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Level 6 – 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.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

Doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are tiny, 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) in the USA has reported a dramatic upswing in tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten by ticks annually, and that the number of cases is increasing year by year. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are expanding geographically because we're changing the climate." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease rose over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

Ticks are arachnids — they are related to spiders. They have oval, flat bodies and eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their bodies become spherical. They range in size from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed. They latch on to animals and humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin of their victims. Their mouthparts pierce the skin and drink blood for days. Their saliva contains a mild anaesthetic. This numbs the bite area, so people often do not feel anything. The CDC offers advice for avoiding tick bites. It recommends wearing insect repellents that contain the ingredient DEET. It also advises 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>

WARM-UPS

1. TICKS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about ticks. 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?

doctors / ticks / bugs / germs / serious health problems / bites / biology / professor / spiders / blood / poppy seeds / victims / saliva / anaesthetic / insect repellent / numb

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

3. NO VALUE: Students A **strongly** believe ticks provide no value in nature; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ARACHNIDS: What do you know about these arachnids? What do you think about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Think
Ticks		
Spiders		
Mites		
Scorpions		
Harvestman		
Palpigrades		

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

6. CLIMATE CHANGE: Rank these with your partner. Put the ones you least like at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Ticks
- Locusts
- Aphids
- Fire ants
- Stink bugs
- Mosquitos
- Cockroaches
- Bark beetles

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. prevalence | a. A person, animal, or plant that another living thing lives on or in. |
| 2. germs | b. The study of living things. |
| 3. host | c. Common in a place or among a group of people. |
| 4. upswing | d. Very small living things that you cannot see that can make people or animals sick. |
| 5. annually | e. A sudden increase or improvement. |
| 6. biology | f. Every year. |
| 7. expanding | g. Growing bigger or spreading to more places. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. oval | h. A medicine that stops you feeling pain. |
| 9. spherical | i. Shaped like an egg. |
| 10. latch on to | j. The liquid in the mouth. |
| 11. saliva | k. Makes part of your body unable to feel anything. |
| 12. anaesthetic | l. Shaped like a ball. |
| 13. numbs | m. Things that keep insects or other animals away. |
| 14. repellents | n. Hold on tightly. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. Ticks are tiny germs that live on bugs. **T / F**
2. Ticks can sting people and their sting can be deadly. **T / F**
3. More than 30,000,000 Americans get tick bites each year. **T / F**
4. Cases of the tick-related Lyme disease rose by 20% in a year. **T / F**
5. Ticks are not insects. **T / F**
6. The largest ticks can be the size of an apricot stone. **T / F**
7. Ticks can drink the blood of their victims for days. **T / F**
8. Insect repellent with an ingredient called DEET can keep ticks away. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. worldwide | a. increase |
| 2. tiny | b. component |
| 3. upswing | c. very small |
| 4. annually | d. instances |
| 5. cases | e. targets |
| 6. oval | f. globally |
| 7. range | g. saliva |
| 8. victims | h. vary |
| 9. saliva | i. yearly |
| 10. ingredient | j. egg-shaped |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. the increasing prevalence | a. the skin |
| 2. These are tiny, blood-sucking | b. of ticks |
| 3. pass on serious health problems | c. arachnids |
| 4. reported a dramatic | d. like Lyme disease |
| 5. Tick populations are expanding | e. to animals and humans |
| 6. Ticks are | f. bugs that carry germs |
| 7. their bodies become | g. geographically |
| 8. They latch on | h. anaesthetic |
| 9. Their mouthparts pierce | i. upswing in tick activity |
| 10. Their saliva contains a mild | j. spherical |

