

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Spiders have too many legs, study finds

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**8th June, 2011**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

Scientists think they know why spiders are so good at climbing and crawling - they have more legs than they need. A new study from the University of Nancy in France did research on thousands of different spiders. They noticed that 10 per cent of them had one or more legs missing. The researchers tested the spiders with and without missing limbs. They found that those with fewer than eight legs were as good at making webs as those with the full number of legs.

The research team decided that six-legged spiders had no problems hunting. Report author Alain Pasquet said: "We were really surprised - we expected missing a leg to harm the spiders' ability to catch food, and it didn't at all." Pasquet said the creepy-crawlies had no problems with two fewer legs but started struggling if three were missing. The quality of spiderwebs made by five-legged spiders was not good enough to catch flies properly.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Scientists think they know | a. and crawling      |
| 2. good at climbing           | b. than eight legs   |
| 3. thousands of               | c. missing           |
| 4. one or more legs           | d. why               |
| 5. those with fewer           | e. webs              |
| 6. good at making             | f. different spiders |

## Paragraph 2

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. six-legged spiders had | a. struggling            |
| 2. We were really         | b. ability to catch food |
| 3. harm the spiders'      | c. no problems           |
| 4. creepy-                | d. enough to catch flies |
| 5. started                | e. surprised             |
| 6. not good               | f. crawlies              |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

Scientists \_\_\_\_\_ spiders are so good at climbing and crawling - they have \_\_\_\_\_ need. A new study from the University of Nancy in France did research \_\_\_\_\_ different spiders. They noticed that 10 per cent of them had one or more legs missing. The researchers tested the spiders with and \_\_\_\_\_. They found that those \_\_\_\_\_ legs were as good at making webs as those \_\_\_\_\_ of legs.

The research team decided that six-legged spiders had \_\_\_\_\_. Report author Alain Pasquet said: "We were really surprised - we \_\_\_\_\_ leg to harm the spiders' \_\_\_\_\_, and it didn't at all." Pasquet said the creepy-crawlies had no \_\_\_\_\_ legs but started struggling if \_\_\_\_\_. The quality of spiderwebs made by five-legged spiders was not good enough to \_\_\_\_\_.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

Scientists think they know (1) \_\_\_\_\_ spiders are so good at climbing and crawling - they have more legs than they (2) \_\_\_\_\_. A new study from the University of Nancy in France (3) \_\_\_\_\_ research on thousands of different spiders. They noticed that 10 per cent of them had one (4) \_\_\_\_\_ more legs missing. The researchers tested the spiders with and without missing limbs. They found that those with (5) \_\_\_\_\_ than eight legs were as good at making webs as those with the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ number of legs.

The research team (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that six-legged spiders had no problems (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Report author Alain Pasquet said: "We were really surprised - we expected missing a leg to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the spiders' ability to catch food, and it didn't at (10) \_\_\_\_\_." Pasquet said the creepy-crawlies had no problems with two fewer legs but (11) \_\_\_\_\_ struggling if three were missing. The quality of spiderwebs made by five-legged spiders was not good enough to catch flies (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |               |              |              |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) what      | (b) when     | (c) why      |
| 2.  | (a) necessary | (b) need     | (c) needy    |
| 3.  | (a) did       | (b) said     | (c) made     |
| 4.  | (a) and       | (b) or       | (c) so       |
| 5.  | (a) before    | (b) small    | (c) fewer    |
| 6.  | (a) full      | (b) six      | (c) all      |
| 7.  | (a) decision  | (b) decided  | (c) deciding |
| 8.  | (a) hurting   | (b) hustling | (c) hunting  |
| 9.  | (a) harmful   | (b) harm     | (c) harms    |
| 10. | (a) all       | (b) never    | (c) every    |
| 11. | (a) starts    | (b) start    | (c) started  |
| 12. | (a) properly  | (b) prosper  | (c) proper   |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. good at gblniicm
2. A new stdyu
3. thousands of rdfieften spiders
4. researchers tesetd the spiders
5. without missing imslb
6. the full ermnbu of legs

## Paragraph 2

7. The srrehaec team
8. no problems nihngut
9. We were really edrssirup
10. the spiders' ability to chcta food
11. started lgnngsirut
12. The quality of ewbdpssier

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) were missing. The quality of spiderwebs made by five-
- ( ) limbs. They found that those with fewer than eight legs were as good at making
- ( ) legged spiders was not good enough to catch flies properly.
- ( ) The research team decided that six-legged spiders had no problems
- ( ) legs than they need. A new study from the University of Nancy in France did research on
- ( ) webs as those with the full number of legs.
- ( ) hunting. Report author Alain Pasquet said: "We were really surprised - we expected missing a
- ( ) leg to harm the spiders' ability to catch food, and it didn't at all." Pasquet said the creepy-
- ( ) thousands of different spiders. They noticed that 10 per cent of them had one or more legs
- ( ) missing. The researchers tested the spiders with and without missing
- ( ) crawlies had no problems with two fewer legs but started struggling if three
- ( **1** ) Scientists think they know why spiders are so good at climbing and crawling - they have more

# WORD JUMBLE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

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

1. are spiders why know They good so.

---

2. more have They need they than legs.

---

3. missing 10 % of them had one or more legs.

---

4. missing without and with spiders The limbs.

---

5. legs Those fewer eight with than.

---

6. spiders had Six-legged no - problems hunting.

---

7. ability spiders' the Harm food catch to.

---

8. had the crawlies problems said - no Pasquet creepy.

---

9. by five-legged spiders The quality of spiderwebs made.

---

10. enough good Not properly flies catch to.

---



## **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. \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110608-spiders.html>

**Write about spiders for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.**

[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. SPIDERS:** Search the Internet and find more information about spiders. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about spiders. Include imaginary interviews with spider experts. 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 spider researcher. Ask him/her three questions about spiders and their legs. Give him/her three of your opinions on spiders. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.