Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6 – 16th February 2026

Elephants have a sixth sense from their whiskers

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:
https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

THE ARTICLE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Zoologists in Germany have uncovered a previously unknown sensory faculty in elephants. It explains why the giant beasts' trunks are so dexterous. The scientists found that the whiskers at the tip of the trunk are sensitive enough to detect the smallest, most delicate objects. The scientists are from the Haptic Intelligence Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. They say the incredible sensitivity of the whiskers compensates for the elephant's poor eyesight. The whiskers are essential for navigating, locating food, and social communication. The researchers say the whiskers are "smart" and give the elephant an added sense of intelligence.

Scientists believe the insights from their research will assist in advancing robotics and neuroscience. Study co-author Dr Andrew Schulz said: "Each whisker on elephants' trunks acts as a tactile sensory organ." This allows an elephant to pick up something as delicate as a potato chip without breaking it. The research could help increase dexterity in robots. Dr Lena Kaufmann is excited about how the research could advance neuroscience. She said her findings "contribute to our understanding of the tactile perception of these fascinating animals". She says the study will increase our understanding of "neuronal computation" — how the brain's neurons process information to think, feel, and act.

Sources: https://**phys.org**/news/2026-02-elephant-trunk-whiskers-material-intelligence.html
https://www.**popsci.com**/environment/elephant-whiskers-smart/
https://www.**smithsonianmag.com**/smart-news/an-elephants-trunk-is-covered-in-whiskers-and-theyre-unlike-those-on-any-other-animal-a-new-study-suggests-180988199/

WARM-UPS

1. ELEPHANTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about elephants. 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?

> zoologists / elephants / giant / trunks / whiskers / sensitive / scientists / intelligence / insights / robotics / neuroscience / tactile / help / potato chip / perception / neurons

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

3. ROBOTICS: Students A **strongly** believe we need to spend more money on research into robotics; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SIX SENSES: How are these senses different in different animals? How could they be improved? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Variations	Improvements
Sight		
Smell		
Touch		
Taste		
Hearing		
ESP		

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

6. SUPER SENSES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best senses at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Seeing in the dark
- Long-distance sight
- Super smell
- Amazing hearing
- 360° awareness
- Sonar communication
- Magnetic navigation
- Ultraviolet vision

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	zoologists	a.	Grouped closely together.
2.	faculty	b.	Large or wild animals.
3.	beasts	c.	A natural ability or skill.
4.	dexterous	d.	Makes up for something that is missing or weak.
5.	clustered	e.	Scientists who study animals.
6.	delicate	f.	Good at using your hands in a quick and careful way.
7.	compensates	g.	Easily broken or damaged.

Paragraph 2

8.	insights	h.	To give or add something to help.
9.	neuroscience	i.	The act of calculating or processing information.
10.	tactile	j.	The way you understand or notice something.
11.	contribute	k.	The study of the brain and nervous system.
12.	perception	l.	Special cells in the brain and body that send messages.
13.	computation	m.	New and clear understanding about something.
14.	neurons	n.	Related to the sense of touch.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

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

1. The trunk of an elephant is dexterous. **T / F**
2. It is difficult for elephants to detect very small things. **T / F**
3. Elephants use their whiskers for social communication. **T / F**
4. The article says elephants get more intelligence from more whiskers. **T / F**
5. This research could help in moving robotics forward. **T / F**
6. Elephants always break potato chips when they pick them up. **T / F**
7. A doctor said elephants were fascinated by neiroscience. **T / F**
8. Neuronal computation is how the brain processes information to feel. **T / F**

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

1. uncovered	a. making progress
2. faculty	b. conclusion
3. dexterous	c. ability
4. detect	d. captivating
5. compensates	e. notice
6. advancing	f. found
7. delicate	g. sort out
8. findings	h. fragile
9. fascinating	i. deft
10. process	j. balances