GAP FILL

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

Doctors worldwide are becoming (1) _____ about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are tiny, blood-(2) _____ bugs that carry germs from one host to another. Their bites can (3) _____ on serious health problems like Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the USA has reported a dramatic (4) _____ in tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten by ticks (5) _____, and that the number of cases is increasing year by year. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick (6) _____ are expanding geographically because we're changing the (7) _____." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease (8) _____ over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

upswing
sucking
rose
annually
climate
concerned
pass
populations

Ticks are arachnids — they are (9) _____ to spiders. They have oval, flat bodies and eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their bodies become (10) _____. They range in size from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed. They (11) _____ on to animals and humans by (12) _____ their mouthparts into the skin of their victims. Their mouthparts (13) _____ the skin and drink blood for days. Their saliva contains a (14) _____ anaesthetic. This numbs the bite area, so people often do not feel anything. The CDC offers advice for (15) _____ tick bites. It recommends wearing insect repellents that contain the (16) _____ DEET. It also advises wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

spherical
pierce
related
avoiding
sinking
ingredient
latch
mild

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing _____
 - a. prevalent soft ticks
 - b. prevalent of ticks
 - c. preference of ticks
 - d. prevalence of ticks
- 2) These are tiny, blood-sucking bugs that carry germs from one _____
 - a. host to another
 - b. ghost to another
 - c. holster to another
 - d. hoist to another
- 3) Their bites can pass on serious health problems _____
 - a. alike Lyme disease
 - b. like Lyme disease
 - c. lick Lyme disease
 - d. ilk Lyme disease
- 4) It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten _____
 - a. byte ticks annually
 - b. bye ticks annually
 - c. by ticks annually
 - d. buy ticks annually
- 5) and that the number of cases is increasing _____
 - a. year by year
 - b. year by yearly
 - c. yearly by year
 - d. years by year
- 6) Ticks are arachnids — they are _____
 - a. relative to spiders
 - b. relate it to spiders
 - c. related to spiders
 - d. related two spiders
- 7) After they fill themselves with blood, their _____
 - a. bodies become sphere call
 - b. bodies become cereal
 - c. bodies become spherical
 - d. bodies become Sphinx-like
- 8) by sinking their mouthparts into the skin _____
 - a. of their victimise
 - b. of their vitamins
 - c. of their big tins
 - d. of their victims
- 9) pierce the skin and drink blood for days. Their saliva contains _____
 - a. a wild anaesthetic
 - b. a mild anaesthetic
 - c. amid anaesthetic
 - d. a mould anaesthetic
- 10) It recommends wearing insect repellents that contain _____
 - a. the in greedy ant DEET
 - b. thing gradient DEET
 - c. the ingredient DEET
 - d. the ingredients DEET

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing
(1) _____. These are tiny,
(2) _____ 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) in the USA has reported a
(3) _____ tick activity. It said thirty-one million
Americans are bitten (4) _____, and that the number
of cases is increasing year by year. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick
(5) _____ geographically because we're changing the
climate." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme
(6) _____ 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

Ticks are arachnids — they are (7) _____. They have
oval, flat bodies and eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their
(8) _____. They range in size from the size of a poppy
seed to an apple seed. They (9) _____ animals and
humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin of their victims. Their
mouthparts (10) _____ and drink blood for days. Their
saliva contains a mild anaesthetic. This (11) _____
area, so people often do not feel anything. The CDC offers advice for
avoiding tick bites. It recommends wearing insect repellents that
(12) _____ DEET. It also advises wearing long-sleeved
shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What do ticks carry from host to host?
2. What disease do ticks give people?
3. How many Americans are bitten by ticks each year?
4. What is the cause of the upswing in tick populations?
5. What rose by 20% in the UK between 2024 and 2025?
6. What class of creatures do ticks belong to?
7. What is contained in the saliva of ticks?
8. What do people feel when a tick bites them?
9. What is DEET in?
10. What kind of shirts does the CDC recommend wearing to avoid ticks?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What do ticks carry from host to host?
 - a) pollen
 - b) DNA
 - c) germs
 - d) food
- 2) What disease do ticks give people?
 - a) Lyme disease
 - b) malaria
 - c) sleeping sickness
 - d) plague
- 3) How many Americans are bitten by ticks each year?
 - a) 310,000
 - b) 310,000,000
 - c) 3,100,000
 - d) 31,000,000
- 4) What is the cause of the upswing in tick populations?
 - a) more people hiking
 - b) climate change
 - c) deforestation
 - d) fewer cockroaches
- 5) What rose by 20% in the UK between 2024 and 2025?
 - a) tick bites
 - b) the tick population
 - c) cases of Lyme disease
 - d) the size of ticks
- 6) What class of creatures do ticks belong to?
 - a) insects
 - b) arachnids
 - c) myriapods
 - d) crustaceans
- 7) What is contained in the saliva (saliva) of ticks?
 - a) eggs
 - b) a gelling agent
 - c) poison
 - d) anaesthesia
- 8) What do people feel when a tick bites them?
 - a) a hot feeling
 - b) nothing
 - c) a ticklish feeling
 - d) a sharp pain
- 9) What is DEET in?
 - a) insect repellent
 - b) tick saliva
 - c) tick poo
 - d) plants
- 10) What kind of shirts does the CDC recommend wearing to avoid ticks?
 - a) sleeveless shirts
 - b) thick shirts
 - c) black shirts
 - d) long-sleeved shirts

