Science and technology

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each scientific field with its focus.

1 genetic engineering	____	a machines that sense, act or move
2 ergonomics	____	b growing plants without soil
3 molecular biology	____	c changing genetic material
4 voice technology	____	d creating genetically identical organisms
5 stem cell research	____	e design of spaces and tools for human use
6 cloning	____	f structure and function of molecules in living things
7 hydroponics	____	g use of cells to repair or treat the body
8 robotics	____	h systems that interpret spoken language

2 Complete the research collocations.

conclusion | **data** | **evidence** | **experiment** | **flaw** | **hypothesis** | **materials** | **results**

1 form a _____

2 design an _____

3 collect _____

4 test different _____

5 record the _____

6 analyse the _____

7 identify a _____

8 draw a _____

3 Correct one mistake in each sentence.

1 Researchers **made an experiment**. _____

2 The evidence **supports to** the hypothesis. _____

3 They **analysed about** the results. _____

4 The team **concluded of** the data that the design failed. _____

5 Hydroponics grows plants without **ground**. _____

6 Voice software can **interpretation** speech. _____

7 The engineers tested several **material**. _____

8 The results were not **repeat**. _____

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4 Complete the research summary with words from the box.

conclusion | data | evidence | experiment | flaw | hypothesis | materials | results | variable | repeat

The team formed a **1** _____ and designed an **2** _____. It tested three **3** _____ while keeping every other **4** _____ constant. Sensors collected **5** _____, and the researchers recorded the **6** _____. A software **7** _____ affected one measurement, so the team had to **8** _____ the trial. The revised **9** _____ supported a cautious **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Testing a voice assistant

Developers tested a voice assistant in a quiet studio and in a busy station. Accuracy was high in the studio but lower with background noise. Performance also varied between speakers, partly because the training data contained fewer examples of some accents. The team expanded the dataset and repeated the test with the same sentences. Accuracy improved, although errors remained for overlapping speech.

1 Where was the system tested? _____

2 When was accuracy lower? _____

3 Why did performance vary between speakers? _____

4 What did the team change? _____

5 How was the new test kept comparable? _____

6 What problem remained? _____

6 Rewrite using the word in capitals.

1 The researchers proposed a possible explanation. **HYPOTHESIS** ___

2 A weakness affected the design. **FLAW** _____

3 The findings can be produced again. **REPLICABLE** _____

4 The data justify the final statement. **CONCLUSION** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** research summary. Include the question, hypothesis, variables, method, results, limitation and conclusion.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Distinguish evidence from conclusion. [ ] State one limitation.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Scientific fields

1 **c** 2 **e** 3 **f** 4 **h** 5 **g** 6 **d** 7 **b** 8 **a**

2 Research collocations

1 **hypothesis** 2 **experiment** 3 **data** 4 **materials** 5 **results** 6 **evidence** 7 **flaw** 8 **conclusion**

3 Corrections

1 **carried out an experiment** 2 **supports** 3 **analysed the results** 4 **concluded from**
5 without **soil** 6 **interpret** speech 7 several **materials** 8 **repeatable**

4 Research summary

1 **hypothesis** 2 **experiment** 3 **materials** 4 **variable** 5 **data** 6 **results** 7 **flaw** 8 **repeat** 9 **evidence** 10 **conclusion**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A studio and a station. 2 With background noise. 3 Some accents were underrepresented. 4 It expanded the dataset.
5 It used the same sentences. 6 Overlapping speech.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 They formed a **hypothesis**. 2 The design had a **flaw**. 3 The findings are **replicable**. 4 The data support the **conclusion**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check method, variables, evidence, limitations and conclusion.