

Listening: C1
The helix

Listen to a lecture about the helix shape to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. renowned	a device for removing corks from bottles
2. restricted	a three-dimensional curve around a central point
3. prevalent	limited
4. a spiral	famous
5. a corkscrew	to notice or realise
6. to perceive	very common in a particular place

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The speaker starts the talk with two examples of helices found in nature.	True	False
2. A helix is a three-dimensional object.	True	False
3. The main advantage of a spiral staircase is its strength.	True	False
4. DNA contains the genetic information for most, but not all, living things.	True	False
5. A mirror image of a helix can appear to change direction.	True	False
6. The screw is an example of a conical helix.	True	False
7. Helices are much more common in manufactured objects than in natural objects.	True	False
8. It is a mystery why there are so many helices in the world.	True	False

Task 2

Write the adjective form of the word in brackets in the gap.

1. To understand this, we will use a complicated formula. (mathematics).
2. Doctors are now confident that the condition is caused by a defect. (genes)
3. When bamboo is cut, you can see it is a straight pole with a hole down the middle. (cylinder)
4. Two-..... space can be viewed as a projection of the physical universe onto a plane. (dimension)
5. The pattern is made up of colours: white and black. (alternate)
6. The iris of the eye is composed of muscles which you can see as the brown, blue or green colour of the eye. (circle)

Discussion

Do you ever watch scientific lectures or talks like this online?