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Ticks

You think ticks are the worst bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least gross of these (and why): stink bugs, mosquitos or cockroaches.

Role B – Stink Bugs

You think stink bugs are the worst bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least gross of these (and why): ticks, mosquitos or cockroaches.

Role C – Mosquitos

You think mosquitos are the worst bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least gross of these (and why): stink bugs, ticks or cockroaches.

Role D – Cockroaches

You think cockroaches are the worst bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't so bad about their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least gross of these (and why): stink bugs, mosquitos or ticks.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

tick	bites

- 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:

• worldwide • host • problems • upswing • cases • populations	• related • oval • fill • pierce • saliva • recommends
---	--

TICKS SURVEY

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

TICKS 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 'tick'?
3. What do you know about ticks?
4. What would you do if a tick was on your skin?
5. What use do ticks have?
6. What do you know about Lyme disease?
7. What insects have you been bitten by?
8. Have you seen ticks in your country?
9. What do you think of the word 'tick'?
10. Are there any bugs that you detest?

Tick bites are on the rise around the world – 27th July 2026
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TICKS 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 'blood'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of ticks increasing their body size by drinking blood?
15. Are small or large creatures scariest?
16. What can we do to avoid ticks?
17. What other bug-related problems might climate change bring?
18. What would happen in nature if all ticks disappeared?
19. Will you change your hiking habits from now?
20. What questions would you like to ask the professor in the article?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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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/2607/260727-tick-bites.html>

Doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are tiny, blood-(1) _____ bugs that carry germs from one host to another. Their bites can pass (2) _____ serious health problems like Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the USA has reported a dramatic upswing (3) _____ tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten by ticks (4) _____, and that the number of cases is increasing year by year. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are (5) _____ geographically because we're changing the climate." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease (6) _____ over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

Ticks are arachnids — they are related (7) _____ spiders. They have oval, flat bodies and eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their bodies become (8) _____. They range in size from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed. They (9) _____ on to animals and humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin of their victims. Their mouthparts cut the skin and drink blood for days. Their (10) _____ contains a mild anaesthetic. This (11) _____ the bite area, so people often do not feel anything. The CDC offers advice for avoiding tick bites. It recommends wearing insect repellents that contain (12) _____ ingredient DEET. It also advises wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) socking | (b) sacking | (c) suckling | (d) sucking |
| 2. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) up | (d) on |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) in | (c) as | (d) to |
| 4. | (a) annual | (b) annuals | (c) annually | (d) annuls |
| 5. | (a) expending | (b) exploding | (c) expanding | (d) expunging |
| 6. | (a) rose | (b) reed | (c) weed | (d) plant |
| 7. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) of | (d) on |
| 8. | (a) spherical | (b) cubic | (c) cylindrical | (d) pyramidal |
| 9. | (a) batch | (b) latch | (c) hatch | (d) patch |
| 10. | (a) chemical | (b) dose | (c) saliva | (d) vaccine |
| 11. | (a) bombs | (b) tombs | (c) numbs | (d) wombs |
| 12. | (a) an | (b) all | (c) a | (d) the |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Doctors worldwide are becoming ceocdnern
2. the increasing enerplcvae of ticks
3. a dramatic gupwsin in tick activity
4. bitten by ticks nlaaylnu
5. olioygb professor
6. expanding yihlprcaloggae

Paragraph 2

7. They have lavo, flat bodies
8. their bodies become ielrchspa
9. They tlcah on to animals
10. Their mouthparts rcepie the skin
11. This mnsbu the bite area
12. insect prselnelte

