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Gossip is good for you, study says

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

22nd January, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

Forget all the advice people gave you about not gossiping. Researchers have just discovered that gossip may be good for our health. Scientists from the University of California say that having a good gossip has health benefits for both the gossip and the listener. They say it can help control bad behaviour towards others and reduce stress levels. This means the office gossip may be more of a help than a nuisance. However, it may make the person being gossiped about more stressed.

The scientists did a large number of tests on people to see the effects of gossip on our brain. They asked those taking the test to listen to different kinds of "pro-social" gossip – this is information and warnings about untrustworthy people. Dr Robb Willer, co-author of the study said: "Gossiping made them feel better....Gossip gets a bad rap, but we're finding evidence that it plays a critical role in the maintenance of social order." Maybe next time you're feeling down, you should pass on some juicy gossip.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. all the advice people | a. for our health |
| 2. good | b. good gossip |
| 3. having a | c. gave you |
| 4. it can help control bad r | d. gossip |
| 5. the office | e. gossiped about |
| 6. the person being | f. behaviour |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. scientists did a large | a. people |
| 2. the effects of gossip | b. number of tests |
| 3. warnings about untrustworthy | c. gossip |
| 4. it plays a critical | d. order |
| 5. the maintenance of social | e. on our brain |
| 6. pass on some juicy | f. role |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

Forget _____ people gave you about not gossiping.

Researchers have just discovered that gossip _____

our health. Scientists from the University of California say that

having a good gossip has _____ for both the gossip

and the listener. They say it can help control bad behaviour

towards others and _____. This means the office

gossip _____ a help than a nuisance. However, it

may make the person _____ more stressed.

The scientists did _____ tests on people to see

the effects of gossip on our brain. They asked those taking the

_____ different kinds of "pro-social" gossip – this

is information _____ untrustworthy people. Dr

Robb Willer, co-author of the study said: "Gossiping made them

feel better....Gossip _____, but we're finding

evidence that it _____ role in the maintenance of

social order." Maybe next time you're _____, you

should pass on some juicy gossip.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

Forget all the (1) _____ people gave you about not gossiping. Researchers have just discovered (2) _____ gossip may be good for our health. Scientists from the University of California say that (3) _____ a good gossip has health benefits for both the gossip and the listener. They say it can help control bad behaviour towards others and reduce stress (4) _____. This means the office gossip may be more of a help (5) _____ a nuisance. However, it may make the person (6) _____ gossiped about more stressed.

The scientists did a large (7) _____ of tests on people to see the effects of gossip on our brain. They asked those (8) _____ the test to listen to different kinds of "pro-social" gossip – this is information and warnings (9) _____ untrustworthy people. Dr Robb Willer, co-author of the study said: "Gossiping made them (10) _____ better....Gossip gets a bad (11) _____, but we're finding evidence that it plays a critical role in the maintenance of social order." Maybe next time you're feeling down, you should pass on (12) _____ juicy gossip.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. | (a) advise | (b) advises | (c) advice |
| 2. | (a) that | (b) them | (c) then |
| 3. | (a) has | (b) having | (c) have |
| 4. | (a) level | (b) leveled | (c) levels |
| 5. | (a) than | (b) as | (c) that |
| 6. | (a) being | (b) was | (c) is |
| 7. | (a) numeral | (b) number | (c) digit |
| 8. | (a) took | (b) takes | (c) taking |
| 9. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) about |
| 10. | (a) feel | (b) touch | (c) is |
| 11. | (a) hip-hop | (b) rap | (c) techno |
| 12. | (a) many | (b) some | (c) few |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. Forget all the aeicdv
2. just dceerovisd
3. health estebnif
4. control bad euboarvhi
5. the cofife gossip
6. more sreutlsfs

Paragraph 2

7. a large meunrb of tests
8. the scfeetf of gossip
9. listen to fetdfrein kinds
10. we're finding vndeicee
11. plays a lticicar role
12. pass on some cjyui gossip

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120122-gossip.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Forget all the advice people gave you about not gossiping. Researchers have just discovered
- () that gossip may be good for our health. Scientists from the University of California say
- () on our brain. They asked those taking the test to listen to different kinds of "pro-
- () finding evidence that it plays a critical role in the maintenance of
- () The scientists did a large number of tests on people to see the effects of gossip
- () that having a good gossip has health benefits for both the gossip and
- () the listener. They say it can help control bad behaviour towards others and reduce
- () social order." Maybe next time you're feeling down, you should pass on some juicy gossip.
- () nuisance. However, it may make the person being gossiped about more stressed.
- () stress levels. This means the office gossip may be more of a help than a
- () of the study said: "Gossiping made them feel better....Gossip gets a bad rap, but we're
- () social" gossip – this is information and warnings about untrustworthy people. Dr Robb Willer, co-author

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. the people all advice gave Forget.

2. be may Gossip health our for good.

3. health has gossip good a Having benefits.

4. control behavior It help bad can.

5. Make about the more person stressed being gossiped.

6. number scientists of did tests a large The.

7. brain of gossip See on the our effects.

8. Information warnings untrustworthy and about people.

9. it that Evidence role critical a plays.

10. You gossip juicy some on pass should.

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

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about gossip. Include an imaginary interview with a big gossip. 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 a gossip expert. Ask him/her three questions about gossip. 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.