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Level 6 – 31st August, 2020

Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has unveiled a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could pave the way to computer-to-brain interfaces in humans. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record in pioneering technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space tourism. Gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Conversely, computers could enhance our brainpower and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that trials would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents a giant leap into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.

The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat modest in comparison to the potential Mr Musk envisages the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like strokes, dementia and headaches. It could also mean our brain is wired directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household devices simply with the power of thought. The most mind-blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race. He added the technology will "achieve symbiosis with artificial intelligence".

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53921596>
<https://www.wired.com/story/elon-musk-neuralink-brain-implant-v2-demo/>
<https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/8/28/21404802/elon-musk-neuralink-brain-machine-interface-research>

WARM-UPS

1. SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about superhuman powers. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

technology / trailblazer / pig / computer chip / interface / ambition / humans / future / comparison / neurological / potential / dementia / mind-blowing / artificial intelligence

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BRAIN-HACKING: Students A **strongly** believe brain-hacking is a great thing; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS: What do you know about these neurological disorders? How can we treat them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How We Can Treat Them
Strokes		
Dementia		
Migraines		
Parkinson's		
Epilepsy		
Spinal cord injury		

5. PIG: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "pig". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best superhuman powers at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Amazing strength
- Invisibility
- Telepathy
- Magical powers
- X-ray vision
- Immortality
- Shape shifting
- Flight

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. trailblazer | a. A sudden move forward, change or transition. |
| 2. implanted | b. Showed or announced publicly for the first time. |
| 3. unveiled | c. Totally better than everyone or everything of the same type. |
| 4. pave the way | d. A pioneer; an innovator. |
| 5. unrivalled | e. Better, increase, or further improve the quality, value, or extent of. |
| 6. enhance | f. Inserted or fixed tissue or an artificial object in a person's body, especially by surgery. |
| 7. leap | g. Create the circumstances for something to happen or be done. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 8. modest | h. A disorder of the mental processes caused by brain disease or injury and marked by memory loss and personality changes. |
| 9. envisages | i. Forms a mental picture of something not yet existing or known. |
| 10. neurological | j. Interaction between two different organisms living together, usually to the advantage of both. |
| 11. dementia | k. Of an amount, rate, or level that is relatively limited, or small. |
| 12. aspect | l. A particular part or feature of something. |
| 13. cognition | m. Relating to the anatomy, functions, and organic disorders of nerves and the nervous system. |
| 14. symbiosis | n. The mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Elon Musk has trialed brain-hacking on a male pig. **T / F**
- b. The article says Elon Musk has no rivals as a technology pioneer. **T / F**
- c. The new technology could allow our thoughts to control computers. **T / F**
- d. Elon Musk believes the technology could give us superhuman powers. **T / F**
- e. Elon Musk said the pig used in the trials was very modest. **T / F**
- f. The new technology could help people with dementia. **T / F**
- g. The article says we could use our minds to blow things. **T / F**
- h. The technology could stop artificial intelligence from destroying us. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. unveiled | a. limited |
| 2. pave the way | b. highlights |
| 3. pioneering | c. greatly |
| 4. showcases | d. imagines |
| 5. considerably | e. revealed |
| 6. modest | f. feature |
| 7. envisages | g. attain |
| 8. devices | h. prepare |
| 9. aspect | i. gadgets |
| 10. achieve | j. innovative |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a computer chip implanted | a. like strokes |
| 2. a near-unrivalled record in | b. powers |
| 3. trials would soon begin | c. in comparison |
| 4. a giant leap | d. race |
| 5. giving us superhuman | e. on humans |
| 6. somewhat modest | f. pioneering technology |
| 7. neurological conditions | g. in her brain |
| 8. our brain is wired | h. blowing aspect |
| 9. The most mind- | i. into the future |
| 10. destroy the human | j. directly to the Internet |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has (1) _____ a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could (2) _____ the way to computer-to-brain interfaces in humans. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record in (3) _____ technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space (4) _____. Gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Conversely, computers could (5) _____ our brainpower and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that (6) _____ would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents a giant (7) _____ into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman (8) _____.

