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Level 6 – 10th August 2026

Deadly flowers could help create new medicines

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

The world of plants is full of natural medicinal wonders, but some species of flowers can be deadly. Killers have used these for centuries to poison people. However, botanists at Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two particularly poisonous plants could have properties that may be used to make new medicines. The scientists conducted research on two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small amounts of wolfsbane could cause death from respiratory paralysis or heart failure. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle weakness. Researchers say "biohacking" of the plants' chemical makeup could create valuable therapeutics.

The researchers recreated the toxic compounds from the two plants. Study co-author Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they interact with our bodies in so many ways, and understanding how to create them can help provide totally new routes for testing." They could be used as a painkiller, to treat malaria and cancer, and to kill pests. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberger said: "Plants are the best chemists around, upgrading their arsenal of natural compounds over millions of years to help them survive." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants or are inspired by plant chemistry."

Sources: <https://phys.org/news/2026-07-deadly-blooms-genetic-blueprint-hard.html>
<https://www.earth.com/news/deadly-plants-could-inspire-a-new-generation-of-natural-medicines/>
<https://bioengineer.org/two-deadly-flowers-show-major-medical-potential/>

WARM-UPS

1. TOXIC FLOWERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about toxic flowers. 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?

plants / medicinal wonders / poison / botanists / medicines / paralysis / biohacking / researchers / painkiller / malaria / cancer / pests / professor / survive / chemistry

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

3. NATURAL MEDICINES: Students A **strongly** believe we should only use natural medicines; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PLANTS: How useful are plants for the things in the table, today and in the future? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Today	The Future
Medicine		
Wood and paper		
Clothing		
Fuel		
Shelter		
Environmental protection		

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

6. PLANTS AND FLOWERS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cacti
- Cotton
- Lotus
- Sunflowers
- Bamboo
- Wheat
- Aloe vera
- Garlic

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. medicinal | a. Things that make people feel surprise and admiration. |
| 2. wonders | b. The qualities or parts of something. |
| 3. botanists | c. Used to help people get better when they are sick. |
| 4. properties | d. The loss of the ability to move part or all of the body. |
| 5. ingestion | e. The act of eating or drinking something. |
| 6. paralysis | f. Medicines or treatments that help people get better. |
| 7. therapeutics | g. Scientists who study plants. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. toxic | h. Given a good idea or a strong wish to do something. |
| 9. compounds | i. To help someone get better from an illness or injury. |
| 10. painkiller | j. Small animals or insects that cause problems or damage. |
| 11. treat | k. Poisonous and able to make people or animals sick. |
| 12. pests | l. Substances made by joining two or more different things together. |
| 13. arsenal | m. A large collection of things (especially weapons) that can be used for a purpose. |
| 14. inspired | n. A medicine that helps stop or reduce pain. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

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

1. The article says all plants are used for medicinal purposes. **T / F**
2. Killers have poisoned people with plants for hundreds of years. **T / F**
3. Botanists looked at the plants wolfsbane and larkspur. **T / F**
4. Researchers say plant biohacking could create precious medicines. **T / F**
5. Researchers recreated toxic compounds from two plants. **T / F**
6. The two plants could lead to painkilling medicine. **T / F**
7. A researcher said chemists should grow plants. **T / F**
8. A researcher said today's medicines are inspired by plants. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. wonders | a. heal |
| 2. deadly | b. carried out |
| 3. properties | c. ways |
| 4. conducted | d. qualities |
| 5. weakness | e. straight |
| 6. toxic | f. marvels |
| 7. routes | g. frailty |
| 8. treat | h. line-up |
| 9. arsenal | i. lethal |
| 10. directly | j. poisonous |

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

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. The world of plants is full of natural | a. chemical makeup |
| 2. some species of flowers can | b. painkiller |
| 3. Killers have used these for centuries | c. be deadly |
| 4. cause death from respiratory | d. and cancer |
| 5. biohacking of the plants' | e. paralysis |
| 6. researchers recreated the toxic | f. of years |
| 7. They could be used as a | g. medicinal wonders |
| 8. treat malaria | h. compounds |
| 9. over millions | i. chemistry |
| 10. inspired by plant | j. to poison people |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

