# NEW LINK FOUND BETWEEN HUMANS AND MAD COW DISEASE

Mad Cow Disease is a deadly illness of the brain and it is the non-technical term for BSE or Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis. This is so difficult to say that journalists and even some doctors prefer the more vivid Mad Cow Disease. It is believed to be caused when cows eat food made from the bones and organs of diseased animals, particularly sheep. Cows are basically vegetarian and the policy of farmers in Britain of feeding them a cheap, meat-based diet seems to be responsible for Mad Cow Disease.

When the disease appeared in the 1990s, it caused a huge controversy, but it had first been discovered in cows in the late 1980s. Many people began to be afraid to eat beef because it was not known whether the disease could be caught by humans who ate meat from infected cows. The disease in its human form is known as Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease or CJD, and it became familiar to the general public, not only in Britain but also in Europe, when several people were thought to have died from the disease after eating beef infected with BSE. In 1996, several European governments banned the import of beef products from Britain. This action caused outrage in Britain in the popular press and amongst government ministers, who continued to claim the link between Mad Cow Disease and CJD had not been scientifically proven.

The British government now admits that people might get Creutzfeldt Jakob from eating beef, after scientists found symptoms of CJD, which is always fatal, in ten victims. Since then, the sales of beef have dropped dramatically, except amongst the poorer members of the community, who have taken the opportunity of a drop in prices to enjoy beef in a way they could not in the past. Fast food stores all over Europe have begun to market a new (and they claim even tastier) version of their popular burger, the "vegiburger", which does not contain meat.

Scientists working in Britain have now published evidence in the science journal *Nature* that could show Mad Cow Disease and CJD are closely connected. They say brain proteins linked with both diseases show very close similarities. This could explain why people develop CJD after eating meat from cows infected with BSE. The research could also explain why people never got CJD from eating sheep, which also suffer from a kind of "mad sheep disease". We do not share the protein "prion" with sheep, but it is something people and cows have in common.

What happens exactly when human beings get the disease? The key

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

seems to be the protein prion. Normal prions are important if the brain is to function normally. When things go wrong with prion, however, the brain becomes sponge-like, which is also what happens in cows who suffer from Mad Cow Disease. Scientist Professor Krakauer and his colleagues have been exploring genetic similarities between humans and cows. "We needed to find a similarity we share with cattle that we don't share with sheep," said Krakauer, "and that's what we have found." They compared cow prion genes and human prion genes to those found in other animals, such as sheep and monkeys. They found two striking similarities in cows, humans, chimpanzees and gorillas. Scientists believe these findings "have to be taken seriously as they are the first that link humans with cattle."

1. We use the expression Mad Cow Disease because _____
   A. it is more accurate.
   B. it is easier to say.
   C. it links cows with people.
   D. it sounds less scientific.

2. Cows are infected with the disease because _____
   A. they need a vegetarian diet.
   B. they are forced to eat dead sheep.
   C. they eat meat from infected cows.
   D. they are fed parts of diseased animals.

3. As a result of Mad Cow Disease _____
   A. people have stopped eating meat.
   B. good meat has become expensive.
   C. poor people are eating more beef.
   D. a new kind of beefburger has been invented.

4. Scientists believe CJD _____
   A. is caused by eating beef.
   B. may be caused by eating sheep's meat.
   C. is caused by lack of proteins.
   D. may be caused by eating beef.

5. What do we know about mad sheep disease?
   A. It is dangerous to humans.
   B. It could be fatal.
   C. It is similar to Mad Cow Disease.
   D. It cannot cause CJD.

