. A new study shows that moss is used to solve crimes. Moss grows everywhere. Scientists say these (3) \_\_\_\_\_ plants can be big clues in police investigations. The scientists' research is in the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ edition of the journal Forensic Sciences Research. The scientists looked at all the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in which moss was used to help solve crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the significance of botanical (7) \_\_\_\_\_ because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how (8) \_\_\_\_\_ these tiny plants can be."

known  
cases  
evidence  
ways  
latest  
important  
tiny  
highlight

The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ reported case of police using moss to help in an investigation was in 1929. The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists (11) \_\_\_\_\_ tiny bits of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's baby daughter was (12) \_\_\_\_\_. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of (13) \_\_\_\_\_-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted of murder. Study author and (14) \_\_\_\_\_ scientist Jenna Merkel said: "Through this paper, we aim to (15) \_\_\_\_\_ awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to better (16) \_\_\_\_\_ how moss can help during investigations.

buried  
amount  
raise  
micro  
understand  
earliest  
analyzed  
forensic

# **LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

- 1) The police have many different ways \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to fund criminals
  - b. to fend criminals
  - c. to find criminals
  - d. to fond criminals
- 2) Scientists say these tiny plants can \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be big chews
  - b. be big coos
  - c. be big queues
  - d. be big clues
- 3) The scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. used for help
  - b. used too help
  - c. used to help
  - d. used at help
- 4) We wanted to highlight the significance \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of botanical evidence
  - b. of botany call evidence
  - c. off botanical evidence
  - d. of botanical evident
- 5) We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. plants can been
  - b. plants can be
  - c. plants can being
  - d. plant can be
- 6) The amount of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. person had dead
  - b. person had died
  - c. person had dried
  - d. person had dared
- 7) This helped to find where the man's baby \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. daughters was buried
  - b. daughter was buried
  - c. daughter was bared
  - d. daughter was barred
- 8) Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat we \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. were looking for
  - b. were look in for
  - c. we're looking for
  - d. where looking for
- 9) Through this paper, we aim to raise awareness \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of forensic bot any
  - b. of forensic bot tinny
  - c. of forensic butter knee
  - d. of forensic botany
- 10) She wants the police to better understand how moss can \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. help darling investigations
  - b. help enjoying investigations
  - c. help during investigations
  - d. help daring investigations

# **LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

The police have many different (1) \_\_\_\_\_ criminals.

The most well-known are fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA. A new study shows that moss is used (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Moss grows everywhere. Scientists say these tiny plants can be big clues in police investigations. The scientists' research is in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the journal Forensic Sciences Research.

The scientists looked at all the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ moss was used to help solve crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance (5) \_\_\_\_\_ because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of police using moss to help in an investigation was in 1929. The amount of moss (8) \_\_\_\_\_ helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists analyzed tiny bits of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's (9) \_\_\_\_\_ buried. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort (10) \_\_\_\_\_ we were looking for." The father was convicted of murder. Study author and forensic scientist Jenna Merkel said: "Through this paper, we (11) \_\_\_\_\_ awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to better understand how moss (12) \_\_\_\_\_ investigations.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

1. What well-known ways are there solve crimes besides CCTV and DNA?
2. Where does the article say moss grows?
3. What is the name of the journal the research is published in?
4. Who is Matt von Konrat?
5. What did a researcher want to highlight the significance of?
6. When was moss first used in a criminal investigation?
7. Where was moss that police used in a 2013 investigation?
8. What was a father convicted of?
9. Who is Jenna Merkel?
10. What does Jenna Merkel want to raise awareness of?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

- 1) What well-known ways are there to solve crimes besides CCTV and DNA?
  - a) eyewitnesses
  - b) AI
  - c) drones
  - d) fingerprints
- 2) Where does the article say moss grows?
  - a) in dark places
  - b) everywhere
  - c) in damp places
  - d) in some places
- 3) What is the name of the journal the research is published in?
  - a) Research Moss Sciences
  - b) Forensic Moss Research
  - c) Moss Sciences Research
  - d) Forensic Sciences Research
- 4) Who is Matt von Konrat?
  - a) a moss farmer
  - b) an artist
  - c) the lead author of the study
  - d) a top police officer
- 5) What did a researcher want to highlight the significance of?
  - a) climate change
  - b) the police
  - c) investigations
  - d) botanical evidence
- 6) When was moss first used in a criminal investigation?
  - a) in 1928
  - b) in 2019
  - c) in 1929
  - d) in 2013
- 7) Where was moss that police used in a 2013 investigation?
  - a) on a man's shoes
  - b) on a knife
  - c) on the trigger of a gun
  - d) in a garden
- 8) What was a father convicted of?
  - a) manslaughter
  - b) kidnapping
  - c) murder
  - d) stealing rare moss
- 9) Who is Jenna Merkel?
  - a) a police officer
  - b) a forensic scientist
  - c) a moss farmer
  - d) a crime journalist
- 10) What does Jenna Merkel want to raise awareness of?
  - a) forensic botany
  - b) moss
  - c) climate change
  - d) police investigations

