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Level 5

New TomTato plant grows potatoes and tomatoes

1st October, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131001-tomtato-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131001-tomtato-5.html>

A horticultural company is marketing a revolutionary new plant that grows tomatoes and potatoes. It is called the TomTato and gives up to 500 sweet tomatoes plus a healthy crop of potatoes. A newspaper joked you can now get ketchup and fries from the same plant. The company began research into the grafting together of tomato and potato plants 15 years ago. The company's horticultural director said the great thing is that the plant is not genetically modified in any way. He said he knew it was possible to graft the two plants together because they belong to the same species.

The director explained how the commercial idea developed. He said: "At the start, we thought it'd just be a novelty thing to do. But as the trials developed, we realised what we had produced was really high yield, had fantastic flavour and could be done commercially for the first time. The TomTato is called the "veg plot in a pot" and is selling for \$25. It can be grown inside or outside, in a large flower pot or in a bag. Britain's Telegraph newspaper said double-crop plants like the TomTato could be extremely useful in the future as people grow more food in smaller spaces.

Sources: <http://www.thompson-morgan.com/vegetables/vegetable-plants/all-vegetable-plants/tomtato/t47176TM>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2432094/TomTato-plant-produces-potatoes-tomatoes-sale-UK.html#ixzz2gK2vh3PG>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/howtogrow/fruitandvegetables/10332908/TomTato-mutant-plant-that-grows-tomatoes-and-potatoes-unleashed.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131001-tomtato-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. horticultural | a. of potatoes |
| 2. marketing a revolutionary | b. tomato and potato plants |
| 3. a healthy crop | c. in any way |
| 4. get ketchup and fries | d. new plant |
| 5. the grafting together of | e. same species |
| 6. not genetically modified | f. two plants together |
| 7. graft the | g. from the same plant |
| 8. they belong to the | h. company |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. how the commercial | a. developed |
| 2. we thought it'd just be a novelty | b. plants like the TomTato |
| 3. as the trials | c. useful in the future |
| 4. high | d. thing |
| 5. could be done commercially | e. idea developed |
| 6. double-crop | f. yield |
| 7. could be extremely | g. in smaller spaces |
| 8. as people grow more food | h. for the first time |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131001-tomtato-5.html>

A horticultural company is (1) _____ new plant that grows tomatoes and potatoes. It is called the TomTato and gives up to 500 sweet tomatoes plus (2) _____ potatoes. A newspaper joked you can now get ketchup and fries (3) _____. The company began research into (4) _____ of tomato and potato plants 15 years ago. The company's horticultural director said the great thing is that the plant is (5) _____ in any way. He said he knew it was possible to graft the two plants together (6) _____ to the same species.

The director explained how (7) _____ developed. He said: "At the start, we thought it'd just be (8) _____ to do. But as the trials developed, we realised what we had produced was really high yield, (9) _____ and could be done commercially for the first time. The TomTato is called the "(10) _____" and is selling for \$25. It can be grown inside or outside, in a large flower pot or in a bag. Britain's Telegraph newspaper (11) _____ like the TomTato could (12) _____ in the future as people grow more food in smaller spaces.

TOMTATOES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131001-tomtato-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about TomTatoes in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131001-tomtato-5.html>

Write about **TomTatoes** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
