Blog post prepublication:

Summary of chosen BBC article

Use this Google Doc to compose your blog post. Writing here first has several benefits for us:

- Google's spelling and grammar check (under the Tools menu) will help you spot and correct errors in your writing. These are not perfect, but they are helpful.
- Google's Word count tool (also under the Tools menu) lets you quickly check exactly how many words you have written. Do not exceed the maximum word limit.
- It allows me to give you both suggestions to correct the language and review comments on your work.

This piece of writing

This writing:	Summary of a BBC News article
Suggested length:	200 - 250 words. **250 words maximum.** Do not exceed this limit.
Suggested time:	90 minutes (Planning = 50; writing = 20; editing = 20). Your summary is academic writing.
Grading rubric:	IELTS writing task 1 = summarizing

Publication

When you are ready to publish your piece of writing:

- create a new blog post (We might already have done this and the next step in class.)
- give it a title in the format: **Nickname: something interesting that fits your work**
- Copy your work from below and paste it into the blog post.
    - **Note:** the text and paragraph formatting below is appropriate. **Keep it unchanged.**
- Publish your blog post.

Write it

- When you come to step 4 in **the writing process**, write over xxxx on the next page.
    - **Note:** the text and paragraph formatting follows standard formatting style for academic writing. **Please keep the formatting unchanged.**
- Keep writing sentences until you are finished.
- "Enter" starts a new paragraph that copies the same text and paragraph formatting.
- Check the word count by selecting your text and using Google Word count tool.
- Do not add images here; just write your sentences and paragraphs. If you would like to add images to your blog post after the words are there, that's often a good idea.

Write on the following page.

summary paragraph = 250 words or less

In "How Children are Spoofing Covid-19 Tests with Soft Drinks", Mark Lorch (2021) mixes earthy with technical vocabulary to explain the chemistry underlying the standard Covid-19 lateral flow test (LFT) being fooled “to bunk off school”. Lorch describes the LFT kit for a quick for Covid-19 test as a paper-like strip over a pad of gold nanoparticles bound to antibodies that stick to Covid inside a plastic holder with a T(est result)-line and a C(heck)-line. Lorch explains that a test sample, usually a mouth or nasal swab that includes “all sorts of stuff in the snot and saliva”, including “other viruses and remains of your breakfast”, is mixed with a buffer solution to maintain the acidity level of human blood. The sample returns a positive result if gold nanoparticles, which appear red, are trapped by antibodies at the T-line, while all remaining gold is trapped at the C-line to confirm a successful test. When he ran a test with Coke and orange juice, copying Tik Tok videos, Lorch reports that it returned a positive result. He argues that the drinks’ comparatively high acidity causes the antibodies at the T-line to trap the gold. As evidence, he also reports that adding buffer solution to a fake result restored the antibodies to normal, so all the gold moved on to the C-line, erasing the false positive. Praising the cleverness of their “cunning way[] to bunk off school,” Lorch encourages young readers to test his own hypothesis.

Reference

Lorch, M. (2021). *How children are spoofing Covid-19 tests with soft drink*. BBC. https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210705-how-children-are-spoofing-covid-19-tests-with-soft-drinks

v4 = 248 words. That was much more work than I expected. Cutting it down to the word limit was very challenging.

You can also see **my planning**.

v3 = 344 words (more radical revision is needed)

In "How Children are Spoofing Covid-19 Tests with Soft Drinks", Mark Lorch (2021) mixes earthy children’s language with technical terms to explain the chemistry underlying how the standard Covid-19 lateral flow test (LFT) is being fooled “to bunk off school”. The LFT kit that gives a quick test for Covid-19 is described by Lorch as a paper-like strip inside a plastic holder with a T(est result)-line and a C(heck)-line indicating a successful test. Lorch explains that a test sample, usually a mouth or nasal swab that includes “all sorts of stuff in the snot and saliva”, including “other viruses and remains of your breakfast”, is mixed with a buffer solution to maintain the acidity level of human blood. Placed on it, the sample is soaked up by the strip and moves to the other end. The sample carries with it nanoparticles

of gold stuck to antibody proteins attracted very specifically to Covid-19. When the solution reaches the T-line, any Covid-19 causes the gold to stick to antibodies also positioned there. Since the gold particles look red, the result shows positive for Covid-19. Lorch further explains that the solution continues on to the end of the strip, where gold is trapped by a different chemical that bonds with it, creating the red C-line that confirms a successful test. When he ran a test with Coke and orange juice, as on Tik Tok videos, Lorch reports that it did return a positive result. Against the theory that something in soft drinks is attracted to the test antibodies as Covid-19 is, Lorch argues that the comparatively very high acidity causes the antibodies at the T-line to stick to the gold. As evidence, he also reports that adding buffer solution to a fake result allows the proteins to work as normal, so all the gold moves on to the C-line, erasing the false positive result for Covid-19. After praising the cleverness of their "cunning way[] to bunk off school," Lorch encourages young readers to continue testing his own hypothesis explaining the false positive result.