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

## **Role A – Moss**

You think moss is the best way to help solve crimes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): finding fingerprints, DNA or CCTV.

## **Role B – Fingerprints**

You think finding fingerprints is the best way to help solve crimes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): moss, DNA or CCTV.

## **Role C – DNA**

You think DNA is the best way to help solve crimes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): finding fingerprints, moss or CCTV.

## **Role D – CCTV**

You think CCTV is the best way to help solve crimes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): finding fingerprints, DNA or moss.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

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

moss	crime

- 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"><li>• ways</li><li>• everywhere</li><li>• latest</li><li>• looked</li><li>• highlight</li><li>• hoping</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1929</li><li>• 2013</li><li>• daughter</li><li>• micro</li><li>• murder</li><li>• better</li></ul>
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# MOSS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

Write five GOOD questions about moss 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.

# MOSS 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 'moss'?
3. What do you think of moss?
4. What's the best way to catch criminals?
5. How much crime is there in your country?
6. What other uses of moss can you think of?
7. What do you think of CCTV being everywhere?
8. What do you think of moss being used in crime-fighting?
9. How do you think moss can help the police?
10. Would you like to be a police investigator?

*Moss is effective in solving crimes, says study – 8th January 2026*  
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# MOSS 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 'crimes'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about moss?
15. What do you think of the police in your country?
16. What things does moss make look beautiful?
17. Would you like to be a botanist?
18. What do you think of moss gardens?
19. What do you think of forensic botany?
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/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

The police have many different ways to find (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The most well-known are fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA. A new study shows that moss is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to solve crimes. Moss grows everywhere. Scientists say these tiny plants can be big clues (3) \_\_\_\_\_ police investigations. The scientists' research is in the latest edition of the journal Forensic Sciences Research. The scientists looked at all the cases (4) \_\_\_\_\_ which moss was used to help solve crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the significance of botanical evidence because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The earliest reported case of police (7) \_\_\_\_\_ moss to help in an investigation was in 1929. The amount of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists analyzed tiny (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's baby daughter was buried. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of micro-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted (10) \_\_\_\_\_ murder. Study author and forensic scientist Jenna Merkel said: "Through this (11) \_\_\_\_\_, we aim to raise awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to better understand how moss can help (12) \_\_\_\_\_ investigations.

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

1.	(a) criminalize	(b) criminals	(c) crimes	(d) criminally
2.	(a) usefully	(b) used	(c) uses	(d) use
3.	(a) by	(b) as	(c) of	(d) in
4.	(a) of	(b) in	(c) at	(d) to
5.	(a) highlife	(b) lowlight	(c) lowlife	(d) highlight
6.	(a) have	(b) do	(c) be	(d) take
7.	(a) using	(b) growing	(c) watering	(d) protecting
8.	(a) specimen	(b) root	(c) bits	(d) leaf
9.	(a) sport	(b) snort	(c) short	(d) sort
10.	(a) of	(b) at	(c) in	(d) on
11.	(a) paper	(b) cardboard	(c) material	(d) cloth
12.	(a) during	(b) among	(c) middle	(d) via

# **SPELLING**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

## **Paragraph 1**

1. many different ways to find lamiricsn
2. sgtpinrirnef, CCTV, and DNA
3. big clues in police nsiatenogsitiv
4. in the latest edition of the jlnuaor
5. We wanted to highlight the ccenaigisnif
6. botanical evecinde

## **Paragraph 2**

7. the amount of moss on a eokIntes
8. where the man's baby daughter was dbueri
9. we knew what sort of micro abahti
10. The father was ocinevtcd of murder
11. we aim to raise eeanarsws
12. foecnris botany

