

### Ebola threat to the world

Today, let's talk about the deadly Ebola threat that is spreading itself across Western Africa. Every day many people are dying from it, including doctors who are treating their patients.

Recently yet another doctor died in Liberia, despite taking an experimental anti-Ebola drug. The drug called ZMapp has been credited with helping several patients recover, including two US doctors.

So far this year four West African countries – Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia and Guinea – have seen 2,615 confirmed cases and 1,427 deaths from Ebola. Liberia has seen the most deaths – more than 570 – in what is the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

Ebola is spread between humans through direct contact with infected body fluids. Several doctors and health workers have died. It is one of the world's deadliest diseases, with up to 90% of cases resulting in death, although with the current outbreak the death rate is about 55%. The World Health Organisation (WHO) said last week the speed and extent of the outbreak was "unprecedented".

Symptoms of the virus include a sudden high fever, a headache, a sore throat, intense weakness, muscle pain, bleeding and central nervous system damage. There is no vaccine or cure.

The Liberian capital Monrovia has enforced a quarantine zone in a slum area where the disease is spreading. Senegal has now locked down its land border with its Ebola-affected neighbour Guinea. Many foreign nationals are now beginning to evacuate from countries that have the disease out of for fear of catching it.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Ebola virus. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What is ZMapp?
- 2) Name the four West African countries.
- 3) Can you draw on a map where these West African countries are?
- 4) What are the symptoms of the Ebola virus?
- 5) What is the WHO?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Who are now evacuating and from where?
- 2) How many people have died from the Ebola virus?
- 3) Where is Monrovia?
- 4) How does Ebola spread?
- 5) What has Senegal done?

**Category: Africa / Ebola / Deadly Diseases  
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

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**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Ebola**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs* – Choose three things from the article. Write them below. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Add three other things in the space below about Ebola. **What is the latest on this virus?** Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*On the board / In pairs* – List three other deadly diseases. Did they find a cure for them? What part of the world are they in? Discuss together. *5 mins.*

*The teacher* will choose some students to hear their findings.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student A questions**

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Are you worried about the Ebola virus? Explain.
- 3) Will you be travelling to Liberia or Sierra Leone anytime soon?
- 4) Do you know anyone who has recently returned from West Africa?
- 5) Do you know any people from your country who are in West Africa working?
- 6) Will there be a fast evacuation of foreign nationals from West Africa?
- 7) How quickly is the Ebola virus spreading?
- 8) Can the latest outbreak of Ebola be contained or is it too late?
- 9) Is there a cure for the Ebola virus?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1**

*In groups.* You are one of the following four guests or are the interviewer. You are in the *CNN TV studio.* Today's interview is: *Ebola threat to the world.* *10 mins.*

- 1) A doctor in Liberia.
- 2) A patient in West Africa with Ebola.
- 3) A Liberian government spokesperson.
- 4) A journalist in West Africa.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

**SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2**

*In pairs - in front of the class.* *Student A* and *Student B* are both reporters. *Student A* is outside a quarantined slum area in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. Some people inside it have caught the Ebola virus. *Student B* is in Sierra Leone reporting on patients in an Ebola designated hospital ward. *5 mins.*

**SPEAKING – DISCUSSION**

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*Ebola – how worried should the world be?*

*Google the latest on the Ebola virus.*

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student B questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What has your government done in its preparation of the Ebola virus arriving in your country?
- 3) What are the chances of anyone recovering from the Ebola virus once he/she has contracted it?
- 4) Have you suffered from a fever or headache recently?
- 5) Have you had muscle pain or a sore throat recently?
- 6) When did you last visit your doctor?
- 7) What is the WHO doing to help the people of West Africa?
- 8) Will the new drug ZMapp actually work on patients who have the Ebola virus?
- 9) What happens if the virus spreads to Europe, America or Asia?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Ebola threat to the world**

Today, let's talk about the deadly Ebola (1)\_\_\_ that is spreading itself across Western Africa. Every day many people are dying from it, including doctors who are treating their (2)\_\_\_.

Recently yet another doctor died in Liberia, despite taking an (3)\_\_\_ anti-Ebola drug. The (4)\_\_\_ called ZMapp has been credited with helping several patients (5)\_\_\_, including two US doctors.

So far this year four West African countries – Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia and Guinea – have seen 2,615 confirmed (6)\_\_\_ and 1,427 deaths from Ebola. Liberia has seen the most (7)\_\_\_ – more than 570 – in what is the worst Ebola (8)\_\_\_ in history.

**cases / patients / outbreak / recover / drug / deaths / experimental / threat**

(1)\_\_\_ is spread between humans through direct (2)\_\_\_ with infected (3)\_\_\_. Several doctors and health workers have died. It is one of the world's deadliest diseases, with up to 90% of cases resulting in death, although with the current outbreak the death rate is about 55%. The World Health Organisation (WHO) said last week the speed and (4)\_\_\_ of the outbreak was "(5)\_\_\_".