The world of plants is full of natural (1) _____ wonders, but some species of flowers can be deadly. Killers have used these for centuries to (2) _____ people. However, botanists at Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two (3) _____ poisonous plants could have properties that may be used to make new medicines. The scientists (4) _____ research on two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small (5) _____ of wolfsbane could cause death from respiratory paralysis or heart (6) _____. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal (7) _____ weakness. Researchers say "biohacking" of the plants' chemical makeup could create (8) _____ therapeutics.

poison
particularly
failure
medicinal
valuable
amounts
muscle
conducted

The researchers recreated the toxic (9) _____ from the two plants. Study co-author Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they (10) _____ with our bodies in so many ways, and understanding how to create them can help provide (11) _____ new routes for testing." They could be used as a (12) _____, to treat malaria and cancer, and to kill (13) _____. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberger said: "Plants are the best chemists around, upgrading their (14) _____ of natural compounds over millions of years to help them (15) _____." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants or are (16) _____ by plant chemistry."

totally
pests
survive
compounds
inspired
painkiller
interact
arsenal

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

- 1) The world of plants is full of _____
 - a. natural medically wonders
 - b. natural medicines wonders
 - c. natural medicinal wonders
 - d. natural medic and all wonders
- 2) Killers have used these for centuries _____
 - a. to poison people
 - b. to poisons people
 - c. to poisoned people
 - d. to poisonous people
- 3) small amounts of wolfsbane could cause death from respiratory paralysis _____
 - a. or heart fails
 - b. or heart failure
 - c. or heart failed
 - d. or heart fail your
- 4) The toxic larkspur can cause _____
 - a. skeletal muscles weakness
 - b. skeletal muscle weak mess
 - c. skeletal muscles weak mess
 - d. skeletal muscle weakness
- 5) biohacking of the plants' chemical makeup could _____
 - a. create valuable therapeutics
 - b. create value able therapeutics
 - c. create valuable therapy ticks
 - d. creative valuable therapeutics
- 6) We know they interact with our bodies in _____
 - a. so many ways
 - b. so many weighs
 - c. so many whys
 - d. so many wise
- 7) understanding how to create them can help provide totally new _____
 - a. routes four testing
 - b. routes for testing
 - c. routes for test in
 - d. route for testing
- 8) They could be used as a painkiller, to treat malaria and cancer, and _____
 - a. to kill posts
 - b. to kill pasts
 - c. to kill pests
 - d. to kill psst
- 9) Plants are the best chemists around, upgrading their arsenal _____
 - a. off natural compounds
 - b. of naturally compounds
 - c. of natural compound
 - d. of natural compounds
- 10) Many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants _____
 - a. or your inspired
 - b. or are in spired
 - c. or are inspiral
 - d. or are inspired

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

The world of plants is (1) _____ medicinal wonders, but some species of flowers can be deadly. Killers have used these for (2) _____ people. However, botanists at Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two particularly poisonous plants could (3) _____ may be used to make new medicines. The scientists (4) _____ two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small amounts of wolfsbane could cause death from respiratory (5) _____ failure. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle weakness. Researchers say "biohacking" of the plants' chemical makeup (6) _____ therapeutics.

The researchers recreated (7) _____ from the two plants. Study co-author Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they interact with our bodies in (8) _____, and understanding how to create them can help provide totally new routes for testing." They could be used (9) _____, to treat malaria and cancer, and to kill pests. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberger said: "Plants are the (10) _____, upgrading their arsenal (11) _____ over millions of years to help them survive." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants or are (12) _____ chemistry."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

1. What does the article say the world of plants is full of?
2. For how long have plants been used to poison people?
3. What kind of scientists conducted the research in the article?
4. What could the plant wolfsbane do to the respiratory system?
5. What could the plant larkspur do to skeletal muscles?
6. What did the researchers recreate from the two plants?
7. What could new medicines be used to kill (besides pests)?
8. What could new medicines treat (besides malaria)?
9. What do plants keep upgrading?
10. What are many of today's medicines inspired by?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