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) analyzed tiny bits of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's baby daughter
- ( ) and DNA. A new study shows that moss is used to solve crimes. Moss grows everywhere. Scientists say these tiny
- ( ) botany." She wants the police to better understand how moss can help during investigations.
- ( ) crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance
- ( ) hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can be."
- ( ) in 1929. The amount of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists
- ( ) of botanical evidence because...investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're
- ( ) of micro-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted of murder. Study author and forensic
- ( ) of the journal Forensic Sciences Research. The scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was used to help solve
- ( ) plants can be big clues in police investigations. The scientists' research is in the latest edition
- ( ) scientist Jenna Merkel said: "Through this paper, we aim to raise awareness of forensic
- ( ) The earliest reported case of police using moss to help in an investigation was
- ( 1 ) The police have many different ways to find criminals. The most well-known are fingerprints, CCTV,
- ( ) was buried. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

1. police The many have to ways criminals find .
2. A study new that shows is moss used .
3. can Plants big be in clues investigations police .
4. Cases which in was moss to used help .
5. how Show these important plants tiny be can .
6. The reported earliest of case using police moss .
7. bits Tiny moss of a on shoes man's .
8. What of sort we micro-habitat looking were for .
9. aim We raise to of awareness botany forensic .
10. Better how understand can moss during help investigations .

## CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

The police have many different ways to *find* / *fine* criminals. The most well-known are fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA. A new study shows that *mossy* / *moss* is used to solve crimes. Moss *growing* / *grows* everywhere. Scientists say these *tiny* / *tinny* plants can be big clues in police *investigates* / *investigations*. The scientists' research is in the latest edition of the journal Forensic Sciences Research. The scientists looked at all the *boxes* / *cases* in which moss was used to help *solve* / *solution* crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance *to* / *of* botanical evidence because...investigators may be *overlooking* / *undercooking* it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can *have* / *be*."

The *earliest* / *earlier* reported case of police using moss to help *at* / *in* an investigation was in 1929. The amount *of* / *for* moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists analyzed tiny *bit* / *bits* of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's baby daughter was *buried* / *burial*. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew *that* / *what* sort of micro-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted *of* / *on* murder. Study author and forensic *science* / *scientist* Jenna Merkel said: "Through this paper, we aim to *raise* / *rise* awareness of forensic botany." She wants the police to better understand how moss can help *among* / *during* investigations.

**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/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

Th\_ p\_l\_c\_ h\_v\_ m\_ny d\_ff\_r\_nt w\_ys t\_ f\_nd  
cr\_m\_n\_ls. Th\_ m\_st w\_ll-kn\_wn \_r\_ f\_ng\_rpr\_nts,  
CCTV, \_nd DN\_. \_ n\_w st\_dy sh\_ws th\_t m\_ss \_s \_s\_d  
t\_ s\_lv\_ cr\_m\_s. M\_ss gr\_ws \_v\_rywh\_r\_. Sc\_nt\_sts  
s\_y th\_s\_ t\_ny pl\_nts c\_n b\_ b\_g cl\_s \_n p\_l\_c\_  
\_nv\_st\_g\_t\_ns. Th\_ sc\_nt\_sts' r\_s\_rch \_s \_n th\_  
l\_t\_st \_d\_t\_n \_f th\_ j\_rn\_l F\_r\_ns\_c Sc\_nc\_s  
R\_s\_rch. Th\_ sc\_nt\_sts l\_k\_d \_t \_ll th\_ c\_s\_s \_n  
wh\_ch m\_ss w\_s \_s\_d t\_ h\_lp s\_lv\_ cr\_m\_s. L\_d  
\_th\_r Dr M\_tt v\_n K\_nr\_t s\_d: "W\_ w\_nt\_d t\_  
h\_gh\_l\_ght th\_ s\_gn\_f\_c\_nc\_ \_f b\_t\_n\_c\_l \_v\_d\_nc\_  
b\_c\_s\_...\_nv\_st\_g\_t\_rs m\_y b\_ \_v\_rl\_k\_ng \_t." H\_  
\_dd\_d: "W'\_r\_ h\_p\_ng th\_t \_r st\_dy h\_lps sh\_w h\_w  
\_mp\_rt\_nt th\_s\_ t\_ny pl\_nts c\_n b\_."