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

1. uncovered a previously unknown	a. most delicate objects
2. It explains why the giant beasts' trunks	b. animals
3. the whiskers at the tip	c. sensory faculty
4. sensitive enough to detect the smallest,	d. process information
5. the incredible sensitivity of the	e. to our understanding
6. insights from their research will assist	f. are so dexterous
7. pick up something as delicate as	g. whiskers
8. her findings contribute	h. in advancing robotics
9. these fascinating	i. of the trunk
10. the brain's neurons	j. a potato chip

GAP FILL

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Zoologists in Germany have uncovered a (1) _____ unknown sensory faculty in elephants. It explains why the giant beasts' trunks are so (2) _____. The scientists found that the whiskers at the tip of the trunk are sensitive enough to (3) _____ the smallest, most delicate (4) _____. The scientists are from the Haptic Intelligence Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. They say the incredible sensitivity of the whiskers (5) _____ for the elephant's poor (6) _____. The whiskers are essential for navigating, locating food, and (7) _____ communication. The researchers say the whiskers are "smart" and give the elephant an added (8) _____ of intelligence.

detect

social

previously

compensates

sense

dexterous

objects

eyesight

Scientists believe the (9) _____ from their research will assist in advancing robotics and neuroscience. Study co-author Dr Andrew Schulz said: "Each whisker on elephants' trunks acts as a (10) _____ sensory organ." This allows an elephant to pick up something as (11) _____ as a potato chip without breaking it. The research could help increase (12) _____ in robots. Dr Lena Kaufmann is excited about how the research could advance neuroscience. She said her findings "(13) _____ to our understanding of the tactile perception of these (14) _____ animals". She says the (15) _____ will increase our understanding of "neuronal computation" — how the brain's (16) _____ process information to think, feel, and act.

dexterity

tactile

study

contribute

neurons

insights

delicate

fascinating

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

1) Zoologists in Germany have uncovered a previously _____
   a. unknowing sensory faculty
   b. unknown sensory facility
   c. unknown sensory faculty
   d. unknown censorious faculty
2) sensitive enough to detect the smallest, _____
   a. most delicately objects
   b. most delicate objective
   c. most delicate subjects
   d. most delicate objects
3) the incredible sensitivity of the whiskers compensates for the _____
   a. elephant's pore eyesight
   b. elephant's poor eyesight
   c. elephant's pour eyesight
   d. elephant's port eyesight
4) The whiskers are essential for navigating, locating food, _____
   a. and social communicative
   b. and socially communication
   c. and social communicative
   d. and social communication
5) the whiskers are "smart" and give the elephant an added _____
   a. seance of intelligence
   b. sense of intelligence
   c. cents of intelligence
   d. stance of intelligence
6) Scientists believe the insights from their research will assist _____
   a. in advancing robo-ticks
   b. in advancing robotic
   c. in advancing robotics
   d. in advance in robotics
7) Each whisker on elephants' trunks acts as a _____
   a. tack tile sensory organ
   b. tacked tile sensory organ
   c. tactile sensory organ
   d. tact aisle sensory organ
8) This allows an elephant to pick up _____
   a. something gas delicate
   b. something has delicate
   c. something was delicate
   d. something as delicate
9) The research could help increase _____
   a. dexterity in robots
   b. dexterity on robots
   c. dexterity tin robots
   d. dexterity in robot
10) contribute to our understanding of the tactile perception of _____
   a. these fascination animals
   b. these fascinating animals
   c. them fascinating animals
   d. these fascinating animal

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Zoologists in Germany have uncovered (1) _____ sensory faculty in elephants. It explains why the giant beasts' trunks (2) _____. The scientists found that the whiskers at the tip of the trunk are sensitive (3) _____ the smallest, most delicate objects. The scientists are from the Haptic Intelligence Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. They say the (4) _____ the whiskers compensates for the elephant's poor eyesight. The whiskers (5) _____ navigating, locating food, and social communication. The researchers say the whiskers are "smart" and give the elephant an (6) _____ intelligence.