- 1) What does the article say the world of plants is full of?
 - a) beautiful colours
 - b) medicinal wonders
 - c) hidden dangers
 - d) deadly poisons
- 2) For how long have plants been used to poison people?
 - a) a long time
 - b) about 237 years
 - c) centuries
 - d) thousands of years
- 3) What kind of scientists conducted the research in the article?
 - a) geologists
 - b) archaeologists
 - c) zoologists
 - d) botanists
- 4) What could the plant wolfsbane do to the respiratory system?
 - a) destroy it
 - b) paralyse it
 - c) fill it with water
 - d) poison it
- 5) What could the plant larkspur do to skeletal muscles?
 - a) weaken them
 - b) destroy them
 - c) make them twitch
 - d) paralyse them
- 6) What did the researchers recreate from the two plants?
 - a) toxic compounds
 - b) vaccines
 - c) smells
 - d) hybrids
- 7) What could new medicines be used to kill (besides pests)?
 - a) viruses
 - b) bacteria
 - c) all diseases
 - d) pain
- 8) What could new medicines treat (besides malaria)?
 - a) insomnia
 - b) diabetes
 - c) cancer
 - d) migraines
- 9) What do plants keep upgrading?
 - a) the potency (power) of their poisons
 - b) the soil
 - c) their ability to attract insects
 - d) their arsenal of natural compounds
- 10) What are many of today's medicines inspired by?
 - a) literature
 - b) plant chemistry
 - c) ancient remedies
 - d) ancient doctors

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

Role A – Cotton

You think cotton is the most important plant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): bamboo, wheat or garlic.

Role B – Bamboo

You think bamboo is the most important plant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): cotton, wheat or garlic.

Role C – Wheat

You think wheat is the most important plant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): bamboo, cotton or garlic.

Role D – Garlic

You think garlic is the most important plant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): bamboo, wheat or cotton.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

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

flower	medicine

- 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:

• world • botanists • properties • conducted • failure • chemical	• recreated • bodies • routes • pests • millions • today
---	--

TOXIC FLOWERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

Write five GOOD questions about toxic flowers 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.

TOXIC FLOWERS 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 'flower'?
3. What do you think of plants as medicine?
4. Are natural or synthetic medicines best?
5. What deadly plants do you know of?
6. What dangerous plants do you know of?
7. What are your favourite flowers and plants?
8. What do you think of 'biohacking' plants?
9. Has a plant or flower ever caused you harm?
10. What do you think of botany?

Deadly flowers could help create new medicines – 10th August 2026
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TOXIC FLOWERS 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 'medicine'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Should we all learn about what plants are dangerous?
15. What are your least favourite flowers and plants?
16. Do you ever take painkillers?
17. What do you do about pests in your house?
18. What new medicines would you like to see?
19. Do you take a lot of medicine?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

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/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

The world of plants is (1) ____ of natural medicinal wonders, but some species of flowers can be deadly. Killers have used these for centuries (2) ____ poison people. However, botanists at Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two (3) ____ poisonous plants could have properties that may be used to make new medicines. The scientists conducted research on two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small amounts of wolfsbane could (4) ____ death from respiratory paralysis or heart (5) _____. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle weakness. Researchers say "biohacking" (6) ____ the plants' chemical makeup could create valuable therapeutics.

The researchers (7) ____ the toxic compounds from the two plants. Study co-author Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they interact with our bodies in so (8) ____ ways, and understanding how to create them can help provide totally new routes for testing." They could be used as a (9) ____, to treat malaria and cancer, and to kill pests. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberger said: "Plants are the best (10) ____ around, upgrading their arsenal of natural compounds (11) ____ millions of years to help them survive." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we use today (12) ____ come directly from plants or are inspired by plant chemistry."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) fully | (b) full | (c) fullest | (d) filling |
| 2. | (a) for | (b) to | (c) by | (d) so |
| 3. | (a) particularize | (b) particularly | (c) particulars | (d) particular |
| 4. | (a) lead | (b) cause | (c) make | (d) result |
| 5. | (a) failed | (b) fails | (c) fail | (d) failure |
| 6. | (a) so | (b) onto | (c) of | (d) up |
| 7. | (a) recreated | (b) redacted | (c) reacted | (d) receded |
| 8. | (a) much | (b) most | (c) many | (d) more |
| 9. | (a) painful killer | (b) pains killer | (c) pained killer | (d) painkiller |
| 10. | (a) chemists | (b) chemicals | (c) chemistry | (d) chemist |
| 11. | (a) over | (b) above | (c) upper | (d) higher |
| 12. | (a) either | (b) every | (c) neither | (d) whole |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