v2 = 369 words (v1 is below - it's much worse)

In "How Children are Spoofing Covid-19 Tests with Soft Drinks", Mark Lorch (2021) mixes in earthy children's language to explain the chemistry underlying the standard Covid-19 lateral flow test (LFT) fooled by them "to bunk off school". The LFT kit that gives a quick test for Covid-19 is described by Lorch as a paper-like strip inside a plastic holder with two lines on it: a red T(est)-line means Covid-19, while the C(heck)-line indicates a successfully completed test. Lorch explains that a sample, usually from a mouth or nasal swab that includes a mix of "all sorts of stuff in the snot and saliva", including "other viruses and remains of your breakfast" mixed with a solution to maintain the acidity level of human blood in which Covid-19 lives is placed on the kit. It is soaked up by the strip and moves to the other end. The test sample carries with it nanoparticles of gold to which antibody proteins attracted very specifically to the Covid-19 virus are bound. When the solution reaches the T-line, the presence of Covid-19 causes the gold particles to stick to antibodies also positioned there. Since the gold particles look red, the result shows positive for Covid-19. As Lorch further explains, the solution continues on to the end of the strip, where gold is trapped by a different chemical that also bonds with it, thus creating the red C-line that confirms a successful test. When he ran a test with Coke and orange juice, as on Tik Tok videos, Lorch reports that it did return a positive result. Of two possible explanations, that something in soft drinks attracts antibodies in the same way that Covid-19 does, or that the comparatively very high acidity causes the antibodies at the T-line stick to the gold, Lorch argues for the latter. As evidence, he also reports that adding the standard buffer solution to a fake result allows the proteins to work as normal, so all the gold moves on to the C-line, erasing the positive result for Covid-19. After praising the cleverness of their "cunning way[] to bunk off school," Lorch encourages young readers to continue testing his own hypothesis explaining the false positive result.

= still way too long. But much better than v1 below.

Version 1: = 493 words - a disaster that is almost double the allowed word count.

Time = 18:44 - 17:23 = **39 minutes**. But it needs a lot of revision.

Using some of the less formal language of children, Mark Lorch uses a recent expression of their eagerness to escape school to explain the chemistry that underlies the standard Covid-19 lateral flow test (LFT) in "How Children are Spoofing Covid-19 Tests with Soft Drinks" (2021). The LFT test kit that gives a quick indication of whether someone has Covid-19 or not is described by Lorch as a paper-like strip inside a plastic holder with two lines on it: the T line indicates a positive test if it becomes red, while the C line indicates that the test was successfully completed. Lorch explains that when a sample, usually from a mouth or nasal swab that is a mix of “all sorts of stuff in the snot and saliva”, including “other viruses and remains of your breakfast”, has been correctly mixed with a solution designed to maintain the correct level of acidity similar to that of the human blood in which Covid-19 lives, is placed on the starting point of the kit it is soaked up by the strip and begins moving to the other end. On the way there, the solution being tested carries with it nanoparticles of gold to which antibody proteins attracted very specifically to the Covid-19 virus are bound. When the solution reaches the T-line, it meets more antibodies that are attracted to Covid-19, but since these antibodies are stuck to the strip, they will stick to and hold in place any Covid-19 already stuck to the antibody with gold, which, since the gold particles look red, return a positive Covid-19 test result. As Lorch further explains, the rest of the solution, or if there is no Covid-19, continues on to the end of the strip, where all the antibodies bonded to gold are trapped by a different chemical that also bonds with the gold, thus creating the red line that confirms a successful test. When he ran a test with Coke and orange juice, videos of which have been posted to Tik Tok showing how to fake a positive result to get out of going to school, Lorch reports that it really did return a positive result. Of two possible explanations, that something in Coke and orange juice attracts the antibodies in the same way that Covid-19 does, or that the comparatively very high acidity causes the antibodies at the T-line stick to the gold, returning a false positive, Lorch argues for the latter, as evidence for which he also reports that when he added the standard buffer solution to a false result, the return to the correct level of acidity let the gold move on to the C-line, changing it the result to a correct negative for Covid-19. After praising the cleverness of their latest “cunning way[] to bunk off school,” Lorch encourages his young readers to continue testing his own hypothesis explaining how soft drinks change the chemistry of antibody proteins to produce the desired false positive result.