6. Prion is protein found in _____
   A. sheep and cows.
   B. people and sheep.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

C. cows and people.
D. a number of animals.

7. What does the passage suggest about our understanding of Mad Cow Disease _____
A. We know little about the real causes.
B. There is no danger in eating meat.
C. little progress has been made by scientists.
D. We know things we did not know before.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ

## 68 CHARLIE CHAPLIN – A COMIC GENIUS

His early life was a time of great hardship. He was born in a very poor part of London, but his family were at first well off enough to afford a maid. However, while he was still a child, his family gradually lost everything. His father was a comedian and his mother worked as a dancer and singer. Neither of them was very successful and the family had very little money. They were so poor that, at one time, he and his brothers had only one pair of shoes between them and they had to take turns wearing them. His father eventually deserted the family and later died of alcoholism. The strain caused by this desertion affected his mother deeply. Her career fell apart and in the end she became insane. When his mother had to go into an asylum, he was sent to an orphanage.

The first time he himself earned any money was by dancing and singing when he was only five years old. As a young boy he had many different jobs, but what he loved most of all was working in the theatre. As he said in his autobiography, he felt quite "at home" on the stage, in more ways than one – the stage became an escape from the pain of his family life. When he was about fifteen, he joined a travelling theatre company and went on trips to America. On one such tour he was offered a part in a film, so he went to Hollywood, where eventually he became both an actor and a film director.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

In his films we see the influence of his early life: a strong feeling of pity for the poor, a romantic view of women (he worshipped his mother) and a love of applause. His comedies were immediately successful. As well as making policemen look foolish, he also often used the situation where people find themselves in a ridiculous position, but refuse to admit they have a problem. The best example of this is the drunken man who, though obviously drunk in the way he walks and talks, tries to pretend he has not touched a drop. One of his most famous roles is the little tramp who tries but fails to be a gentleman, and so makes us laugh. His films are not always comic; they are often sad and some, like *The Great Dictator*, contain a strong political message.

As a director he was known to be a perfectionist and sometimes made actors repeat a scene many times until he was finally satisfied with it. Many of the people he worked with found him mean and tyrannical, but it was probably his early experiences of poverty that made him so anxious to be successful. He is undoubtedly the most popular comedian of all time. He died in Switzerland in 1977 at the age of 88. There is now a statue of him in London, the city of his birth.

1. Although the family were poor _____
   A. they got on well with each other.
   B. they quickly became famous.
   C. things had once been better.
   D. they were able in make ends meet.

2. His mother's career ended when _____
   A. she began to drink too much.
   B. she went mad.
   C. her husband left her.
   D. she became too old.

3. What he liked most about the theatre was _____
   A. that it helped him to forget his problems.
   B. the money he earned.
   C. the applause of the audience.
   D. that his family worked there.

4. In what way did his early life affect his work in cinema?
   A. He wanted to make people laugh.
   B. He made a film about his mother.
   C. He showed the life of the poor.
   D. He wanted his films to make money.

5. The drunken man is funny because _____
   A. he behaves seriously.
   B. he talks in a drunken manner.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

C. he behaves as if he is sober.
D. he keeps falling down.

6. His films can be described as _____.
A. just entertainment.
B. political and romantic.
C. serious and comic.
D. love stories.

7. What was he like as a director?
A. He was difficult to please.
B. He was keen to please everyone.
C. He was anxious to finish.
D. He was never satisfied with his work.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ

## 69

When my Uncle Alan turned up at my thirteenth birthday party without a present, I couldn't hide the disappointment on my face. He was my favourite uncle, and he always bought me fantastic presents.

"Don't look so sad, Anna," he said kindly. "I haven't forgotten to get you a present. I just couldn't bring it with me. Tomorrow, I'm taking you abseiling."

"I didn't know you had a boat," I said.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

"No, not sailing! Abseiling!"

"What's that?" I asked. "I've never heard of it."

"You'll see," he said mysteriously.

Early the next day, Uncle Alan drove me to Lamerton Adventure Park. I'd never been there before, but had often told my mum and dad how exciting it sounded. As we drove through the gates, it seemed that, once again, Uncle Alan had found me a birthday present I'd never forget. When we arrived, we went to find my instructor, a friendly young woman called Isabelle. She put me completely at ease, and I knew that, whatever I was going to be doing, I'd be quite safe with her.

