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Level 4 – 18th December 2023

Scientists make biocomputer with brain tissue

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainware-biocomputer-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainware-biocomputer-4.html>

Humans and machines are closer to merging. Researchers have built a "biocomputer". They combined lab-grown brain tissue with electrodes. They called their creation Brainware. It is in its early stages, but can already do complex tasks like voice recognition. The software could improve AI technology. AI hardware will also require less energy than silicon chips. A researcher said: "This is just proof-of-concept to show that we can do the job."

Brainware utilizes "organoids" - artificially grown bundles of tissue that act like an organ. Brainware organoids have developed neurons, like those in our brain. The next step is to look at how Brainware can perform higher-level tasks. The technology could help neuroscience research. It could also lead to cures for neurological diseases. A major challenge is to find answers to keep the living tissue alive for longer.

Sources: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03975-7>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2407768-ai-made-from-living-human-brain-cells-performs-speech-recognition/>
<https://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-built-a-functional-computer-with-human-brain-tissue>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainoware-biocomputer-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Humans and machines are | a. AI technology |
| 2. lab- | b. can do the job |
| 3. It is in its | c. grown brain tissue |
| 4. do complex tasks like voice | d. of-concept |
| 5. The software could improve | e. closer to merging |
| 6. require less | f. recognition |
| 7. This is just proof- | g. early stages |
| 8. show that we | h. energy than silicon chips |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. artificially | a. answers |
| 2. bundles | b. grown |
| 3. act | c. diseases |
| 4. organoids have developed | d. of tissue |
| 5. how Brainoware can perform higher- | e. for longer |
| 6. neurological | f. like an organ |
| 7. A major challenge is to find | g. level tasks |
| 8. keep the living tissue alive | h. neurons |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainaware-biocomputer-4.html>

Humans and machines are (1) _____. Researchers have built a "biocomputer". They combined lab-(2) _____ with electrodes. They called their creation Brainware. It is in (3) _____, but can already do complex (4) _____ recognition. The software could improve AI technology. AI hardware will also (5) _____ than silicon chips. A researcher said: "This is just (6) _____ to show that we can do the job."

Brainware utilizes "organoids" - (7) _____ of tissue that act like an organ. Brainware organoids (8) _____, like those in our brain. The (9) _____ to look at how Brainware can perform (10) _____. The technology could help neuroscience research. It could also (11) _____ for neurological diseases. A major challenge is to find answers to keep the living tissue (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainware-biocomputer-4.html>

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BIOCOMPUTERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainware-biocomputer-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about biocomputers 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) _____

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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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2312/231218-brainaware-biocomputer-4.html>

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