pioneering
enhance
powers
unveiled
leap
tourism
pave
trials

The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat (9) _____ in comparison to the potential Mr Musk (10) _____ the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like strokes, (11) _____ and headaches. It could also mean our brain is (12) _____ directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household (13) _____ simply with the power of thought. The most mind-blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman (14) _____". This is to counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human (15) _____. He added the technology will "achieve (16) _____ with artificial intelligence".

wired
envisages
race
devices
modest
symbiosis
dementia
cognition

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

- 1) pave the way to computer-to-brain _____
 - a. interfaces in humane
 - b. interfaces inhumane
 - c. interface is in humans
 - d. interfaces in humans
- 2) a near-unrivalled record in pioneering technology, from electric cars and _____
 - a. hypo-loop travail
 - b. hoper lubed ravel
 - c. hyperloop travel
 - d. high-pearl loop travel
- 3) Gertrude the pig showcases _____
 - a. his late test ambition
 - b. his latest ambition
 - c. his lay test ambition
 - d. his light test ambition
- 4) The interface is part of a tech _____
 - a. startup called Neuralink
 - b. star tarp called Neuralink
 - c. start tub called Neuralink
 - d. star up called Neuralink
- 5) He believes the technology represents a giant _____ future
 - a. leap into the
 - b. lead into the
 - c. leak into the
 - d. lean into the
- 6) The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat _____
 - a. modesty comparison
 - b. mode test in comparison
 - c. mode testing comparison
 - d. modest in comparison
- 7) Mr Musk envisages the technology will _____
 - a. one-day delivery
 - b. one day delivered
 - c. on-day deliver
 - d. one day deliver
- 8) in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and _____
 - a. household device is
 - b. household devises
 - c. household devices
 - d. household de-vices
- 9) mind-blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls _____
 - a. superb human cognition
 - b. superhuman cognition
 - c. soup-a-human cognition
 - d. super-humans cognition
- 10) enough to destroy the human race. He added the technology _____
 - a. will achieve cymbals is
 - b. will achieve symbiosis
 - c. will achieve sin bio sis
 - d. will achieve sing bios is

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has (1) _____ with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could (2) _____ to computer-to-brain (3) _____. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record in pioneering technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space tourism. Gertrude the pig showcases (4) _____ - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Conversely, computers could (5) _____ and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that trials would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents a (6) _____ the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.

The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat (7) _____ to the potential Mr Musk envisages the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with (8) _____ like strokes, dementia and headaches. It could also mean our brain is (9) _____ the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers (10) _____ simply with the power of thought. The most (11) _____ of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race. He added the technology will "(12) _____ artificial intelligence".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

1. What could the experiment on the pig pave the way to?
2. What kind of travel did the article mention Mr Musk has pioneered?
3. What did the article say computers could enhance in us?
4. What is the name of Mr Musk's startup?
5. What does the technology represent a giant leap into?
6. What is the pig's name?
7. What conditions might the technology help?
8. What kind of movie did the article compare this technology to?
9. What did Mr Musk say was a mind-blowing aspect of the technology?
10. What did Mr Musk say the technology could protect us against?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