Scientists believe the insights from their research will assist in advancing (7) _____. Study co-author Dr Andrew Schulz said: "Each whisker on elephants' trunks acts as a (8) _____." This allows an elephant to pick up something as (9) _____ potato chip without breaking it. The research could help (10) _____ robots. Dr Lena Kaufmann is excited about how the research could advance neuroscience. She said her findings "contribute to our understanding of the tactile perception of (11) _____". She says the study will increase our understanding of "neuronal computation" — how the brain's (12) _____ to think, feel, and act.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

1. What field of science are the scientists who uncovered something?

2. What part of an elephant's trunk can detect the smallest of objects?

3. What does the sensitivity of an elephant's whiskers compensate for?

4. What do the elephant's whiskers help it to find?

5. What do the whiskers give an elephant an added sense of?

6. What might insights from the research help to advance?

7. What is an elephant able to pick up without breaking?

8. How does Dr Lena Kaufmann feel about the research?

9. What does Dr Lena Kaufmann think of elephants?

10. What does the brain process via neuronal computation?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

1) What field of science are the scientists who uncovered something?
a) robotics
b) elephantology
c) zoology
d) cognitive science

2) What part of an elephant's trunk can detect the smallest of objects?
a) the tip
b) the skin
c) the nostrils
d) the upper lip

3) What does the sensitivity of an elephant's whiskers compensate for?
a) its weight
b) its poor eyesight
c) its thick skin
d) its anger

4) What do the elephant's whiskers help it to find?
a) magnetic north
b) water
c) its mouth
d) food

5) What do the whiskers give an elephant an added sense of?
a) meaning
b) being
c) intelligence
d) attractiveness

6) What might insights from the research help to advance?
a) elephantology
b) robotics and neuroscience
c) elephant conservation
d) dementia studies

7) What is an elephant able to pick up without breaking?
a) a snowflake
b) a spider web
c) fine china
d) a potato chip

8) How does Dr Lena Kaufmann feel about the research?
a) ecstatic
b) excited
c) hopeful
d) satisfied

9) What does Dr Lena Kaufmann think of elephants?
a) She worries about them.
b) She thinks they're fascinating.
c) She's jealous of them.
d) They're her favourite animal.

10) What does the brain process via neuronal computation?
a) information
b) statistics
c) the breaking point of a potato chip
d) AI

ROLE PLAY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Role A – Seeing in the Dark

You think seeing in the dark is the best animal sense to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their senses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): long-distance sight, 360º awareness or super smell.

Role B – Long-distance Sight

You think long-distance sight is the best animal sense to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their senses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): seeing in the dark, 360º awareness or super smell.

Role C – 360º Awareness

You think 360º awareness is the best animal sense to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their senses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): long-distance sight, seeing in the dark or super smell.

Role D – Super Smell

You think super smell is the best animal sense to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their senses. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): long-distance sight, 360º awareness or seeing in the dark.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

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

elephant	**sense**

- 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:

• previously • giant • tip • incredibly • poor • smart	• believe • each • pick • increase • findings • understanding

ELEPHANTS SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Write five GOOD questions about elephants 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.

ELEPHANTS 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 'elephant'?
3. What do you know about elephants?
4. What do you know about elephants' trunks?
5. How dexterous are you?
6. How intelligent are elephants?
7. What do you think when you see an elephant?
8. What extra sense would you like to have?
9. Why do cats and dogs have whiskers?
10. What three adjectives best describe an elephant?

Elephants have a sixth sense from their whiskers – 16th February 2026
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

ELEPHANTS 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 'sense'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of elephants?
15. How much might studying elephants help in advancing robotics?
16. What would having increased dexterity allow you to do?
17. How much might studying elephants help neuroscience?
18. What do you think are the most fascinating animals?
19. What other animal behaviour could we study to help us?
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. _____

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/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Zoologists in Germany have uncovered a (1) _____ unknown sensory faculty in elephants. It explains why the (2) _____ beasts' trunks are so dexterous. The scientists found that the whiskers at the tip of the trunk are sensitive enough to (3) _____ the smallest, most delicate objects. The scientists are from the Haptic Intelligence Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. They say the incredible sensitivity of the whiskers compensates (4) _____ the elephant's poor eyesight. The whiskers are essential (5) _____ navigating, locating food, and social communication. The researchers say the whiskers are "smart" and give the elephant an added (6) _____ of intelligence.

