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## **Level 1**

### **Scientists make super-strong spider web silk**

**14th January, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-1.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-1.html>

Researchers in Sweden know one of nature's biggest secrets. They found out how spiders make such strong silk for their webs. It is stronger than steel. Scientists have tried to find the answer to this for a long time. They found that the place the spider keeps the material for its silk has a special acid level. This helps to make the silk strong. The researchers copied this. They made enough artificial spider silk to stretch for one kilometer.

The new artificial silk could be very useful. Doctors think it can replace stitches, help the skin after a burn and replace torn ligaments. Airplane companies and clothes companies also see many uses. A researcher said her discovery was important. She said: "This is the first successful example of [copying] spider silk spinning....This may allow...production of artificial silk for bio-material applications or...advanced textiles."

Sources: <https://www.cnet.com/news/spider-web-artificial-swedish-university-agriculture/>  
<http://www.livescience.com/57458-strong-spider-silk-produced.html>  
<https://cosmosmagazine.com/chemistry/new-synthetic-spider-silk-that-s-almost-as-strong-as-the-real-thing>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. secrets     | a. duplicated |
| 2. found out   | b. ages       |
| 3. tried       | c. manmade    |
| 4. a long time | d. discovered |
| 5. keeps       | e. extend     |
| 6. copied      | f. mysteries  |
| 7. artificial  | g. stores     |
| 8. stretch     | h. attempted  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. very       | a. manufacture    |
| 2. think      | b. following      |
| 3. replace    | c. believe        |
| 4. after      | d. finding        |
| 5. companies  | e. extremely      |
| 6. discovery  | f. material       |
| 7. production | g. businesses     |
| 8. textiles   | h. take over from |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-1.html>

Researchers in Sweden (1) \_\_\_\_\_ nature's biggest secrets. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ spiders make such strong silk for their webs. It is stronger than steel. Scientists have tried to find the answer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ long time. They found that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ spider keeps the material for its silk (5) \_\_\_\_\_ acid level. This helps to make the silk strong. The researchers copied this. They made enough artificial spider silk (6) \_\_\_\_\_ one kilometer.

The new artificial silk (7) \_\_\_\_\_ useful. Doctors think it can replace stitches, help (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a burn and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ ligaments. Airplane companies and clothes companies also see many uses. A researcher said (10) \_\_\_\_\_ important. She said: "This is the first successful example of [copying] spider silk spinning....This (11) \_\_\_\_\_...production of artificial silk for bio-material applications or... (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-1.html>

Researchers in Sweden know one of nature's biggest secrets. They found out how spiders make such strong silk for their webs. It is stronger than steel. Scientists have tried to find the answer to this for a long time. They found that the place the spider keeps the material for its silk has a special acid level. This helps to make the silk strong. The researchers copied this. They made enough artificial spider silk to stretch for one kilometer. The new artificial silk could be very useful. Doctors think it can replace stitches, help the skin after a burn and replace torn ligaments. Airplane companies and clothes companies also seem many uses. A researcher said her discovery was so important. She said: "This is the first successful example of [copying] spider silk spinning.... This may allow... production of artificial silk for bio-material applications or... advanced textiles."

# SPIDER WEBS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about spider webs 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Scientists make super-strong spider web silk – 14th January, 2017*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170114-spider-web-1.html>

Write about **spider webs** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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