- 1) What could the experiment on the pig pave the way to?
 - a) artificial intelligence
 - b) new roads
 - c) new pathways
 - d) computer-to-brain interfaces
- 2) What kind of travel did the article mention Mr Musk has pioneered?
 - a) overseas travel
 - b) hyperloop travel
 - c) travel to Mars
 - d) commuting
- 3) What did the article say computers could enhance in us?
 - a) our taste
 - b) the sense of touch
 - c) our brainpower
 - d) invisibility
- 4) What is the name of Mr Musk's startup?
 - a) Neuralink
 - b) Linkneuro
 - c) EuroNeuro
 - d) NewLink
- 5) What does the technology represent a giant leap into?
 - a) history
 - b) the unknown
 - c) the future
 - d) the abyss
- 6) What is the pig's name?
 - a) Gator
 - b) Gertrude
 - c) Gratitude
 - d) Garter
- 7) What conditions might the technology help?
 - a) adverse conditions
 - b) worsening conditions
 - c) financial conditions
 - d) neurological conditions
- 8) What kind of movie did the article compare this technology to?
 - a) a science fiction movie
 - b) a fantasy movie
 - c) anime
 - d) a period drama
- 9) What did Mr Musk say was a mind-blowing aspect of the technology?
 - a) the memory
 - b) the processing power
 - c) superhuman cognition
 - d) the low cost
- 10) What did Mr Musk say the technology could protect us against?
 - a) aliens
 - b) artificial intelligence
 - c) hacking
 - d) viruses

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Role A – Flight

You think flight is the best superhuman power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their powers. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): invisibility, telepathy or amazing strength.

Role B – Invisibility

You think invisibility is the best superhuman power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their powers. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): flight, telepathy or amazing strength.

Role C – Telepathy

You think telepathy is the best superhuman power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their powers. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): invisibility, flight or amazing strength.

Role D – Amazing Strength

You think amazing strength is the best superhuman power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their powers. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): invisibility, telepathy or flight.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'brain' and 'hack'.

brain	hack

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• trailblazer• pave• record• ambition• startup• leap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• results• deliver• wired• control• aspect• race
---	---

SUPERHUMAN POWERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Write five GOOD questions about superhuman powers 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.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'brain'?
3. Who are your favourite technology trailblazers?
4. What do you know about Elon Musk?
5. Is technology moving too fast nowadays?
6. What do you think of computer-to-brain interfaces?
7. What do you think of electric cars?
8. What do you think of space tourism?
9. Would you like a computer chip connected to your brain?
10. What superhuman powers would you like?

Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers – 31st August, 2020
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SUPERHUMAN POWERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'hack'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What technology will we be using in 100 years from now?
15. What do you think of technology ending all disease?
16. Would you have a chip implant to boost your intelligence and health?
17. How is life today like science fiction?
18. Would you like to use the Internet just by using thought?
19. How dangerous is artificial intelligence?
20. What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

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. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has (1) _____ a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could (2) _____ the way to computer-to-brain interfaces in humans. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record (3) _____ pioneering technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space tourism. Gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Conversely, computers could (4) _____ our brainpower and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that trials would soon begin (5) _____ humans. He believes the technology represents a giant (6) _____ into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.

The results shown in Gertrude the pig were (7) _____ modest in comparison to the potential Mr Musk envisages the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like (8) _____, dementia and headaches. It could also mean our brain is (9) _____ directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household devices simply with the (10) _____ of thought. The most mind-blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to (11) _____ artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race. He added the technology will "(12) _____ symbiosis with artificial intelligence".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) revelled | (b) rebelled | (c) unrivalled | (d) unveiled |
| 2. | (a) rave | (b) save | (c) gave | (d) pave |
| 3. | (a) as | (b) in | (c) on | (d) to |
| 4. | (a) entrance | (b) coherence | (c) enhance | (d) perchance |
| 5. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) on | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) leap | (b) tackle | (c) result | (d) farce |
| 7. | (a) something | (b) somewhat | (c) somewhere | (d) sometime |
| 8. | (a) strokes | (b) stokes | (c) strikes | (d) sticks |
| 9. | (a) coiled | (b) wired | (c) electrocuted | (d) squared |
| 10. | (a) size | (b) machine | (c) power | (d) escape |
| 11. | (a) against | (b) anti | (c) counter | (d) rally |
| 12. | (a) surface | (b) suffice | (c) result | (d) achieve |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Elon Musk has vleinude a pig
2. a computer chip pdelimtna in her brain
3. neognieipr technology
4. ncehnea our brainpower
5. The antrcfeej is part of a tech startup
6. cyeidnasblr change our lives