Scientists believe the insights from their research will assist (7) _____ advancing robotics and neuroscience. Study co-author Dr Andrew Schulz said: "Each whisker on elephants' trunks acts as a (8) _____ sensory organ." This allows an elephant to pick up something as delicate as a potato chip (9) _____ breaking it. The research could help increase (10) _____ in robots. Dr Lena Kaufmann is excited about how the research could advance neuroscience. She said her findings "contribute to our understanding of the tactile perception of (11) _____ fascinating animals". She says the study will increase our understanding of "neuronal computation" — how the brain's neurons (12) _____ information to think, feel, and act.

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

1.	(a)	imperviously	(b)	previous	(c)	previously	(d)	precious
2.	(a)	giant	(b)	gaunt	(c)	granite	(d)	grant
3.	(a)	detect	(b)	deject	(c)	defect	(d)	detest
4.	(a)	for	(b)	of	(c)	at	(d)	on
5.	(a)	in	(b)	at	(c)	of	(d)	for
6.	(a)	scenes	(b)	stance	(c)	seance	(d)	sense
7.	(a)	in	(b)	of	(c)	at	(d)	up
8.	(a)	particle	(b)	cuticle	(c)	ductile	(d)	tactile
9.	(a)	without	(b)	within	(c)	with	(d)	wither
10.	(a)	austerity	(b)	dexterity	(c)	prosperity	(d)	severity
11.	(a)	them	(b)	these	(c)	their	(d)	this
12.	(a)	process	(b)	progress	(c)	recess	(d)	abscess

SPELLING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Paragraph 1

1. sensory lcftayu in elephants

2. the giant beasts' trunks are so todrxeeus

3. ietvseins enough

4. detect the smallest, most ltdeieac objects

5. the elephant's poor tgysihee

6. ieealstsn for navigating

Paragraph 2

7. a etactil sensory organ

8. help increase yxeitrdet in robots

9. the research could advance enccnoereuis

10. rtopienecp of these fascinating animals

11. our understanding of neuronal ttanmpoouic

12. the brain's nenruso

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

( ) about how the research could advance neuroscience. She said her findings "contribute to our understanding

( ) and neuroscience. Study co-author Dr Andrew Schulz said: "Each whisker on elephants' trunks acts as a tactile sensory

( ) are from the Haptic Intelligence Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. They

( ) breaking it. The research could help increase dexterity in robots. Dr Lena Kaufmann is excited

( ) communication. The researchers say the whiskers are "smart" and give the elephant an added sense of intelligence.

( ) eyesight. The whiskers are essential for navigating, locating food, and social

( ) "neuronal computation" — how the brain's neurons process information to think, feel, and act.

( ) of the tactile perception of these fascinating animals". She says the study will increase our understanding of

( ) of the trunk are sensitive enough to detect the smallest, most delicate objects. The scientists

( ) organ." This allows an elephant to pick up something as delicate as a potato chip without

( ) say the incredible sensitivity of the whiskers compensates for the elephant's poor

( ) Scientists believe the insights from their research will assist in advancing robotics

( ) why the giant beasts' trunks are so dexterous. The scientists found that the whiskers at the tip

(***1***) Zoologists in Germany have uncovered a previously unknown sensory faculty in elephants. It explains

