

*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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## Transcript

**Sticking their necks out** for scientific research.

These giraffes at a zoo near London are helping researchers find out just how their **spindly** legs work.

Experts are using special technology to measure the animals' leg movements. They want to see if being tall is a help or a **hindrance** to moving around.

The scientists also hope to solve the **evolutionary** mystery of how these animals developed from their more **modestly proportioned** ancestors.

## Vocabulary

**sticking their necks out**

(idiom) taking a risk

**spindly**

long and thin

**hindrance**

something that can make it difficult for you to do something else

**evolutionary**

gradual process of change and development

**modestly proportioned**

smaller sized

**Watch this video online: The secret of giraffes' long legs** <http://bbc.in/IRS4jvD>

## Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

**sticking their necks out / spindly / hindrance / evolutionary / modestly proportioned**

1. Scientists have used CT scans to make 3D models of fossil harvestmen, revealing just how little these \_\_\_\_\_ invertebrates have changed in 300 million years.
2. Suddenly, campaign ads, which had previously been \_\_\_\_\_ fly-poster style efforts became 48 sheet billboards displayed in prominent High Street locations, where they could compete for eyeballs with major consumer brands.
3. A machine that runs an artificial finger across different types of surface is being used to investigate the \_\_\_\_\_ origins of the pattern of ridges on the ends of our digits.
4. Doran revealed it was the first time the Shakespeare comedies *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Much Ado About Nothing* had been paired. "It's always struck me that these plays belong together and so strong is my sense that I am \_\_\_\_\_ to say that *Much Ado About Nothing* may also have been known as *Love's Labour's Won* in Shakespeare's lifetime," said Doran.
5. Divya Arora, a scriptwriter with cerebral palsy, thinks that disability is no \_\_\_\_\_ to achieving her dream of making it big in Bollywood.

## Answers

1. Scientists have used CT scans to make 3D models of fossil harvestmen, revealing just how little these **spindly** invertebrates have changed in 300 million years.

**Source:** Study draws 'virtual harvestmen'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14630811>

2. Suddenly, campaign ads, which had previously been **modestly-proportioned** fly-poster style efforts became 48 sheet billboards displayed in prominent High Street locations, where they could compete for eyeballs with major consumer brands.

**Source:** Election 2015: The death of the campaign poster

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2015-32221076>

3. A machine that runs an artificial finger across different types of surface is being used to investigate the **evolutionary** origins of the pattern of ridges on the ends of our digits.

**Source:** Artificial finger grips evolution

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21489527>

4. Doran revealed it was the first time the Shakespeare comedies Love's Labour's Lost and Much Ado About Nothing had been paired. "It's always struck me that these plays belong together and so strong is my sense that I am **sticking my neck out** to say that Much Ado About Nothing may also have been known as Love's Labour's Won in Shakespeare's lifetime," said Doran.

**Source:** RSC double bill to commemorate WWI

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-26033114>

5. Divya Arora, a scriptwriter with cerebral palsy, thinks that disability is no **hindrance** to achieving her dream of making it big in Bollywood.

**Source:** India: cerebral palsy 'no hindrance to Bollywood dreams'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-28984998>