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Level 4 – 27th July 2026

Tick bites are on the rise around the world

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-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/2607/260727-tick-bites-4.html>

Doctors are worried about the increase of ticks. These are blood-sucking bugs that carry germs. Their bites can pass on serious health problems like Lyme disease. Cases of Lyme disease in the UK rose 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025. A disease control centre has reported a huge rise in ticks. It said thirty-one million Americans get bitten annually. A biology professor said tick populations were increasing because of the changing climate.

Ticks are related to spiders. They have eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their bodies balloon. They can be the size of an apple seed. They get on humans and sink their mouthparts into our skin. Their saliva contains an anaesthetic. This numbs the bite area. People rarely feel anything. The ticks can drink a victim's blood for days. To avoid ticks, people should use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

Sources: <https://time.com/article/2026/07/23/ticks-alpha-gal-red-meat-allergy/>
<https://www.theguardian.com/wellness/2026/jul/21/tick-bites-how-to-protect-yourself>
<https://www.newsweek.com/patient-treated-lyme-disease-actually-had-rare-virus-no-cure-12234886>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Doctors are worried about the increase | a. problems |
| 2. blood- | b. rise in ticks |
| 3. Their bites can pass on serious health | c. climate |
| 4. A disease control | d. sucking bugs |
| 5. reported a huge | e. annually |
| 6. thirty-one million Americans get bitten | f. of ticks |
| 7. tick | g. centre |
| 8. increasing because of the changing | h. populations |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ticks are related | a. feel anything |
| 2. After they fill | b. of an apple seed |
| 3. They can be the size | c. area |
| 4. Their saliva contains | d. repellent |
| 5. This numbs the bite | e. to spiders |
| 6. People rarely | f. blood for days |
| 7. ticks can drink a victim's | g. themselves with blood |
| 8. people should use insect | h. an anaesthetic |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-4.html>

Doctors are worried (1) _____ of ticks. These are blood-sucking bugs (2) _____. Their bites can pass on serious (3) _____ Lyme disease. Cases of Lyme disease in the UK rose 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025. A disease control centre has reported (4) _____ in ticks. It said thirty-one million Americans (5) _____. A biology professor said tick populations were increasing because of (6) _____.

Ticks are (7) _____. They have eight legs. After they fill (8) _____, their bodies balloon. They can be the size of (9) _____. They get on humans and sink their mouthparts into our skin. Their saliva contains an anaesthetic. This (10) _____ area. People rarely feel anything. The ticks can drink a victim's blood for days. (11) _____, people should (12) _____ and wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-4.html>

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use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and close
toed shoes.

TICKS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about ticks 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) _____

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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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-4.html>

Write about **ticks** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]