

## INTERFERONS IN RECENT RESEARCH

### LISTENING: How Influenza Silences the Immune System

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#### FIRST LISTENING — general understanding

**Task 1. Listening for gist. Choose the best summary of the text.**

- (A) The virus directly destroys interferons.
- (B) The virus exploits a host regulatory pathway to suppress early immune defence.
- (C) The virus mutates so quickly that treatment is impossible.

**Task 2. Sequence the process. Put the stages in the correct order (1–5).**

- \_\_\_ ATO increased interferon production in experiments.
- \_\_\_ AGO2 was redirected into the nucleus.
- \_\_\_ The virus gained better conditions for replication and spread.
- \_\_\_ Genes involved in the early immune response were silenced.
- \_\_\_ Researchers identified AGO2 as part of the host regulatory system used by the virus.

**Task 3. Multiple choice. Choose the best option.**

1. What does the influenza virus manipulate?
  - A. A protein that controls gene activity
  - B. The cell's DNA structure
  - C. Antibodies in the blood
  - D. The nervous system
2. What are type I interferons?
  - A. Enzymes that digest viruses
  - B. Signalling proteins that warn neighbouring cells
  - C. Hormones that regulate body temperature
  - D. Antibiotics produced by the liver
3. What drug did the researchers test?
  - A. A new experimental vaccine
  - B. Penicillin
  - C. Arsenic trioxide, a cancer drug
  - D. Interferon-beta

 **SECOND LISTENING — detail and process**

**Task 4. Gap-fill. Listen again and complete each gap with ONE word.**

1. Under normal conditions, AGO2 helps regulate gene activity through RNA \_\_\_\_\_.
2. During infection, the virus causes AGO2 to move into the cell \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There, AGO2 helps switch off genes involved in \_\_\_\_\_ signalling.
4. When the alarm system is weakened, the virus can improve its \_\_\_\_\_ and spread.
5. The drug increased interferon production and reduced the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ in the lungs.

**Task 5. True or False? Based on what you heard.**

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|---|--------------|
| 1. AGO2 normally works inside the cell nucleus.                           | <b>T / F</b> |
| 2. The virus “mutes” the immune system by blocking interferon production. | <b>T / F</b> |
| 3. Arsenic trioxide is a brand-new, experimental drug.                    | <b>T / F</b> |
| 4. The researchers believe this mechanism may apply to other RNA viruses. | <b>T / F</b> |
| 5. The study was conducted at the University of California San Diego.     | <b>T / F</b> |