

**1. The meat of the future?**

This week's lesson is about the attempts by scientists in the Netherlands to produce artificial beef in a laboratory, using cells from cattle. The experiments could have major implications for the future of agriculture and for humans' relationship with animals.

**Level**

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

**How to use the lesson**

1. Ask your students how often they eat meat, and what kinds. Are any of your students vegetarians, and if so, would any of them like to explain why? (As this can be a sensitive issue, it is best not to press students to answer unless they volunteer.) Presuming your students have heard arguments against eating meat, or for eating less of it, what are the different reasons given? Are any of your students aware of a recent news story concerning artificial meat?
2. Ask your students to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that many of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to complete Exercise 1, in which they have to find the words to match the definitions. (You might want to mention that the verbs defined on Worksheet B are not necessarily in their infinitive form on Worksheet A.)
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheets A and B, and their glossaries. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A with twelve incorrect words that the students have to identify and correct. The words containing the mistakes are all in bold, as are four other words that are correct. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write any additional words.
6. Check answers in open class.

**Answers:**

**Exercise 1**

1. raise 2. flesh 3. benefit 4. laboratory 5. Band-Aid®  
6. slaughter 7. theoretically 8. steak 9. lab 10. natural resources

**Exercise 2**

1. Netherlands 3. strip 4. cells 5. whole 6. eventually 7. successful  
10. farm 11. risen 13. resources 14. attractive 15. animal 16. fewer  
Words in bold that are correct: 2. laboratory 8. at 9. environmental 12. on

**2. Related websites**

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://eatocracy.cnn.com/2012/02/20/meat-from-a-petri-dish>

A CNN news video (February 21, 2012) about the development of lab-grown meat, including a clip of Dr. Mark Post's announcement and reactions from people in a New York restaurant. Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/ondeadline/post/2012/02/meat-grown-in-lab-may-yield-first-test-tube-burger-by-fall/1#.T1efYvWO7bg>

A *USA Today* article (February 20, 2012) on the topic. Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.navs-online.org/>

The website of the North American Vegetarian Society, with FAQ, recipes, and other information. Challenging for Intermediate level.