Paragraph 2

7. somewhat dsemto in comparison
8. people with clneguoilora conditions
9. strokes, eimdanet and headaches
10. superhuman otnigiocn
11. counter iitcrifala intelligence
12. achieve issboimys

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat modest in comparison to the
- () unrivalled record in pioneering technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space
- () counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human
- () our brains. Conversely, computers could enhance our brainpower and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup
- () race. He added the technology will "achieve symbiosis with artificial intelligence".
- () a giant leap into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.
- () blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to
- () tourism. Gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with
- () potential Mr Musk envisages the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like
- () strokes, dementia and headaches. It could also mean our brain is wired directly to the Internet. Just like in a science
- () called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that trials would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents
- () fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household devices simply with the power of thought. The most mind-
- () brain that could pave the way to computer-to-brain interfaces in humans. Mr Musk has a near-
- (**1**) Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has unveiled a pig with a computer chip implanted in her

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

1. pig chip . a a with computer Unveiled
2. with to us computers control brains . Allow our
3. part of startup . a The interface tech is
4. a represents Technology the giant leap into future .
5. our us lives giving superhuman Change by powers .
6. to modest the comparison in Somewhat potential .
7. neurological people like Help conditions with strokes .
8. the to is Internet . directly Our brain wired
9. the mind-blowing most The of aspect technology .
10. the human Becoming powerful destroy race . to enough

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has *unveiled / veiled* a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could *pavement / pave* the way to computer-to-brain interfaces *on / in* humans. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record in *pioneering / pioneer* technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space tourism. Gertrude the pig *bookcases / showcases* his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers *with / wither* our brains. Conversely, computers could *enhance / entrance* our brainpower and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that *trails / trials* would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents a giant *leap / peal* into the future and will considerably change our lives *by / as* giving us superhuman powers.

The results shown in Gertrude the pig were *something / somewhat* modest in comparison to the potential Mr Musk *visages / envisages* the technology will one day *deliver / post*. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like *stokes / strokes*, dementia and headaches. It could also mean our brain is wired directly to the Internet. Just *same / like* in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household *devices / revises* simply with the power of thought. The most mind-blowing aspect *on / of* the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to *counter / dial* artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to *destroy / destruction* the human race. He added the technology will "*clinch / achieve* symbiosis with artificial intelligence".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

T_c h n_l_g y t r__ l b l_z_r E l_n M_s k h_s _n v__
l_d _ p_g w_t h _ c_m p_t_r c h_p _m p_l_n t_d _n
h_r b r__ n t h_t c__ l d p_v_ t h_ w_y t_ c_m
p_t_r - t_- b r__ n _n t_r f_c_s _n h_m_n s. Mr M_s k
h_s _n__ r -_n r_v_l l_d r_c_r d _n p__ n__ r_n g t_c
h n_l_g y, f_r_m _l_c t_r_c c_r_s _n d h_y p_r l__ p t
r_v_l t_s p_c_ t__ r_s m. G_r t_r_d_ t h_ p_g s h_w
c_s_s h_s l_t_s t _m b_t__ n - t__ l_l_w _s t_ c_n t
r_l c_m p_t_r_s w_t h __ r b r__ n s. C_n v_r_s_l_y,
c_m p_t_r_s c__ l d _n h_n c_ __ r b r__ n p_w_r _n d
_b_l_t__ s. T h_ _n t_r f_c_ _s p_r t _f _ t_c h s t_r
t_p c_l l_d N__ r_l_n k. Mr M_s k _n n__ n c_d t
h_t t r__ l_s w__ l d s__ n b_g_n _n h_m_n s. H_
b_l__ v_s t h_ t_c h n_l_g y r_p_r_s_n t_s _ g__ n t
l__ p _n t_ t h_ f_t_r _n d w_l l c_n s_d_r_b_l_y c
h_n g__ _r l_v_s b y g_v_n g _s s_p_r h_m_n p_w_r
s.

