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Scientists make schizophrenia breakthrough

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:
<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

7th August, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

Scientists in America say they have greatly changed our understanding of the illness schizophrenia. In particular, they say that our genes play a big role in passing the disorder on from parent to child. Researchers have found that we can get schizophrenia even when there is no history of it in our family. They analyzed the DNA of over 200 people and found changes in 40 different genes. Researcher professor Bin Xu said this has "fundamentally transformed our understanding of the genetic basis of schizophrenia". His research could help millions of schizophrenia sufferers.

Schizophrenia is quite common but not very well understood. It affects one in every 100 people. Around ten percent of those with schizophrenia have a parent with the disorder. Symptoms of the condition include seeing things that are not there, feeling as though someone else is controlling your body, and losing interest in everything. Paul Jenkins from the charity Rethink Mental Illness said: "We welcome any research which helps develop a better insight of the causes of schizophrenia and [that] brings us closer to finding new ways of preventing or treating the condition."

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. greatly changed our | a. to child |
| 2. our genes play a | b. genes |
| 3. passing the disorder on from parent | c. big role |
| 4. no history of it in | d. of schizophrenia |
| 5. 40 different | e. understanding |
| 6. the genetic basis | f. our family |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Schizophrenia is quite | a. of the condition |
| 2. It affects one in every | b. the condition |
| 3. Symptoms | c. common |
| 4. someone else is controlling | d. research |
| 5. We welcome any | e. 100 people |
| 6. preventing or treating | f. your body |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

Scientists in America say they _____ our understanding of the illness schizophrenia. In particular, they say that our genes _____ passing the disorder on from parent to child. Researchers have found that we can get schizophrenia even when there is _____ in our family. They analyzed the DNA of over 200 people and found changes in 40 _____. Researcher professor Bin Xu said this has "fundamentally transformed our understanding of the _____ schizophrenia". His research _____ of schizophrenia sufferers.

Schizophrenia is quite common but not _____. It affects one in every 100 people. Around ten percent of those with schizophrenia have a parent _____. Symptoms of the condition include seeing things that are not there, feeling _____ else is controlling your body, and losing interest in everything. Paul Jenkins from the charity Rethink Mental Illness said: "We _____ which helps develop a better _____ causes of schizophrenia and [that] brings us closer to _____ of preventing or treating the condition."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

Scientists in America say they have (1) _____ changed our understanding of the illness schizophrenia. In particular, they say that our (2) _____ play a big role in passing the disorder (3) _____ from parent to child. Researchers have found that we can get schizophrenia even when there is no (4) _____ of it in our family. They analyzed the (5) _____ of over 200 people and found changes in 40 different genes. Researcher professor Bin Xu said this has "fundamentally transformed our understanding of the genetic basis of schizophrenia". His research could help millions of schizophrenia (6) _____.

Schizophrenia is quite common but not very (7) _____ understood. It affects one in every 100 people. Around ten percent of (8) _____ with schizophrenia have a parent with the disorder. Symptoms of the condition include seeing things that are not (9) _____, feeling as though someone else is controlling your body, and losing interest (10) _____ everything. Paul Jenkins from the charity Rethink Mental Illness said: "We welcome any research which helps develop a (11) _____ insight of the causes of schizophrenia and [that] brings us closer to finding new ways of preventing or (12) _____ the condition."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) greats | (b) great | (c) greatly |
| 2. | (a) jeans | (b) genes | (c) gems |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) so | (c) for |
| 4. | (a) history | (b) historical | (c) historian |
| 5. | (a) ABC | (b) DNA | (c) LED |
| 6. | (a) surfers | (b) sufferer | (c) sufferers |
| 7. | (a) well | (b) good | (c) nice |
| 8. | (a) those | (b) them | (c) they |
| 9. | (a) their | (b) they're | (c) there |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) at |
| 11. | (a) best | (b) better | (c) well |
| 12. | (a) treat | (b) treats | (c) treating |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. iesisstcnt in America
2. the senlisl schizophrenia
3. from parent to dhcli
4. no ysthori of it in our family
5. 40 different eengs
6. His research could help iimolnsl

Paragraph 2

7. quite momcno
8. It tefcfsa one in every 100
9. have a parent with the deiorsrd
10. losing tertisne in everything
11. oleedvp a better insight
12. preventing or tgairetrn the condition

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () body, and losing interest in everything. Paul Jenkins from the charity Rethink Mental Illness said: "We
- () brings us closer to finding new ways of preventing or treating the condition."
- () illness schizophrenia. In particular, they say that our genes play a big role in passing the disorder
- () 100 people. Around ten percent of those with schizophrenia have a parent with the disorder. Symptoms
- () family. They analyzed the DNA of over 200 people and found changes in 40 different genes. Researcher
- () of the condition include seeing things that are not there, feeling as though someone else is controlling your
- () on from parent to child. Researchers have found that we can get schizophrenia even when there is no history of it in our
- () Schizophrenia is quite common but not very well understood. It affects one in every
- (**1**) Scientists in America say they have greatly changed our understanding of the
- () welcome any research which helps develop a better insight of the causes of schizophrenia and [that]
- () basis of schizophrenia". His research could help millions of schizophrenia sufferers.
- () professor Bin Xu said this has "fundamentally transformed our understanding of the genetic

WORD JUMBLE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1108/110807-schizophrenia.html>

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. changed Greatly illness the of understanding our.

2. Passing parent the to disorder child on from.

3. it family is of our There history in no.

4. 200 the people DNA of They over analyzed.

5. Help sufferers schizophrenia of millions.

6. not but common Quite understood well vey.

7. in one affects It people 100 every.

8. not things are there Seeing that.

9. of of Develop insight causes better the schizophrenia a.

10. or New treating ways the of condition preventing.

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. _____

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. SCHIZOPHRENIA: Search the Internet and find more information about schizophrenia. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about schizophrenia. Include imaginary interviews with sufferers. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on schizophrenia. Ask him/her three questions about schizophrenia. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.