

In the news

1st March 2015

Did you know that children who eat peanuts¹ could have fewer² allergies?

In the past, the advice³ to parents was to keep peanuts away from children. That is why lots of food labels⁴ say 'may contain⁵ traces⁶ of nuts'. But scientists⁷ in London experimented on 628 babies who were likely⁸ to develop an allergy to peanuts, and gave them a special peanut paste. The number of the babies who then had allergic reactions to peanuts fell by 80%. This is the first time that anything has been successful⁹ at reducing¹⁰ the number of allergies, which have been rising and rising. But – don't give small children peanuts (the children might choke¹¹ on the nut and suffocate¹²) – and don't experiment at home with diets.

Level 1: - look at the future words for "können vielleicht": could / might / may

- the word 'who' is important here, to give extra information about a person

Level 2 – look at the difference between the Past Simple (lines 2-5) and the Present Perfect (lines 6-7).

Level 3 – Can you explain the difference between the Present Perfect Simple (line 6) and the Present Perfect Continuous (line 7)?

Do you like grappa? Have you ever drunk it? Do you think it is a trendy drink?

Grappa (distilled¹³ from the leftovers¹⁴ of grapes after they have been used for winemaking) might be the oldest form of whisky in the world. And now it is becoming cool in the bars of cities in Russia, Germany, China and Japan. Cocktails with grappa are becoming popular¹⁵, apparently¹⁶.

Level 1 – the term 'is/are becoming' is a good one. Can you explain what it means?

Level 2 – 'apparently' is an adverb and it makes the sentence more interesting/colourful. What other adverbs could go with the sentences above?

Level 3 – 'after they have been used' is a difficult phrase. What tense is it?

Can you form other sentences with a combination of 'after' and the Present Perfect? (it can be used for facts in the present or with a future tense)

¹ peanut = Erdnuss

² fewer = weniger

³ advice = Rat

⁴ label = Etikett

⁵ contain = beinhalten

⁶ traces = Spur

⁷ scientist = Wissenschaftler

⁸ likely = wahrscheinlich

⁹ successful = erfolgreich

¹⁰ to reduce = reduzieren, verringern

¹¹ choke = sich an etw verschlucken

¹² suffocate = ersticken

¹³ to distill = etw destillieren

¹⁴ leftovers = Reste, Überreste

¹⁵ popular = beliebt

¹⁶ apparently = anscheinend