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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 1 – 8th January 2026

Moss is effective in solving crimes, says study

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:
https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-1.html

Contents

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

THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-1.html

The police use fingerprints, CCTV, and DNA to find criminals. A new study shows that moss is also useful in police investigations. In the study, scientists looked at all the cases in which the police used moss to help solve crimes. Lead scientist Dr Matt von Konrat said he wanted the police to understand more about moss. He wrote: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny plants can be."

Moss first helped the police in 1929. In 2013, scientists found moss on a man's shoes. This helped the police to find where the man's baby was buried. Dr von Konrat said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat we were looking for." The baby's father was convicted of murder. Another forensic scientist said she wanted the police to understand more about how moss can help them in their work.

Sources: https://www.**greenmatters.com**/pn/this-overlooked-plant-has-been-quietly-helping-forensic-experts-solve-crimes-new-study-reveals
https://www.**goodnewsnetwork.org**/moss-is-so-unique-its-acted-like-fingerprints-to-help-solve-a-dozen-crimes/
https://www.**sciencedaily.com**/releases/2025/12/251225080738.htm

PHRASE MATCHING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-1.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. The police use	a. about moss
2. CCTV	b. helps
3. scientists looked	c. help solve crimes
4. the police used moss to	d. and DNA
5. Lead scientist	e. tiny plants can be
6. understand more	f. at all the cases
7. We're hoping that our study	g. Dr Matt von Konrat
8. how important these	h. fingerprints

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. Moss first helped the	a. scientist
2. scientists found moss	b. find where
3. This helped the police to	c. of murder
4. what sort of micro-habitat we were	d. police in 1929
5. The baby's father was convicted	e. them in their work
6. forensic	f. on a man's shoes
7. she wanted the police	g. looking for
8. how moss can help	h. to understand more

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-1.html

The (1) _____, CCTV, and DNA to find criminals. A new study shows that moss (2) _____ in police investigations. In the study, scientists looked at (3) _____ in which the police used moss to (4) _____. Lead scientist Dr Matt von Konrat said he wanted the police to understand (5) _____. He wrote: "We're hoping that our study helps show how important these tiny (6) _____."

Moss (7) _____ police in 1929. In 2013, scientists (8) _____ a man's shoes. This helped the police to find where the man's (9) _____. Dr von Konrat said: "Based on the bits of moss, we knew what sort of micro-habitat (10) _____ for." The baby's father was convicted of murder. Another forensic scientist (11) _____ the police to understand more about how moss can help them (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-1.html

Thepoliceusefingerprints,CCTV,andDNAtofindcriminals.Anewstudy showsthatmossisalsousefulinpoliceinvestigations.Inthestudy,scient istslookedatallthecasesinwhichthepoliceusedmosstohelpsolvecrime s.LeadscientistDrMattvonKonratsaidhewantedthepolicetoundersta ndmoreaboutmoss.Hewrote:"We'rehopingthatourstudyhelpsshowh owimportantthesetinyplantscanbe."Mossfirsthelpedthepolicein192 9.In2013,scientistsfoundmossonaman'sshoes.Thishelpedthepolice tofindwheretheman'sbabywasburied.DrvonKonratsaid:"Basedonth ebitsofmoss,weknewwhatsortofmicro-habitatwewerelookingfor."T hebaby'sfatherwasconvictedofmurder.Anotherforensicscientistsaid shewantedthepolicetounderstandmoreabouthowmosscanhelpthem intheirwork.

MOSS SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-4.html

Write five GOOD questions about moss 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/2601/260108-moss-and-forensics-1.html

Write about **moss** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.