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () by ticks annually, and that the number of cases is increasing year by year. Biology
- () climate." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease rose over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.
- () contain the ingredient DEET. It also advises wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.
- () days. Their saliva contains a mild anaesthetic. This numbs the bite area, so people often do not
- (**1**) Doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are tiny, blood-
- () eight legs. After they fill themselves with blood, their bodies become spherical. They range in
- () feel anything. The CDC offers advice for avoiding tick bites. It recommends wearing insect repellents that
- () on serious health problems like Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the USA has
- () professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are expanding geographically because we're changing the
- () reported a dramatic upswing in tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten
- () sinking their mouthparts into the skin of their victims. Their mouthparts cut the skin and drink blood for
- () size from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed. They latch on to animals and humans by
- () sucking bugs that carry germs from one host to another. Their bites can pass
- () Ticks are arachnids — they are related to spiders. They have oval, flat bodies and

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. about concerned increasing of prevalence the They're ticks .
2. are blood-sucking bugs carry germs that These tiny .
3. a activity dramatic in It reported tick upswing .
4. are by cases increasing Numbers of year year .
5. and become blood fill spherical themselves They with .
6. into mouthparts of Sinking skin the their victims .
7. and blood days drink for Pierce skin the .
8. a anaesthetic contains mild of saliva The ticks .
9. area, bite feel nothing numbs people so the This .
10. contain DEET insect It recommends repellents that wearing .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Doctors worldwide are becoming *concerned* / *concerning* about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are tiny, blood-sucking bugs that carry germs from one host to *the other* / *another*. Their bites can pass on serious health problems *alike* / *like* Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the USA has reported a *dramatically* / *dramatic* upswing *in* / *on* tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten by ticks *annual* / *annually*, and that the number of cases *are* / *is* increasing year by *years* / *year*. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are expanding geographically because we're *changing* / *chancing* the climate." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease *arose* / *rose* over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

Ticks are arachnids — they are *relative* / *related* to spiders. They have oval, flat bodies and eight legs. After they fill themselves *with* / *in* blood, their bodies become *spherical* / *sphere*. They range in size from the size of a *puppy* / *poppy* seed to an apple seed. They latch *on* / *at* to animals and humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin of their *victimless* / *victims*. Their mouthparts cut the skin and drink blood for days. Their *split* / *saliva* contains a mild anaesthetic. This *numbers* / *numbs* the bite area, so people often do not feel anything. The CDC offers advice *by* / *for* avoiding tick bites. It recommends wearing insect *repels* / *repellents* that contain the ingredient DEET. It also advises wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

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/2607/260727-tick-bites.html>

D_ctors w_rldw_d_ _r_ b_c_m_ng c_nc_rn_d _b__t th_ _ncr__s_ng pr_v_l_nc_ _f t_cks. Th_s_ _r_ t_ny, bl__d-s_ck_ng b_gs th_t c_rry g_rms fr_m _n_ h_st t_ _n_th_r. Th__r b_t_s c_n p_ss _n s_r__s h__lth pr_bl_ms l_k_ Lym_ d_s__s_. Th_ C_nt_rs f_r D_s__s_ C_ntr_l _nd Pr_v_nt__n (CDC)_n th_ _S_ h_s r_p_rt_d _ dr_m_t_c _psw_ng _n t_ck _ct_v_ty. _t s__d th_rty-_n_ m_ll__n _m_r_c_ns _r_ b_tt_n by t_cks _nn__lly, _nd th_t th_ n_mb_r _f c_s_s _s _ncr__s_ng y__r by y__r. B__l_gy pr_f_ss_r V_tt Ll_yd s__d: "T_ck p_p_l_t__ns _r_ _xp_nd_ng g__gr_ph_c_lly b_c__s_ w_'r_ ch_ng_ng th_ cl_m_t_." Th_ _K's 'G__rd__n' n_wsp_p_r r_p_rt_d th_t c_s_s _f Lym_ d_s__s_ r_s_ _v_r 20 p_r c_nt b_tw__n 2024 _nd 2025.

