

**The 7 Steps -**  
**October**



**Moderna**

**1. CONTEXT**

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.

**2. QUESTIONS**

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

**3. LISTEN**

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

**Listening Questions 1**

1. What medical event boosted the profile of pharmaceutical companies in 2020 and why?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What type of company is Moderna and where was it founded?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What new technology did Moderna use to create new products?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What was Operation Warp Speed and how much money was allocated to Moderna?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. When was the Moderna vaccine approved in the U.S. and Canada?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Listening Questions 2**

1. What is mRNA technology?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How do older versions of vaccines work?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. How does mRNA achieve an immune response?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What is the main benefit of mRNA vaccines and what could be the impact of this?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What are two other diseases mRNA vaccines are being researched for?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

**Discussion Questions**

1. What medical technology or medicines have had the biggest impact on our society?
2. What are some new medical breakthroughs you hope to see in your lifetime?

#### 4. CHECK ANSWERS

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

#### 5. CHECK VOCABULARY

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

#### 6. READ ALOUD

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

#### 7. SHADOWING

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

### TRANSCRIPT 1

Pharmaceutical companies do not often appear in the limelight, but the emergence of Covid-19 in 2020 and the rush for a vaccine put them at the center of global attention. Many of the major players in the pharmaceutical world **attempted** to bring a new vaccine to market but one of the newer players on the scene was the previously little-known company Moderna.

Moderna is a biotechnology and pharmaceutical company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The American company was formed to take advantage of new mRNA technologies in the development of vaccines. Over the course of the company's short history, they **experimented** with a number of different treatments and therapies, but their big break came with the emergence of Covid-19 and the **subsequent** race to create a vaccine.

Under Operation Warp Speed, a partnership with the US Government to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, the company received \$483 million to help bring their vaccine to market. By December 2020, the vaccine had been approved in the U.S. and Canada, and mRNA technology's big debut had arrived.

MATCH THE ANTONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

Experiment	Competitor
Subsequent	Retreat
Collaborator	Preceding
Generate	Prevent
Underpin	Maintain
Attempt	Dismantle

### TRANSCRIPT 2

The technology **underpinning** both the Moderna and Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine is a relatively new technique known as mRNA. Based largely on the research of Hungarian scientist Katalin Kariko and her **collaborators**, the technology is a novel way to teach the human body how to defend itself from viral infections.

Traditional vaccines worked by introducing an inactive or weakened version of a germ to the body. The immune system then learned to recognize and fight it if the more active form of the germ made its way into the body. mRNA works differently to achieve a similar result. Instead of introducing a weaker or dead version of a pathogen, the new vaccines work by teaching our cells how to make a protein, or in some cases just a piece of protein. This can result in an immune response from the body that protects from future infection of the actual virus.

One of the reasons this technology has **generated** so much interest in the scientific and pharmaceutical community is that the mRNA vaccines can be made using materials that are easier to locate and work with than traditional vaccines. This allows for production to be standardized and increased in scale, which could make it easier to produce new vaccines more quickly and efficiently. In addition to Covid-19, mRNA vaccines are being studied for other pathogens such as the flu, Zika, and rabies.