T h_ r_s_l_t_s s h_w_n _n G_r t_r_d_ t h_ p_g w_r__
s_m_w_h_t m_d_s_t _n c_m p_r_s_n t_ t h_ p_t_n t__
l Mr M_s k _n v_s_g_s t h_ t_c h n_l_g y w_l l _n_
d_y d_l_v_r. H_ h_p_s N__ r_l_n k w_l l h_l_p p__
p_l_w_t h n__ r_l_g_c_l c_n d_t__ n s l_k_ s t_r_k_s,
d_m_n t__ _n d h__ d_c_h_s. I t c__ l d _l_s m__ n
__ r b r__ n _s w_r_d d_r_c_t_l_y t_ t h_ I_n t_r_n_t
. J_s t l_k_ _n _s c__ n c_ f_c_t__ n m_v__, w_
c__ l d c_n t_r_l p_h_n_s, c_m p_t_r_s _n d h__ s_h_l
d d_v_c_s s_m_p_l_y w_t h t h_ p_w_r _f t h__ g_h_t
. T h_ m_s_t m_n d - b_l_w_n g _s p_c_t _f t h_ t_c h
n_l_g y _s w_h_t M_s k c_l l_s " s_p_r h_m_n c_g
n_t__ n". T h_s _s t_ c__ n t_r _r t_f_c__ l _n t_l
l_g_n c_ b_c_m_n g p_w_r f_l _n__ g_h t_ d_s t_r_y t
h_ h_m_n r_c_. H_ _d_d_d t h_ t_c h n_l_g y w_l l
"c_h__ v_ s_y_m_b__ s_s w_t h _r t_f_c__ l _n t_l_l_g_n
c_".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

technology trailblazer elon musk has unveiled a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could pave the way to computertobrain interfaces in humans mr musk has a nearunrivalled record in pioneering technology from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space tourism gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition to allow us to control computers with our brains conversely computers could enhance our brainpower and abilities the interface is part of a tech startup called neuralink mr musk announced that trials would soon begin on humans he believes the technology represents a giant leap into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman powers

the results shown in gertrude the pig were somewhat modest in comparison to the potential mr musk envisages the technology will one day deliver he hopes neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like strokes dementia and headaches it could also mean our brain is wired directly to the internet just like in a science fiction movie we could control phones computers and household devices simply with the power of thought the most mindblowing aspect of the technology is what musk calls superhuman cognition this is to counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race he added the technology will achieve symbiosis with artificial intelligence

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200831-superhuman-powers.html>

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has unveiled a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could pave the way to computer-to-brain interfaces in humans. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record in pioneering technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space tourism. Gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Conversely, computers could enhance our brain power and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that trials would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents a giant leap into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman powers. The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat modest in comparison to the potential Mr Musk envisages the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like strokes, dementia and headaches. It could also mean our brain is wired directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household devices simply with the power of thought. The most mind-blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman cognition". This is to counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race. He added the technology will "achieve symbiosis with artificial intelligence".

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. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Make a poster about superhuman powers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. A STEP TOO FAR: Write a magazine article about computer chips being implanted in our brain to give us superhuman powers being a step too far. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. 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.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on superhuman powers. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three superhuman powers you would like and why. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. c 6. e 7. a
8. k 9. i 10. m 11. h 12. l 13. n 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b F c T d T e F f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. i	9. f	10. g

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Computer-to-brain interfaces
2. Hyperloop travel (and space travel)
3. Our brainpower and abilities
4. Neuralink
5. The future
6. Gertrude
7. Neurological conditions
8. A science fiction movie
9. Superhuman cognition
10. Artificial intelligence

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Unveiled a pig with a computer chip.
2. Allow us to control computers with our brains.
3. The interface is part of a tech startup.
4. Technology represents a giant leap into the future.
5. Change our lives by giving us superhuman powers.
6. Somewhat modest in comparison to the potential.
7. Help people with neurological conditions like strokes.
8. Our brain is wired directly to the Internet.
9. The most mind-blowing aspect of the technology.
10. Becoming powerful enough to destroy the human race.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)