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Level 5 – 27th July 2026

Tick bites are on the rise around the world

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-5.html>

Doctors are worrying about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are blood-sucking bugs that carry germs from one host to another. Their bites can pass on serious health problems like Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a dramatic rise in tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans get tick bites annually. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are expanding geographically because we're changing the climate." A UK newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease rose over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

Ticks are related to spiders. They have oval bodies and eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their bodies balloon. They range in size and can be the size of an apple seed. They latch on to animals and humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin. Their mouthparts pierce the skin. Their saliva contains an anaesthetic and numbs the bite area. People rarely feel anything. The ticks can drink a victim's blood for days. The CDC offers advice for avoiding tick bites. This includes wearing insect repellent and wearing 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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the increasing | a. health problems |
| 2. blood- | b. rose over 20% |
| 3. carry germs from one | c. in tick activity |
| 4. Their bites can pass on serious | d. host to another |
| 5. a dramatic rise | e. geographically |
| 6. Americans get tick bites | f. prevalence of ticks |
| 7. tick populations are expanding | g. annually |
| 8. cases of Lyme disease | h. sucking bugs |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ticks are related | a. with blood |
| 2. After they fill themselves | b. feel anything |
| 3. They range in | c. on to animals |
| 4. They latch | d. anaesthetic |
| 5. Their mouthparts pierce | e. to spiders |
| 6. Their saliva contains an | f. repellent |
| 7. People rarely | g. size |
| 8. wearing insect | h. the skin |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-5.html>

Doctors are worrying about the (1) _____ ticks. These are blood-sucking bugs that (2) _____ one host to another. Their bites can pass on serious health problems like Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a (3) _____ tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans get (4) _____. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are expanding geographically because we're (5) _____." A UK newspaper reported that cases of Lyme (6) _____ 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

Ticks are (7) _____. They have oval bodies and eight legs. After they fill (8) _____, their bodies balloon. They range in size and can be the size of an apple seed. They (9) _____ animals and humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin. Their mouthparts pierce the skin. Their saliva contains an (10) _____ the bite area. People rarely feel anything. The ticks can (11) _____ blood for days. The CDC offers advice for avoiding tick bites. This includes wearing insect repellent and wearing (12) _____, long pants and closed shoes.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260727-tick-bites-5.html>

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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-5.html>

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

[illegible]