

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5 – 19th May 2025

Scientists find why most ginger cats are male

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-5.html>

Scientists have solved an age-old mystery about cats. Geneticists in Japan have discovered why eight out of ten ginger cats are male. A professor found that a mutation in the X chromosome is responsible for a previously unknown "orange gene". The professor said: "Identifying the gene has been a longtime dream." Male animals have an X and Y chromosome. If the male cat's X chromosome has the gene, it will be a ginger. A female cat has two X chromosomes. The gene needs to be present in both for the cat to be orange. This is less likely to happen.

The research has been published in the journal "Current Biology". In the study, researchers analysed the DNA of 18 cats, of which 10 had ginger fur. Only the ginger cats had the mutant gene. The professor said cat lovers associated fur colour with personality traits. He wrote: "Many cat owners swear by the idea that different coat colours and patterns are linked with different personalities. There's no scientific evidence for this yet, but it's an intriguing idea, and one I'd love to explore further." He suggested that ginger cats may behave similarly because most of them are male.

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. solved an age- | a. in the X chromosome |
| 2. why eight out of ten | b. present in both |
| 3. a mutation | c. a longtime dream |
| 4. a previously unknown | d. likely to happen |
| 5. Identifying the gene has been | e. "orange gene" |
| 6. A female cat has two | f. old mystery |
| 7. The gene needs to be | g. ginger cats are male |
| 8. This is less | h. X chromosomes |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The research has been published | a. fur |
| 2. researchers analysed the | b. lovers |
| 3. 10 had ginger | c. idea |
| 4. Only the ginger cats had the | d. DNA of 18 cats |
| 5. cat | e. evidence for this yet |
| 6. Many cat owners swear | f. mutant gene |
| 7. There's no scientific | g. in the journal |
| 8. it's an intriguing | h. by the idea |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-5.html>

Scientists have solved (1) _____ about cats. Geneticists in Japan have discovered why (2) _____ ten ginger cats are male. A professor found that (3) _____ the X chromosome is responsible for a previously unknown "orange gene". The professor said: "Identifying the gene has been (4) _____." Male animals have an X and Y chromosome. If the male cat's X chromosome has the gene, it will be a ginger. A female cat has (5) _____. The gene needs to be present in both for the cat to be orange. This is (6) _____ happen.

The research has been published (7) _____ "Current Biology". In the study, researchers analysed the DNA of 18 cats, of which 10 had ginger fur. Only the ginger cats had the mutant gene. The professor said (8) _____ fur colour with personality traits. He wrote: "Many cat (9) _____ the idea that different coat colours and patterns are linked with different personalities. There's (10) _____ for this yet, but it's an intriguing idea, and one I'd love (11) _____." He suggested that ginger cats (12) _____ because most of them are male.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250519-ginger-cats-5.html>

Scientists have solved a long-standing mystery about cats. Geneticists in Japan have discovered why eight out of ten ginger cats are female. A professor found that a mutation in the X chromosome is responsible for a previously unknown "orange gene". The professor said: "Identifying the gene has been a long-time dream." Male animals have an X and Y chromosome. If the male cat's X chromosome has the gene, it will be a ginger. A female cat has two X chromosomes. The gene needs to be present in both for the cat to be orange. This is less likely to happen. The research has been published in the journal "Current Biology". In the study, researchers analysed the DNA of 18 cats, of which 10 had ginger fur. Only the ginger cat had the mutant gene. The professor said cat lovers associated fur colour with personality traits. He wrote: "Many cat owners swear by the idea that different coat colours and patterns are linked with different personalities. There's no scientific evidence for this yet, but it's an intriguing idea, and one I'd love to explore further." He suggested that ginger cats may behave similarly because most of them are female.

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) _____

Scientists find why most ginger cats are male – 19th May 2025
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

