

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5 – 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-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-5.html>

Gold has held an allure for thousands of years. This precious metal is a symbol of elegance and wealth. Scientists have discovered how it stays in such perfect condition and never loses its shine. Researchers in New Orleans found that gold does not rust or change colour because of the structure of atoms on its surface. A researcher said the atoms naturally rearrange themselves into unique zigzag patterns. This minimizes reactions with oxygen. As a result, the metal does not become discoloured, even after centuries of exposure to the elements.

A low level of reactivity to oxygen is called chemical nobility. Gold is the most noble metal. It is also one of the softest metals, which means it can easily be hammered into thin sheets. Gold can be beaten to a thickness of less than 0.1 micrometres. This is one hundred times thinner than a human hair. Its purity is why we have used gold for jewellery and currency for more than 5,000 years. It is also used in electronics, dentistry, spacecraft technology, and medicine. The researchers believe gold will continue to be a key part of many industrial applications.

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Gold has held | a. oxygen |
| 2. it stays in such perfect | b. themselves |
| 3. gold does not | c. to the elements |
| 4. the atoms naturally rearrange | d. rust |
| 5. unique zigzag | e. discoloured |
| 6. This minimizes reactions with | f. condition |
| 7. the metal does not become | g. an allure |
| 8. even after centuries of exposure | h. patterns |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A low level | a. into thin sheets |
| 2. It is also one of the softest | b. to be a key part |
| 3. it can easily be hammered | c. jewellery and currency |
| 4. thinner than | d. metals |
| 5. we have used gold for | e. of reactivity to oxygen |
| 6. It is also used | f. a human hair |
| 7. gold will continue | g. applications |
| 8. industrial | h. in electronics |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-5.html>

Gold has (1) _____ for thousands of years. This precious metal is a symbol of (2) _____. Scientists have discovered how it stays in such perfect condition and never (3) _____. Researchers in New Orleans found that gold does not rust or change colour because of the (4) _____ on its surface. A researcher said the atoms naturally rearrange themselves into (5) _____. This minimizes reactions with oxygen. As a result, the metal does not become discoloured, even after (6) _____ to the elements.

A low (7) _____ to oxygen is called chemical nobility. Gold is the most noble metal. It is also one of the softest metals, which means it can easily (8) _____ thin sheets. Gold can be beaten to a (9) _____ than 0.1 micrometres. This is one hundred times thinner than a human hair. Its purity is why we have used gold for jewellery and (10) _____ than 5,000 years. It is also used in electronics, dentistry, spacecraft (11) _____. The researchers believe gold will continue to be a (12) _____ many industrial applications.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260525-gold-5.html>

Gold has held an allure for thousands of years. This precious metal is a symbol of elegance and wealth. Scientists have discovered how it stays in such perfect condition and never loses its shine. Researchers in New Orleans found that gold does not rust or change colour because of the structure of atoms on its surface. As researchers said, the atoms naturally rearrange themselves into unique zigzag patterns. This minimizes reactions with oxygen. As a result, the metal does not become discoloured, even after centuries of exposure to the elements. A low level of reactivity to oxygen is called chemical nobility. Gold is the most noble metal. It is also one of the softest metals, which means it can be easily hammered into thin sheets. Gold can be beaten to a thickness of less than 0.1 micrometres. This is one hundred times thinner than a human hair. Its purity is why we have used gold for jewellery and currency for more than 5,000 years. It is also used in electronics, dentistry, spacecraft technology, and medicine. The researchers believe gold will continue to be a key part of many industrial applications.

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

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

