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**Level 4** – 25th May 2026

## Scientists discover why gold doesn't 'rust'

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-4.html>

Gold has fascinated us for thousands of years. It is a symbol of elegance and wealth. Scientists have discovered why it never loses its shine. Researchers found that gold does not rust or change colour because of the structure of atoms on its surface. The atoms rearrange themselves into unique zigzag patterns. This minimizes reactions with oxygen. As a result, the metal does not become discoloured, even after thousands of years.

Gold is one of the softest metals. It can easily be hammered into thin sheets. Gold can be beaten to a thickness of 0.1 micrometres. This is one hundred times thinner than human hair. Its purity is why people have used it for jewellery and currency for more than 5,000 years. It is also used in electronics, dentistry, spacecraft technology, and medicine. Researchers say gold will remain a key part of many industrial processes.

Sources: <https://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-found-the-atomic-reason-that-gold-refuses-to-rust>  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/scientists-discover-why-gold-doesnt-rust/>  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/physics-explains-gold-shiny-oxidize>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gold has fascinated us for | a. atoms              |
| 2. It is a symbol             | b. why                |
| 3. Scientists have discovered | c. with oxygen        |
| 4. it never loses its         | d. thousands of years |
| 5. gold does not rust         | e. patterns           |
| 6. the structure of           | f. shine              |
| 7. unique zigzag              | g. or change colour   |
| 8. reactions                  | h. of elegance        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gold is one of the softest | a. jewellery          |
| 2. It can easily be hammered  | b. of 0.1 micrometres |
| 3. beaten to a thickness      | c. key part           |
| 4. one hundred times thinner  | d. into thin sheets   |
| 5. people have used it for    | e. processes          |
| 6. It is also used            | f. metals             |
| 7. gold will remain a         | g. in electronics     |
| 8. many industrial            | h. than human hair    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-4.html>

Gold (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for thousands of years. It is a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and wealth. Scientists have discovered why it never (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers found that gold does not (4) \_\_\_\_\_ colour because of the structure of atoms on its surface. The atoms rearrange themselves into (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This minimizes reactions with oxygen. As a result, the metal does (6) \_\_\_\_\_, even after thousands of years.

Gold is one of the softest metals. It can (7) \_\_\_\_\_ into thin sheets. Gold can (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a thickness of 0.1 micrometres. This is one hundred times thinner (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Its purity is why people have used it for jewellery (10) \_\_\_\_\_ more than 5,000 years. It is also used in electronics, dentistry, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ medicine. Researchers say gold will remain a key part of (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-4.html>

Gold has fascinated us for thousands of years. It is a symbol of elegance and wealth. Scientists have discovered why it never loses its shine. Researchers found that gold does not rust or change colour because of the structure of atoms on its surface. The atoms rearrange themselves into unique zigzag patterns. This minimizes reactions with oxygen. As a result, the metal does not become discoloured, even after thousands of years. Gold is one of the softest metals. It can easily be hammered into thin sheets. Gold can be beaten to a thickness of 0.1 micrometres. This is one hundred times thinner than human hair. Its purity is why people have used it for jewellery and currency for more than 5,000 years. It is also used in electronics, dentistry, spacecraft technology, and medicine. Researchers say gold will remain a key part of many industrial processes.

# GOLD SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gold in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Scientists discover why gold doesn't 'rust' – 25th May 2026*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