Th\_ \_rl\_st r\_p\_rt\_d c\_s\_ \_f p\_l\_c\_ \_s\_ng m\_ss t\_  
h\_lp \_n \_n \_nv\_st\_g\_t\_n w\_s \_n 1929. Th\_ \_m\_nt \_f  
m\_ss \_n \_ sk\_l\_t\_n h\_lp\_d p\_l\_c\_ kn\_w wh\_n th\_  
p\_rs\_n h\_d d\_d. \_n 2013, sc\_nt\_sts \_n\_lyz\_d t\_ny  
b\_ts \_f m\_ss \_n \_ m\_n's sh\_s. Th\_s h\_lp\_d t\_ f\_nd  
wh\_r\_ th\_ m\_n's b\_by d\_ght\_r w\_s b\_r\_d. Dr v\_n  
K\_nr\_t l\_d \_ t\_m th\_t f\_nd th\_ g\_rl's b\_dy. H\_  
s\_d: "B\_s\_d \_n th\_ b\_ts \_f m\_ss, w\_ kn\_w wh\_t s\_rt  
\_f m\_cr\_h\_b\_t\_t w\_ w\_r\_ l\_k\_ng f\_r." Th\_ f\_th\_r w\_s  
c\_nv\_ct\_d \_f m\_rd\_r. St\_dy \_th\_r \_nd f\_r\_ns\_c  
sc\_nt\_st J\_nn\_ M\_rk\_l s\_d: "Thr\_gh th\_s p\_p\_r, w\_  
\_m t\_ r\_s\_ w\_r\_n\_ss \_f f\_r\_ns\_c b\_t\_ny." Sh\_  
w\_nts th\_ p\_l\_c\_ t\_ b\_tt\_r \_nd\_rst\_nd h\_w m\_ss c\_n  
h\_lp d\_r\_ng \_nv\_st\_g\_t\_ns.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

the police have many different ways to find criminals the most well known are fingerprints cctv and dna a new study shows that moss is used to solve crimes moss grows everywhere scientists say these tiny plants can be big clues in police investigations the scientists research is in the latest edition of the journal forensic sciences research the scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was used to help solve crimes lead author dr matt von konrat said we wanted to highlight the significance of botanical evidence because investigators may be overlooking it he added were hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can be

the earliest reported case of police using moss to help in an investigation was in 1929 the amount of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died in 2013 scientists analyzed tiny bits of moss on a mans shoes this helped to find where the mans baby daughter was buried dr von konrat led a team that found the girls body he said based on the bits of moss we knew what sort of microhabitat we were looking for the father was convicted of murder study author and forensic scientist jenna merkel said through this paper we aim to raise awareness of forensic botany she wants the police to better understand how moss can help during investigations

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

The police have many different ways to find criminals. The most well-known are fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA. A new study shows that moss is used to solve crimes. Moss grows everywhere. Scientists say these tiny plants can be big clues in police investigations. The scientists' research is in the latest edition of the journal *Forensic Sciences Research*. The scientists looked at all the cases in which moss was used to help solve crimes. Lead author Dr Matt von Konrat said: "We wanted to highlight the significance of botanical evidence because... investigators may be overlooking it." He added: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can be." The earliest reported case of police using moss to help in an investigation was in 1929. The amount of moss on a skeleton helped police know when the person had died. In 2013, scientists analyzed tiny bits of moss on a man's shoes. This helped to find where the man's baby daughter was buried. Dr von Konrat led a team that found the girl's body. He said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat we were looking for." The father was convicted of murder. Study author and forensic scientist Jenna Merkels said: "Through this paper, we aim to raise awareness of forensic botany. She wants the police to better understand how moss can help during investigations.

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

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

## ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics.html>

Everyone needs to know more about moss. Discuss.

# 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. MOSS:** Make a poster about moss. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. RESEARCH:** Write a magazine article about spending more money on research into moss. 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 moss. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on moss. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Fingerprints
2. Everywhere
3. Forensic Sciences Research
4. The lead author of the study
5. Botanical evidence
6. In 1929
7. On a man's shoes
8. Murder
9. A forensic scientist
10. Forensic botany

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The police have many ways to find criminals.
2. A new study shows that moss is used.
3. Plants can be big clues in police investigations.
4. Cases in which moss was used to help.
5. Show how important these tiny plants can be.
6. The earliest reported case of police using moss.
7. Tiny bits of moss on a man's shoes.
8. What sort of micro-habitat we were looking for.
9. We aim to raise awareness of forensic botany.
10. Better understand how moss can help during investigations.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1.	d	2.	b	3.	d	4.	c	5.	d	6.	c	7.	a	8.	c	9.	b	10.	a
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## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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