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

1. a faculty . have previously sensory uncovered unknown Zoologists

2. are beasts' dexterous . giant so the trunks Why

3. delicate detect enough most objects . the to Sensitive

4. compensate elephant's eyesight . for poor the The whiskers

5. added an elephant Give intelligence . of sense the

6. advancing assist from in Insights research robotics . will

7. a as as chip . delicate Pick something up

8. animals . fascinating of perception tactile the these Understand

9. computation . increase neuronal of our This understanding will

10. brain's How information neurons process the think . to

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Zoologists in Germany have uncovered a *previously / previous* unknown sensory faculty *in / by* elephants. It explains why the giant beasts' trunks are so *ambidextrous / dexterous*. The scientists found that the whiskers at the *tap / tip* of the trunk are sensitive enough to *defect / detect* the smallest, most delicate objects. The scientists are from the Haptic Intelligence Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems. They say the incredible sensitivity *at / of* the whiskers compensates for the elephant's *pore / poor* eyesight. The whiskers are essential *on / for* navigating, locating food, and social communication. The researchers say the whiskers are "*smart / smarting*" and give the elephant an *added / add* sense of intelligence.

Scientists believe the *insights / sights* from their research will assist in *advances / advancing* robotics and neuroscience. Study co-author Dr Andrew Schulz said: "Each whisker on elephants' trunks *enacts / acts* as a *tactile / facile* sensory organ." This allows an elephant to pick up something as delicate as a potato chip without breaking *them / it*. The research could help increase dexterity in robots. Dr Lena Kaufmann is excited about *what / how* the research could advance neuroscience. She said her findings "contribute to our understanding of the tactile *perceive / perception* of these fascinating animals". She says the study will increase *our / their* understanding of "neuronal computation" — how the brain's *neurons / neural* process information to think, feel, and *fact / act*.

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/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

Z__l_g_sts _n G_rm_ny h_v_ _nc_v_r_d _ pr_v___sly _nkn_wn s_ns_ry f_c_lty _n _l_ph_nts. _t _xpl__ns why th_ g__nt b__sts' tr_nks _r_ s_ d_xt_r__s. Th_ sc__nt_sts f__nd th_t th_ wh_sk_rs _t th_ t_p _f th_ tr_nk _r_ s_ns_t_v_ _n__gh t_ d_t_ct th_ sm_ll_st, m_st d_l_c_t_ _bj_cts. Th_ sc__nt_sts _r_ fr_m th_ H_pt_c _nt_ll_g_nc_ D_p_rtm_nt _t th_ M_x Pl_nck _nst_t_t_ f_r _nt_ll_g_nt Syst_ms. Th_y s_y th_ _ncr_d_bl_ s_ns_t_v_ty _f th_ wh_sk_rs c_mp_ns_t_s f_r th_ _l_ph_nt's p__r _y_s_ght. Th_ wh_sk_rs _r_ _ss_nt__l f_r n_v_g_t_ng, l_c_t_ng f__d, _nd s_c__l c_mm_n_c_t__n. Th_ r_s__rch_rs s_y th_ wh_sk_rs _r_ "sm_rt" _nd g_v_ th_ _l_ph_nt _n _dd_d s_ns_ _f _nt_ll_g_nc_.

Sc__nt_sts b_l__v_ th_ _ns_ghts fr_m th__r r_s__rch w_ll _ss_st _n _dv_nc_ng r_b_t_cs _nd n__r_sc__nc_. St_dy c_-__th_r Dr _ndr_w Sch_lz s__d: "__ch wh_sk_r _n _l_ph_nts' tr_nks _cts _s _ t_ct_l_ s_ns_ry _rg_n." Th_s _ll_ws _n _l_ph_nt t_ p_ck _p s_m_th_ng _s d_l_c_t_ _s _ p_t_t_ ch_p w_th__t br__k_ng _t. Th_ r_s__rch c__ld h_lp _ncr__s_ d_xt_r_ty _n r_b_ts. Dr L_n_ K__fm_nn _s _xc_t_d _b__t h_w th_ r_s__rch c__ld _dv_nc_ n__r_sc__nc_. Sh_ s__d h_r f_nd_ngs "c_ntr_b_t_ t_ __r _nd_rst_nd_ng _f th_ t_ct_l_ p_rc_pt__n _f th_s_ f_sc_n_t_ng _n_m_ls". Sh_ s_ys th_ st_dy w_ll _ncr__s_ __r _nd_rst_nd_ng _f "n__r_n_l c_mp_t_t__n" — h_w th_ br__n's n__r_ns pr_c_ss _nf_rm_t__n t_ th_nk, f__l, _nd _ct.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