Paragraph 1

1. full of natural iidcaenlm wonders
2. two particularly osoounpsi plants
3. cause death from respiratory lsaiyarps
4. cause leselkat muscle weakness
5. onhkigbiac of the plants
6. create valuable tsieuapercth

Paragraph 2

7. toxic dnocspumo
8. used as a irileaknpl
9. treat laramia and cancer
10. upgrading their lsenara
11. help them eirvvsu
12. irpsnedi by plant chemistry

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () are the best chemists around, upgrading their arsenal of natural compounds over millions
- () deadly. Killers have used these for centuries to poison people. However, botanists at
- () death from respiratory paralysis or heart failure. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle
- () Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they interact with our bodies in so many ways, and understanding how
- () malaria and cancer, and to kill pests. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberger said: "Plants
- () Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two particularly
- () of years to help them survive." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we
- () poisonous plants could have properties that may be used to make new medicines. The scientists conducted
- () research on two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small amounts of wolfsbane could cause
- () The researchers recreated the toxic compounds from the two plants. Study co-author
- (**1**) The world of plants is full of natural medicinal wonders, but some species of flowers can be
- () to create them can help provide totally new routes for testing." They could be used as a painkiller, to treat
- () use today either come directly from plants or are inspired by plant chemistry."
- () weakness. Researchers say "biohacking" of the plants' chemical makeup could create valuable therapeutics.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

1. The full medicinal natural of world wonders is .
2. centuries for Killers people poison these to used .
3. are make medicines new Properties that to used .
4. conducted flowers on research scientists The two .
5. can cause plant muscle skeletal The toxic weakness .
6. compounds from plants recreated Researchers the the .
7. bodies in interact many our They ways with .
8. a as be could painkiller They used .
9. arsenal compounds natural of over their Upgrading years .
10. Many medicines of the today use we .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

The world of plants is full of natural medicinal wonders, but some species of flowers can be *deathly* / *deadly*. Killers have used these for *centurions* / *centuries* to poison people. However, *botanists* / *botany* at Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two particularly poisonous plants could have *residences* / *properties* that may be used to make new *potions* / *medicines*. The scientists conducted research *in* / *on* two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small *amount* / *amounts* of wolfsbane could cause *dead* / *death* from respiratory paralysis or heart failure. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle *weak* / *weakness*. Researchers say "biohacking" *off* / *of* the plants' chemical makeup could create valuable therapeutics.

The researchers recreated *a* / *the* toxic compounds from the two plants. Study co-author Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they interact *up* / *with* our bodies in so *many* / *much* ways, and understanding how to create them can help provide *totally* / *total* new routes for testing." They could be used as a painkiller, to *threat* / *treat* malaria and cancer, and to kill pests. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberger said: "Plants are the best chemists *abound* / *around*, upgrading their arsenal *at* / *of* natural compounds *over* / *under* millions of years to help them survive." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we use today *neither* / *either* come directly from plants or are inspired *by* / *of* plant chemistry."

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/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

Th_ w_rld _f pl_nts _s f_ll _f n_t_r_l m_d_c_n_l
w_nd_rs, b_t s_m_ sp_c__s _f fl_w_rs c_n b_ d__dly.
K_ll_rs h_v_ _s_d th_s_ f_r c_nt_r__s t_ p__s_n
p__pl_. H_w_v_r, b_t_n_sts _t M_ch_g_n St_t_
_n_v_rs_ty _nd th_ Cz_ch _c_d_my _f Sc__nc_s h_v_
d_sc_v_r_d th_t tw_ p_rt_c_l_rly p__s_n__s pl_nts c__ld
h_v_ pr_p_rt__s th_t m_y b_ _s_d t_ m_k_ n_w
m_d_c_n_s. Th_ sc__nt_sts c_nd_ct_d r_s__rch _n tw_
fl_w_rs: w_lfsb_n_ _nd l_rksp_r. _ng_st__n _f sm_ll
_m__nts _f w_lfsb_n_ c__ld c__s_ d__th fr_m
r_sp_r_t_ry p_r_lys_s _r h__rt f__l_r_. Th_ t_x_c
l_rksp_r c_n c__s_ sk_l_t_l m_scl_ w__kn_ss.
R_s__rch_rs s_y "b__h_ck_ng" _f th_ pl_nts' ch_m_c_l
m_k__p c__ld cr__t_ v_l__bl_ th_r_p__t_cs.

