BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Why do we itch?



Listen to the full episode here: https://bbc.in/46AXiJ8

1. **Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?**

2. **Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.**
   - What do the presenters say the episode is about?
   - What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. **Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?**

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. What word refers to the unpleasant feeling on your skin?
   a) itch
   b) scratch
   c) catch

2. What does Georgie say makes her feel itchy?
   a) a mosquito bite
   b) her jumper
   c) sunburn

3. What does itching expert Sonja Ständer say is the purpose of scratching an itch?
   a) to feel good
   b) to damage the skin
   c) to remove parasites

4. What did Dr Henning Holle want to find out?
   a) whether thinking about itching makes us feel itchy
   b) whether scratching an itch makes us feel happy
   c) whether talking about itching stops us feeling itchy

5. What does the word 'spontaneously' mean?
   a) after being asked, or after thinking
   b) whilst being asked, or whilst thinking
   c) without being asked, or without thinking

6. "I can't stop sneezing. I think I've _____ a cold!"
   a) caught
   b) scratched
   c) unpacked

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

a. itch / itchy – unpleasant feeling on your skin / feeling something unpleasant on your skin

b. scratch – rub your nails back and forth against something, often to relieve an itch

c. unpack – explain in clear detail

d. parasite – animal, plant or fungus that lives on another lifeform and feeds on it

e. spontaneously – without being asked; without thinking

f. catch (an illness/feeling) – get an illness or feeling from someone else

5. 1a, 2b, 3c, 4a, 5c, 6a

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.

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