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Level 2

Scientists find gene that erases memories

25th September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html>

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found a special gene in mice. It could help people with painful memories forget bad experiences. It could help soldiers, crime victims and people who survived natural disasters. Many of these people have memories that make them very stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Scientists hope to use their research to erase painful memories in humans. They want to replace stressful memories with positive thoughts and feelings. This would help millions of people with PTSD.

Scientists did tests to make mice forget their fear. They put the mice into a cage and gave them electric shocks. After many shocks, the mice were stressed and afraid of the cage. After the mice had "cage shock," the scientists put the mice in the cage again but with no electric shock. After some time, the mice no longer feared the cage. Their stress and fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at the brain activity of the mice. They were surprised to find the gene that replaced old memories with new ones. They will now try to find this gene in human brains.

Sources: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/266368.php>
<http://news.sky.com/story/1145178/memory-erasing-gene-discovered-in-mice>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. a special gene | a. forget bad experiences |
| 2. help people with painful memories | b. to erase painful memories |
| 3. crime | c. in mice |
| 4. natural | d. with PTSD |
| 5. an illness called post-traumatic | e. disasters |
| 6. use their research | f. thoughts and feelings |
| 7. positive | g. stress disorder (PTSD) |
| 8. help millions of people | h. victims |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. tests to make mice | a. in the cage again |
| 2. electric | b. with new ones |
| 3. stressed and afraid | c. forget their fear |
| 4. the scientists put the mice | d. brains |
| 5. brain | e. shocks |
| 6. They were surprised | f. activity |
| 7. replaced old memories | g. to find the gene |
| 8. human | h. of the cage |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html>

Researchers from the Massachusetts (1) _____ have found a special gene in mice. It could help people with painful memories forget bad experiences. (2) _____, crime victims and (3) _____ natural disasters. Many of these people have memories that make them very stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic (4) _____. Scientists hope to use their research to (5) _____ in humans. They want to replace stressful memories with positive thoughts and feelings. This (6) _____ people with PTSD.

Scientists did tests to (7) _____ their fear. They put the (8) _____ and gave them electric shocks. After many shocks, the mice were stressed and (9) _____. After the mice had "cage shock," the scientists put the mice in the cage again but with no electric shock. After some time, the mice (10) _____ the cage. Their stress and fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at (11) _____ the mice. They were surprised to find the gene that replaced old memories with new ones. They will now try to (12) _____ human brains.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130925-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-2.html>

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found a special gene in mice. It could help people with painful memories forget bad experiences. It could help soldiers, crime victims and people who survived natural disasters. Many of these people have memories that make them very stressed. They have an illness called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Scientists hope to use their research to erase painful memories in humans. They want to replace stressful memories with positive thoughts and feelings. This would help millions of people with PTSD. Scientists did tests to make mice forget their fear. They put the mice into a cage and gave them electric shocks. After many shocks, the mice were stressed and afraid of the cage. After the mice had "cage shock," the scientists put the mice in the cage again but with no electric shock. After some time, the mice no longer feared the cage. Their stress and fear changed to good feelings. The scientists looked at the brain activity of the mice. They were surprised to find the gene that replaced old memories with new ones. They will now try to find this gene in human brains.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)
