Listening skills practice: Amazing facts – exercises

Listen to the conversation about the human body and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

Do the preparation exercise before you listen. Then do the other exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–d next to the numbers 1–4.

1……..	cells	a.	Very tiny creatures that live on plants or animals.
2……..	bacteria	b.	The smallest part of a chemical element.
3……..	mites	c.	The simplest and smallest forms of life. They live in air, water, soil, as well as in humans and animals (dead or alive). They are often the cause of disease.
4……..	atom	d.	The smallest part of an animal or plant that can work independently. All plants and animals are made of these.

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

1. Only about one tenth of the cells in your body are ...

   a. alive. b. really you. c. bacteria.

2. Bacteria are mostly ...

   a. really helpful. b. bad for humans. c. neither good or bad.

3. Animals need bacteria to ...

   a. fight diseases. b. provide energy. c. digest food.

4. You have ... cells in your body.

   a. 7 million b. 7 trillion c. 7 octillion

5. Most of the atoms are ...

   a. tiny cubes. b. not used. c. empty space.

6. You probably have mites in your ...

   a. hair. b. ears. c. eyelashes.

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7. Mites are very small creatures that are about ...

   a. 3 millimetres long.
   b. a third of a millimetre long.
   c. 0.03 millimetres long.

8. Mites eat ...

   a. dead skin.
   b. your eyelashes.
   c. tiny insects.

2. Check your understanding: gap fill typing

Do this exercise while you listen. Complete the sentences with a word or words.

1. Only one tenth of the cells in your body are really you. The rest are _____.
2. An experiment found that animals that did not have bacteria _____ or had to have a special diet.
3. There are _____ octillion cells in the human body.
4. Most of the atoms in the human body are just empty _____.
5. Without the empty space, you could fit your body inside a box measuring _____ of a centimetre either side.
6. You would be much too small to _____.
7. Mites are really small creatures, like _____.
8. They live in eyelashes and _____.
9. Only about _____ per cent of people have mites.
10. Mites eat dead _____.

Discussion
Do you know any amazing facts about the human body?

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