"So, Anna, have you ever been abseiling before?" she asked. I admitted I didn't even know what abseiling was. "Well, it's always fun to experience something new, isn't it?" she said.

We walked through the park, and ended up at a rocky hill. The biggest rock face was extremely high and steep, but there were smaller, easier faces too. When I saw the equipment waiting for me – a rope, a harness and a helmet – I guessed what I was going to be doing.

"Oh, I'm going rock climbing!" I said excitedly.

"Not exactly," said Uncle Alan.

Isabelle explained. "With rock climbing, you start at the bottom and go up, but with abseiling, you start at the top and go down." Now I understood.

We carried the equipment up a path to the top of the smallest rock face. I carefully looked over the edge. The ground was about five metres below. "This is going to be fun," I thought. Isabelle tied the rope carefully to a metal ring, and then threaded it through my harness, which by now I was wearing round my waist. She threw the other end of the rope over the edge of the rock face, and it fell to the ground.

"This is where I say goodbye," said Uncle Alan. "I'm going back down to the bottom. I'll be holding the other end of the rope, so you'll be quite safe. See you when you come down!" Isabelle was the perfect instructor. She talked me through what to do step by step. I stood on the edge of the rock face with my back to the drop. My left hand was holding the rope in front of me, my right hand holding the rope behind me. "Now," she said, "gently lean back." This was the most difficult part. It's a terribly scary experience leaning back over a cliff, especially the first time you attempt it, and for the first few minutes I wondered whether I could actually do it. Finally, I decided to risk it. I didn't want Uncle Alan thinking I was a coward. Keeping my feet still, I leant back a little. Then a little more.

"Fantastic!" shouted Uncle Alan from below me.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

"That's wonderful," said Isabelle. "Now, slowly start to walk down the rock." It was more like bouncing than actual walking, but I started to go down. It didn't take long to reach the bottom, but I felt a huge sense of achievement when I put my feet on the ground next to Uncle Alan.

"I'm so proud of you!" he said. "Do you want to try a higher rock face now?" "You bet!" I said. "The higher, the better!"

1. When Uncle Alan saw Anna's disappointment, he realised that ____
   A. he should have brought a present with him.
   B. he really was her favourite uncle.
   C. she thought he had forgotten to bring her a present.
   D. he had to take her somewhere the next day.

2. Anna had frequently told her parents that _____
   A. Lamerton Adventure Park appealed to her.
   B. she had never been abseiling before.
   C. Uncle Alan's birthday presents were unforgettable.
   D. abseiling sounded like a very interesting activity.

3. Isabelle made Anna _____
   A. admit how little she knew about the park.
   B. feel totally secure and comfortable.
   C. think about previous enjoyable experiences.
   D. realise that abseiling would be easy.

4. When Anna saw the equipment, she _____
   A. understood immediately what abseiling was.
   B. tried hard to guess what it would be used for.
   C. asked Isabelle for an explanation.
   D. still didn't understand what she would be doing.

5. Uncle Alan didn't stay at the top of the rock face because _____
   A. he wanted to see Anna when she reached the bottom.
   B. he had to hold the rope at the bottom.
   C. the rope had fallen over the edge by mistake.
   D. he thought she would be safer without him up there.

6. As Anna started to lean back, she _____
   A. felt extremely frightened.
   B. wondered if she was a coward.
   C. knew she had to risk the danger.
   D. remembered the first time she'd done this.

7. After reaching the bottom, Anna _____
   A. thought she had achieved enough for one day.
   B. wanted to abseil down a more difficult rock face.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480

C. made a bet with her uncle about the height of the rock.
D. felt relieved to be on the ground again with her uncle.

GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ
Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng
Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ
Zalo: 0866500969/Hotline: 086969480