Symptoms of the virus include a sudden high fever, a headache, a sore throat, intense weakness, muscle pain, bleeding and central nervous system damage. There is no vaccine or cure.

The Liberian capital Monrovia has enforced a quarantine zone in a (6)\_\_\_ area where the disease is spreading. Senegal has now locked down its land border with its Ebola-affected neighbour Guinea. Many foreign nationals are now beginning to (7)\_\_\_ from countries that have the (8)\_\_\_ out of for fear of catching it.

**extent / disease / evacuate / unprecedented / body fluids / contact / Ebola / slum**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Ebola threat to the world**

Today, let's talk about the deadly Ebola threat that is spreading itself across Western Africa. (1)\_\_\_ day many people are dying from it, including doctors who are treating (2)\_\_\_ patients.

Recently yet (3)\_\_\_ doctor died in Liberia, despite taking an experimental anti-Ebola drug. The drug called ZMapp has been credited (4)\_\_\_ helping several patients recover, including two US doctors.

So far (5)\_\_\_ year four West African countries – Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia and Guinea – have seen 2,615 confirmed cases and 1,427 deaths (6)\_\_\_ Ebola. Liberia has seen the most deaths – (7)\_\_\_ than 570 – in (8)\_\_\_ is the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

**what / more / with / their / every / this / another / from**

Ebola is spread between humans through direct contact with infected body fluids. Several doctors and health workers have died. (1)\_\_\_ is one of the world's deadliest diseases, with up to 90% of cases resulting in death, although with (2)\_\_\_ current outbreak the death rate is about 55%. The World Health Organisation (WHO) said last week the speed and extent (3)\_\_\_ the outbreak was "unprecedented".

Symptoms of the virus include a sudden high fever, a headache, a sore throat, intense weakness, muscle pain, bleeding (4)\_\_\_ central nervous system damage. There is no vaccine (5)\_\_\_ cure.

The Liberian capital Monrovia has enforced a quarantine zone (6)\_\_\_ a slum area where the disease is spreading. Senegal has now locked down (7)\_\_\_ land border with its Ebola-affected neighbour Guinea. Many foreign nationals are now beginning to evacuate from countries that have the disease out of (8)\_\_\_ fear of catching it.

**for / its / the / and / it / in / or / of**

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### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### Ebola threat to the world

Today, let's talk about the deadly Ebola threat that is spreading itself across \_\_\_\_\_. Every day many people are dying from it, \_\_\_\_\_ who are treating their patients.

Recently yet another doctor died in Liberia, despite taking an experimental anti-Ebola drug. The drug called ZMapp has been credited with helping \_\_\_\_\_ recover, including two US doctors.

So far this year four West African countries – Sierra Leone, Nigeria, \_\_\_\_\_ – have seen 2,615 confirmed cases and 1,427 deaths from Ebola. Liberia has seen the most deaths – more than 570 – \_\_\_\_\_ Ebola outbreak in history.

Ebola is spread between humans through direct contact with \_\_\_\_\_. Several doctors and health workers have died. It is one of the world's deadliest diseases, with up to 90% of cases resulting in death, although with the current outbreak the death rate is about 55%. The World Health Organisation (WHO) said last week the speed and extent of the outbreak was "\_\_\_\_\_".

Symptoms of the virus include a sudden high fever, a headache, a sore throat, \_\_\_\_\_, muscle pain, bleeding and central nervous system damage. There is no vaccine or cure.

The \_\_\_\_\_ has enforced a quarantine zone in a slum area where the disease is spreading. Senegal has now locked down its land border with its Ebola-affected neighbour Guinea. Many foreign nationals are now beginning to evacuate from countries that have the disease out of \_\_\_\_\_.

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs, as a class - write down **20 things you know about West Africa and Ebola**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Ebola \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The virus \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) In Liberia \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Ebola threat to the world**. Your email can be read out in class.

#### GAP FILL READING

- 1) Threat
- 2) Patients
- 3) Experimental
- 4) Drug
- 5) Recover
- 6) Cases
- 7) Deaths
- 8) outbreak

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Ebola
- 2) Liberia
- 3) experimental
- 4) patients
- 5) drug
- 6) evacuate
- 7) worst
- 8) humans
- 9) fluids
- 10) death

#### ANSWERS

- 1) Ebola
- 2) contact
- 3) body fluids
- 4) extent
- 5) unprecedented
- 6) slum
- 7) evacuate
- 8) disease

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) symptoms
- 12) virus
- 13) sudden
- 14) fever
- 15) headache
- 16) intense
- 17) Monrovia
- 18) slum
- 19) quarantine
- 20) neighbour

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