Th_ r_s__rch_rs r_cr__t_d th_ t_x_c c_mp__nds fr_m
th_ tw_ pl_nts. St_dy c_-_th_r Dr G_rr_t M_ll_r s__d:
"W_ kn_w th_y _nt_r_ct w_th __r b_d__s _n s_ m_ny
w_ys, _nd _nd_rst_nd_ng h_w t_ cr__t_ th_m c_n h_lp
pr_v_d_ t_t_lly n_w r__ts fr t_st_ng." Th_y c__ld b_
_s_d _s _ p__nk_ll_r, t_ tr__t m_l_r__ _nd c_nc_r,
nd t k_ll p_sts. R_s__rch_r _nd b__ch_m_stry
pr_f_ss_r Bj_rn H_mb_rg_r s__d: "Pl_nts _r_ th_ b_st
ch_m_sts _r__nd, _pgr_d_ng th__r _rs_n_l _f n_t_r_l
c_mp__nds _v_r m_ll__ns _f y__rs t_ h_lp th_m
s_rv_v_." _n_th_r r_s__rch_r, L_n_ M_t_bdz_j_, s__d:
"M_ny _f th_ m_d_c_n_s w_ _s_ t_d_y __th_r c_m_
d_r_ctly fr_m pl_nts _r _r_ _nsp_r_d by pl_nt
ch_m_stry."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

the world of plants is full of natural medicinal wonders but some species of flowers can be deadly killers have used these for centuries to poison people however botanists at michigan state university and the czech academy of sciences have discovered that two particularly poisonous plants could have properties that may be used to make new medicines the scientists conducted research on two flowers wolfsbane and larkspur ingestion of small amounts of wolfsbane could cause death from respiratory paralysis or heart failure the toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle weakness researchers say biohacking of the plants chemical makeup could create valuable therapeutics the researchers recreated the toxic compounds from the two plants study coauthor dr garret miller said we know they interact with our bodies in so many ways and understanding how to create them can help provide totally new routes for testing they could be used as a painkiller to treat malaria and cancer and to kill pests researcher and biochemistry professor bjorn hamberger said plants are the best chemists around upgrading their arsenal of natural compounds over millions of years to help them survive another researcher lana mutabdzija said many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants or are inspired by plant chemistry

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

The world of plants is full of natural medicinal wonders, but some species of flowers can be deadly. Killers have used these for centuries to poison people. However, botanists at Michigan State University and the Czech Academy of Sciences have discovered that two particularly poisonous plants could have properties that may be used to make new medicines. The scientists conducted research on two flowers: wolfsbane and larkspur. Ingestion of small amounts of wolfsbane could cause death from respiratory paralysis or heart failure. The toxic larkspur can cause skeletal muscle weakness. Researchers say "biohacking" of the plants' chemical makeup could create valuable therapeutics. The researchers recreated the toxic compounds from the two plants. Study co-author Dr Garret Miller said: "We know they interact with our bodies in so many ways, and understanding how to create them can help provide totally new routes for testing." They could be used as a painkiller, to treat malaria and cancer, and to kill pests. Researcher and biochemistry professor Bjorn Hamberg said: "Plants are the best chemists around, upgrading their arsenal of natural compounds over millions of years to help them survive." Another researcher, Lana Mutabdzija, said: "Many of the medicines we use today either come directly from plants or are inspired by plant chemistry."

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

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

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260810-toxic-flowers.html>

We should only use medicines from natural sources. 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. TOXIC FLOWERS: Make a poster about toxic flowers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NATURAL MEDICINES: Write a magazine article about using only natural medicines. 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 toxic flowers. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what we can do with them. 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. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Medicinal wonders
2. Centuries
3. Botanists
4. Paralyse it
5. Weaken them
6. Toxic compounds
7. Pain
8. Cancer
9. Their arsenal of natural compounds
10. Plant chemistry

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The world is full of natural medicinal wonders.
2. Killers used these for centuries to poison people.
3. Properties that are used to make new medicines.
4. The scientists conducted research on two flowers.
5. The toxic plant can cause skeletal muscle weakness.
6. Researchers recreated the compounds from the plants.
7. They interact with our bodies in many ways.
8. They could be used as a painkiller.
9. Upgrading their arsenal of natural compounds over years.
10. Many of the medicines we use today.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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