

INTERFERONS IN RECENT RESEARCH

LISTENING: How Influenza Silences the Immune System

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