zoologists in germany have uncovered a previously unknown sensory faculty in elephants it explains why the giant beasts trunks are so dexterous the scientists found that the whiskers at the tip of the trunk are sensitive enough to detect the smallest most delicate objects the scientists are from the haptic intelligence department at the max planck institute for intelligent systems they say the incredible sensitivity of the whiskers compensates for the elephants poor eyesight the whiskers are essential for navigating locating food and social communication the researchers say the whiskers are smart and give the elephant an added sense of intelligence

scientists believe the insights from their research will assist in advancing robotics and neuroscience study coauthor dr andrew schulz said each whisker on elephants trunks acts as a tactile sensory organ this allows an elephant to pick up something as delicate as a potato chip without breaking it the research could help increase dexterity in robots dr lena kaufmann is excited about how the research could advance neuroscience she said her findings contribute to our understanding of the tactile perception of these fascinating animals she says the study will increase our understanding of neuronal computation how the brains neurons process information to think feel and act

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

ZoologistsinGermanyhaveuncoveredapreviouslyunknownsensoryfacultyinelephants.Itexplainswhythegiantbeasts'trunksaresodexterous.Thescientistsfoundthatthewhiskersatthetipofthetrunkaresensitiveenoughtodetectthesmallest,mostdelicateobjects.Thescientistsarefromthe HapticIntelligenceDepartmentattheMaxPlanckInstituteforIntelligentSystems.Theysaytheincrediblesensitivityofthewhiskerscompensatesfortheelephant'spooreyesight.Thewhiskersareessentialfornavigating,locatingfood,andsocialcommunication.Theresearchersaythewhiskersare"smart"andgivetheelephantanaddedsenseofintelligence.Scientistsbelievetheinsightsfromtheirresearchwillassistinadvancingroboticsandneuroscience.Studyco-authorDrAndrewSchulzsaid:"Eachwhiskeronelephants'trunksactsasatactilesensoryorgan."Thisallowsanelephanttopickupsomethingasdelicateasapotatochipwithoutbreakingit.Theresearchcouldhelpincreasedexterityinrobots.DrLenaKaufmannisexcitedabouthowtheresearchcouldadvanceneuroscience.Shesaidherfindings"contributetoourunderstandingofthetactileperceptionofthesefascinatinganimals".Shesaysthestudywillincreaseourunderstandingof"neuronalcomputation"—howthebrain'sneuronsprocessinformationtothink,feel,andact.

FREE WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

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

ACADEMIC WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260216-elephant-whiskers.html

We all need a sixth sense. 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. ELEPHANTS: Make a poster about elephants. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SIXTH SENSE: Write a magazine article about spending money on research to give us all another sense. 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 elephants. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on elephants. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Zoology
2. The tip
3. Its poor eyesight
4. Food
5. Intelligence
6. Robotics and neuroscience
7. A potato chip
8. Excited
9. She thinks they're fascinating.
10. Information

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Zoologists have uncovered a previously unknown sensory faculty.
2. Why the giant beasts' trunks are so dexterous.
3. Sensitive enough to detect the most delicate objects.
4. The whiskers compensate for the elephant's poor eyesight.
5. Give the elephant an added sense of intelligence.
6. Insights from research will assist in advancing robotics.
7. Pick up something as delicate as a chip.
8. Understand the tactile perception of these fascinating animals.
9. This will increase our understanding of neuronal computation.
10. How the brain's neurons process information to think.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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