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RACE TO FIND CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
131L-U2LF-5U29

1 Warm-up

Everyone has been talking about coronavirus and how we can prevent people getting ill. Read what some people might be saying and define the vocabulary in bold. Then match each remark with who might have said it.

1. "We are developing a **vaccine** to **inoculate** people against this highly **infectious** disease."

2. "Relax! It's just going to be a quick **jab**."

3. "I don't like **needles**!"

4. "It's a **pandemic**! But do we really know all the facts?"

a. nurse or doctor

b. patient

c. public health official

d. social media

What do you know about the development of a coronavirus vaccine?

2 Vocabulary to help

You are going to watch a news report about this topic. This vocabulary will be helpful to you when you watch. Read the words and their definitions and decide how many syllables each word/phrase has. Mark the stressed syllable.

- caterpillar: a type of insect that turns into a butterfly

- human cell: the basic building blocks of our bodies; you need a microscope to see these

- gene sequence: the code inside cells which contains information on how to build a living thing

- ovary: female organ of egg production

- protein: a type of chemical that helps to form the cells of living things

How do you think this vocabulary will be used in the report?

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3 **Watch for main idea**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca9kFagAX8c&feature=youtu.be

Video

Watch the news report to find the answers to these questions:

1.   How many people are being interviewed? Where do these people work?

2.   How many companies are mentioned in the report? What are their names?

3.   What other important organisation is mentioned?

4 **Watch for detail**

Read the sentences from the report and remember/predict the missing words. The words you write will have the same or similar meaning as the words in bold. The first letters of the missing words have been given and each line in the missing word is one letter. Watch the report again to check.

1.   Researchers at the US vaccine company Novavax say they have made a protein that stops the virus from **sticking/b** _____ to human cells.

2.   They say within weeks, they **copied/c** _____ a non-infectious element of the virus...

3.   So now we have insect ovary cells making a "spike protein" which we then **clean/p** _____ and that becomes a vaccine.

4.   **C** _____ **tests/tests** on people are expected to begin this spring.

5.   Though full **permission to use the vaccine/l** _____ takes years, **weak and unprotected/v** _____ communities could receive the experimental vaccine on a **sympathetic/c** _____ -use basis much sooner.

6.   In the race to **stop the spread of/c** _____ the coronavirus, a win for the first to cross the finish line with a vaccine or a treatment ...

7.   And so government researchers here at the National Institute of Health are partnering with private labs to **speed up the rate/q** _____ **the p** _____ of drug development.

8.   Its coronavirus vaccine is ... preparing for clinical **tests/t** _____ in April.

9.   Gregory Glenn: I think that's **deserving of praise/c** _____ ...

10. ...we have to come up with a billion **individual amounts of medicine/d** _____ ...

11. ...but it could still be more than a year before any is **used in large numbers/m** _____ **d** _____

5 **Comprehension questions**

According to the report, are these statements true or false?

1.   The procedure that Novavax uses to make its vaccine has never been tried before.

2.   Drug companies are mostly motivated by profit in developing this vaccine.

3.   There is collaboration between drug companies and governments to produce a vaccine.

4.   The idea is that when several vaccines have been developed, governments should choose the best one to use for everyone.

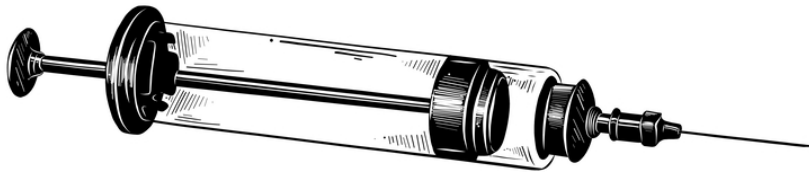5.   The rate of progress on developing a vaccine is record-breaking.

6 Discuss

Discuss any or all of these questions in pairs or small groups.

1. The report talks about some communities receiving the vaccine earlier than others. Can you identify which communities this might mean? Why would it be a good idea to give them earlier access to the vaccine?

2. Rationing means restricting access to something when there is a limited supply. Should access to the coronavirus vaccine be rationed? How?

3. Besides the vaccine, what other methods are being used to contain the coronavirus? Are these effective? Would you recommend any other methods?

4. What lessons can society learn from this event?

5. How effective is public-private partnership in general? Can you think of any other examples - successful or unsuccessful?

7 Extension

Complete the table showing word families for some of the vocabulary from the lesson.

noun	person	adjective	adverb	verb
binding	—	—	—	
			—	to clone
	—			to purify
		clinical		—
licensing; a licence(UK) a license(US)			—	
	—	vulnerable		—
	—	compassionate		—
	—	—	—	to contain
—	—			to quicken
a trial	—	—	—	
	—	commendable		
a dose	—	—	—	
	—	—	—	to deploy

Writing task: explain the information in the news report using words in the table and changing the part of speech for each item where possible.