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Level 4 – 19th May 2025

Scientists find why most ginger cats are male

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-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/2505/250519-ginger-cats-4.html>

Scientists have solved a mystery about cats. A research team found out why eight out of ten ginger cats are male. The team said a mutation in the X chromosome is responsible for a previously unknown "orange gene". A professor said male animals have an X and Y chromosome. If the male cat's X chromosome has the gene, it will be ginger. A female cat has two X chromosomes. The gene needs to be present in both for the cat to be orange.

The research has been published in a journal. The researchers analysed the DNA of 18 cats, of which 10 had ginger fur. Only the ginger cats had the mutant gene. Many cat lovers link fur colour with personality traits. The professor said cat owners believe that different fur colours and patterns are linked with different personalities. He said there was no evidence for this, but it was an interesting idea.

Sources: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/orange-cats-mutation-unique-ginger-b2752315.html>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14717251/Eight-10-ginger-cats-male.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwywdjjgvqqo>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have solved a | a. two X chromosomes |
| 2. eight out of ten | b. is responsible |
| 3. a mutation in the X chromosome | c. in both |
| 4. a previously unknown | d. and Y chromosome |
| 5. male animals have an X | e. mystery about cats |
| 6. the male cat's X chromosome | f. ginger cats are male |
| 7. A female cat has | g. has the gene |
| 8. The gene needs to be present | h. "orange gene" |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. The research has been published | a. traits |
| 2. researchers analysed the | b. gene |
| 3. 10 had ginger | c. for this |
| 4. Only the ginger cats had the mutant | d. in a journal |
| 5. cat | e. and patterns |
| 6. link fur colour with personality | f. DNA of 18 cats |
| 7. different fur colours | g. lovers |
| 8. He said there was no evidence | h. fur |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-4.html>

Scientists have (1) _____ about cats. A research team found out (2) _____ of ten ginger cats are male. The team said (3) _____ the X chromosome is responsible for a previously unknown "orange gene". A professor said male animals have an X (4) _____. If the male cat's X chromosome (5) _____, it will be ginger. A female cat has two X chromosomes. The gene needs to be (6) _____ for the cat to be orange.

The research has (7) _____ a journal. The researchers analysed the DNA of 18 cats, of which 10 (8) _____. Only the ginger cats had the mutant gene. Many (9) _____ fur colour with personality traits. The professor said cat owners believe that different fur colours and (10) _____ with different personalities. He said there was (11) _____ this, but it was (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-4.html>

Scientists have solved a mystery about cats. A research team found out why eight out of ten ginger cats are male. The team said a mutation in the X chromosome is responsible for a previously unknown "orange gene". A professor said male animals have an X and Y chromosome. If the male cat's X chromosome has the gene, it will be ginger. A female cat has two X chromosomes. The gene needs to be present in both for the cat to be orange. The research has been published in a journal. The researchers analysed the DNA of 18 cats, of which 10 had ginger fur. Only the ginger cat had the mutation gene. Many cat lovers link fur colour with personality traits. The professor said cat owners believe that different fur colours and patterns are linked with different personalities. He said there was no evidence for this, but it was an interesting idea.

CATS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cats 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) _____

