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# Reader's Club

- Today's Idioms
- Vocabulary & Pronunciation
- Reader's Club
- Question & Answer Period
- Questions
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# Today's Idioms

## **be on top of the world**

to feel very happy • *She'd just discovered she was pregnant and she felt on top of the world.*

## **off the top of your head** *informal*

if you say something off the top of your head, you say it without thinking about it for very long or looking at something that has been written about it • *'What was the name of that plumber you used?' 'I couldn't tell you off the top of my head.'*

- *Off the top of my head I could probably only name about three women artists.*

# Vocabulary & Pronunciation

## Common bacteria could cut spread of mosquito-borne disease

<b>curtail</b>	- make less, shorter etc (than was originally intended)
<b>pest</b>	- any epidemic disease with a high death rate
<b>built on</b>	- be based on
<b>bacterium</b>	- the singular of bacteria
<b>extract</b>	- to take out, to pull out
<b>Dengue</b>	- a disease caused by a virus carried by mosquitoes
<b>Chikungunya</b>	- a terrible virus that is mostly sent into mammals by mosquitoes
<b>parasite</b>	- an organism living in or on and obtaining nourishment from another organism.

# Vocabulary & Pronunciation

## Common bacteria could cut spread of mosquito-borne disease

<b>debilitate</b>	- to make sb's body or mind weaker
<b>afflict</b>	- to affect sb/sth in an unpleasant or harmful way
<b>fatal</b>	- causing or ending in death
<b>rampant</b>	- of sth bad existing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
<b>Wolbachia</b>	- a genus of bacteria that infect a wide variety of invertebrates, including insects, spiders, crustaceans, and nematodes.
<b>conduct</b>	- to organize and/or do a particular activity
<b>larvae</b>	- Immature forms of certain worms
<b>defect</b>	- failure

# Reader's Club



Common bacteria  
could cut spread of  
mosquito-borne disease

# Reader's Club 1 of 4

CHICAGO (AFP) - A common type of bacteria could help curtail the spread of mosquito-borne diseases by making the pests more resistant to infection, according to a study published Thursday in the US journal Cell.

The research built on an earlier study that found the lives of one type of disease-carrying mosquitoes could be cut in half by infecting them with a bacterium extracted from fruit flies.

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"Together with the previously described life-shortening effects, the results suggest we might be able to have a major impact on disease," said study author Scott O'Neill of The University of Queensland.

Mosquitoes infected with the bacteria proved resistant to dengue fever and Chikungunya, an insect-borne virus. They also became poor hosts for a form of malaria parasites that infect birds.

There is no vaccine or cure for dengue fever, a painful and debilitating disease that kills more than 40,000 people and afflicts 50 million more every year. Chikungunya usually isn't fatal, but can cause symptoms similar to dengue.

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Wolbachia bacteria are rampant in nature, where they are estimated to infect 60 percent of all insect species.

O'Neill and his team are working on ways to spread the infection to mosquitoes, which are responsible for transmitting human diseases such as malaria.

They hope to seed the natural mosquito population with Wolbachia by releasing mosquitoes infected in the laboratory.

"We are currently conducting a series of experiments in contained outdoor greenhouse settings that are examining the ability of the Wolbachia infection to spread into natural mosquito populations," O'Neill said.

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"If these prove successful, we hope to move to open field testing within the next one to two years."

The bacteria spread from mother to larvae with the help of a developmental defect that makes uninfected females unable to reproduce with infected males.

# Reader's Club

Q1. Almost everyone has been bitten by a mosquito. Have you thought about how a mosquito bite is could be dangerous? if you so, what do you do to prevent from mosquito bites in summer?