T_cks _r_ _r_chn_ds _ th_y _r_ r_l_t_d t_ sp_d_rs. Th_y h_v_ _v_l, fl_t b_d__s _nd __ght l_gs. _ft_r th_y f_ll th_ms_lv_s w_th bl__d, th__r b_d__s b_c_m_ sph_r_c_l. Th_y r_ng_ _n s_z_ fr_m th_ s_z_ _f _ p_ppy s__d t_ _n _ppl_ s__d. Th_y l_tch _n t_ _n_m_ls _nd h_m_ns by s_nk_ng th__r m__thp_rts _nt_ th_ sk_n _f th__r v_ct_ms. Th__r m__thp_rts c_t th_ sk_n _nd dr_nk bl__d f_r d_ys. Th__r s_l_v__ c_nt__ns _ m_ld _n__sth_t_c. Th_s n_mbs th_ b_t_ _r__, s_ p__pl_ _ft_n d_ n_t f__l _nyth_ng. Th_ CDC _ff_rs _dv_c_ f_r _v__d_ng t_ck b_t_s. _t r_c_mm_nds w__r_ng _ns_ct r_p_ll_nts th_t c_nt__n th_ _ngr_d__nt D__T. _t _ls_ _dv_s_s w__r_ng l_ng-sl__v_d sh_rts, l_ng p_nts _nd cl_s_d sh__s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing prevalence of ticks these are tiny bloodsucking 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) in the usa has reported a dramatic upswing in tick activity it said thirtyone million americans are bitten by ticks annually and that the number of cases is increasing year by year biology professor vett lloyd said tick populations are expanding geographically because were changing the climate the uks guardian newspaper reported that cases of lyme disease rose over 20 per cent between 2024 and 2025

ticks are arachnids they are related to spiders they have oval flat bodies and eight legs after they fill themselves with blood their bodies become spherical they range in size from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed they latch on to animals and humans by sinking their mouthparts into the skin of their victims their mouthparts cut the skin and drink blood for days their saliva contains a mild anaesthetic this numbs the bite area so people often do not feel anything the cdc offers advice for avoiding tick bites it recommends wearing insect repellents that contain the ingredient deet it also advises wearing long sleeved shirts long pants and closed shoes

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Doctors worldwide are becoming concerned about the increasing prevalence of ticks. These are tiny, 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) in the USA has reported a dramatic upswing in tick activity. It said thirty-one million Americans are bitten by ticks annually, and that the number of cases is increasing year by year. Biology professor Vett Lloyd said: "Tick populations are expanding geographically because we're changing the climate." The UK's 'Guardian' newspaper reported that cases of Lyme disease rose over 20 percent between 2024 and 2025. Ticks are arachnids—they are related to spiders. They have oval, flat bodies and eight legs. After they feed themselves with blood, their bodies become spherical. They range in size from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed. They latch onto animals and humans by sinking their mouth parts into the skin of their victims. Their mouth parts pierce the skin and drink blood for days. Their saliva contains a mild anaesthetic. This numbs the bite area, so people often do not feel anything. The CDC offers advice for avoiding tick bites. It recommends wearing insect repellents that contain the ingredient DEET. It also advises wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and closed shoes.

FREE WRITING

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

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

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

We should all learn more about ticks. Discuss.

[illegible]

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. TICKS: Make a poster about ticks. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. LEARNING ABOUT TICKS: Write a magazine article about all of us learning more about ticks. 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 ticks. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to deal with ticks. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Germs
2. Lyme disease
3. Thirty-one million
4. Climate change
5. Case of Lyme disease
6. Arachnids
7. An anaesthetic
8. Nothing
9. Insect repellent
10. Long-sleeved shirts

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. They're concerned about the increasing prevalence of ticks.
2. These are tiny, blood-sucking bugs that carry germs.
3. It reported a dramatic upswing in tick activity.
4. Numbers of cases are increasing year by year.
5. They fill themselves with blood and become spherical.
6. Sinking their mouthparts into the skin of victims.
7. Pierce the skin and drink blood for days.
8. The saliva of ticks contains a mild anaesthetic.
9. This numbs the bite area, so people feel nothing.
10. It recommends wearing insect repellents that contain DEET.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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