

## Reading Part 2

Read the text. Use the sentences to complete the text. Choose the correct sentence for each gap. There are two extra sentences you will not need.

### Magnetic devices may ease pain caused by migraines

Good news for all those who suffer migraine headaches. A device has been developed that emits magnetic pulses which may reduce pain for certain migraine sufferers who get an early warning of their headaches. **(1)**\_\_\_\_\_ Other indications of imminent headaches could be a ringing sound in the ears or numbness in parts of the body.

Doctors now think this type of migraine is caused by a wave of electrical charges sweeping across your brain cells. The wave excites the cells and activity is followed by a phase which is called 'cortical spreading depression'. **(2)**\_\_\_\_\_ Medical scientists are now testing treatments to disrupt these electrically-charged waves in the hope of calming or even preventing the pain. One such treatment is magnetic stimulation, using a device which sends out magnetic pulses. **(3)**\_\_\_\_\_

In the study, people who treated their 'migraines with aura' using the device were more likely to be free from pain after two hours. **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_ The latter group fell into a 'much less likely' category. All the people in the study were asked not to use painkillers until at least at two hours after using the device. **(5)**\_\_\_\_\_ Further studies, including their interaction with the magnetic device, are planned.

How reliable are the findings? Well, the researchers took a lot of trouble to ensure that the 200 people in the study did not know if they had a real or fake device. Moreover, they were asked to decide whether they believed the treatment was real or not. The results showed they could not tell the difference. **(6)**\_\_\_\_\_ The study was carried out by researchers from universities in the US and funded by the manufacturers of the device. Some of the researchers worked for the company. This does not make the study unreliable but we should be aware that they have an interest in a positive outcome for the product they are testing.

- A Compare that to other sufferers who were given similar-looking devices but which did not emit magnetic pulses.
- B This usually takes the form of something called an 'aura', manifesting itself in sight disturbances like light flashes.
- C This is important because results could have been affected if people had guessed they were using the real device.
- D Doctors are still unsure as to whether there is any connection between these differing types of symptoms.
- E It's thought that this may be what causes the acute pain of migraine headaches.
- F New pain relief research is being carried out all the time in the US.
- G The idea is to hold it against the head when an aura begins and so activate these emissions.
- H Most migraine sufferers usually take fairly high doses of these but they were asked to refrain to ensure reliable results.