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Level 6

Egypt opens extension of Suez Canal

9th August, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to unveil a major extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was constructed in just under 12 months, beating all predictions by industry experts that it would take five years. The canal provides a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed up the canal in his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military fatigues to attend the inauguration. The El Mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "gift to the world".

Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed boost for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was important to ensure Egypt earns revenues from its waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't handle this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative routes will emerge." He hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would need to grow from 49 per day at present to 97 by 2023. This would entail a nine per cent increase in global trade. Some economists have cast doubt on whether these figures can be met.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/egypt/11787279/Egypt-launches-new-Suez-Canal-celebration.html>
<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2015/08/06/egypt-seeks-to-boost-economy-through-expansion-of-suez-canal/>
<http://www.albawaba.com/business/suez-canal-inauguration-kickstarts-new-way-trade-egypt-727878>

WARM-UPS

1. CANALS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about canals. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

ceremony / extension / original / predictions / industry / experts / sailed / yacht / gift / government / boost / economy / important / revenues / alternative / annual / figures

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SHIPPING: What are the pros and cons of these forms of shipping? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
Ship		
Road		
Air		
Rail		
Drone		
Bicycle		

4. SAILING: Students A **strongly** believe sailing is better than flying; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. GIFTS TO THE WORLD: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Suez Canal
- Great Wall of China
- International Space Station
- Panama Canal
- Burj Khalifa
- Big Ben
- Disneyland
- Sydney Opera House

6. CEREMONY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "ceremony". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The first Suez Canal was built in 1869. | T / F |
| b. The latest extension to the canal took 12 years to complete. | T / F |
| c. Industry experts said the canal extension would take 5 years to build. | T / F |
| d. The ship Egypt's president sailed in is at least 150 years old. | T / F |
| e. Egypt's president doubts the canal will help the economy. | T / F |
| f. A canal spokesperson warned of competition for the canal. | T / F |
| g. The spokesman hopes canal revenues will increase to \$5.3bn a year. | T / F |
| h. Global trade must increase by 90% for the canal to meet its targets. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. attended | a. guarantee |
| 2. major | b. forecasts |
| 3. predictions | c. other |
| 4. inauguration | d. significant |
| 5. original | e. manage |
| 6. boost | f. first |
| 7. ensure | g. was present at |
| 8. handle | h. uncertainty |
| 9. alternative | i. launch |
| 10. doubt | j. lift |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. attended a | a. revenues |
| 2. unveil a major extension | b. under 12 months |
| 3. constructed in just | c. will emerge |
| 4. beating all predictions | d. for the country's economy |
| 5. nearly a century-and- | e. ceremony |
| 6. provide a much-needed boost | f. increase in global trade |
| 7. ensure Egypt earns | g. a-half ago |
| 8. alternative routes | h. of the Suez Canal |
| 9. This would entail a nine per cent | i. doubt on |
| 10. cast | j. by industry experts |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdelfattah el-Sisi attended a (1) _____ yesterday to unveil a (2) _____ extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was constructed in (3) _____ under 12 months, beating all predictions by industry (4) _____ that it would take five years. The canal provides a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi (5) _____ up the canal in his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military fatigues to (6) _____ the inauguration. The El Mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a (7) _____ -and-a-half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "(8) _____ to the world".

experts
major
century
sailed
ceremony
gift
just
attend

Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed (9) _____ for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was important to (10) _____ Egypt earns revenues from its waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't (11) _____ this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative routes will (12) _____." He hopes revenues will increase from the current (13) _____ \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would need to grow from 49 per day at (14) _____ to 97 by 2023. This would entail a nine per cent increase in (15) _____ trade. Some economists have cast (16) _____ on whether these figures can be met.

handle
annual
boost
global
emerge
doubt
ensure
present

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

- 1) Sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to unveil a major _____ Suez Canal
 - a. extension for the
 - b. extension of the
 - c. extension from the
 - d. extension by the
- 2) The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 _____
 - a. decades to build
 - b. years to build
 - c. months to build
 - d. weeks to build
- 3) _____ constructed in just under 12 months, beating all predictions _____
 - a. at industry experts
 - b. to industry experts
 - c. be industry experts
 - d. by industry experts
- 4) _____ the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a century-_____
 - a. and-a-halved ago
 - b. and-a-half ago
 - c. and-a-have ago
 - d. and-a-halves ago
- 5) President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's " _____ "
 - a. gift at the world
 - b. gift on the world
 - c. gift by the world
 - d. gift to the world
- 6) Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a _____
 - a. much-needed boost
 - b. much-needed boast
 - c. much-needed beast
 - d. much-needed boots
- 7) _____ the new canal was important to ensure Egypt earns revenues from its waterways _____
 - a. in the future
 - b. on the future
 - c. by the future
 - d. at the future
- 8) If I can't handle this and turn it into revenue for the _____
 - a. Egyptian treasures
 - b. Egyptian treasure
 - c. Egyptian treasured
 - d. Egyptian treasury
- 9) He hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 _____
 - a. billion by 2022
 - b. billion by 2024
 - c. billion by 2023
 - d. billion by 2033
- 10) Some economists have cast doubt on whether these _____
 - a. figures can being met
 - b. figures can been meeting
 - c. figures can be meet
 - d. figures can be met

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdelfattah el-Sisi (1) _____ yesterday to unveil (2) _____ the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was constructed in just under 12 months, (3) _____ by industry experts that it would take five years. The canal provides a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed up the canal (4) _____ yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military fatigues to (5) _____. The El Mahrousa was the first ship (6) _____ through the original canal nearly a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "gift to the world".

Egypt's government hopes the new canal will (7) _____ boost for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was (8) _____ Egypt earns (9) _____ waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't handle this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative (10) _____." He hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would (11) _____ 49 per day at present to 97 by 2023. This would entail a nine per cent increase in global trade. Some economists have cast doubt on whether these (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

1. When was the original Suez Canal built?

2. How long did the original canal take to build?

3. How long did experts think the current extension would take?

4. What did Egypt's leader wear as he sailed to the inauguration?

5. What did President Sisi describe the canal as?

6. What does Egypt's government hope the canal will give the economy?

7. What does Egypt need to get from its waterways?

8. What will emerge if the canal can't make enough money?

9. How many ships per day are needed by 2023?

10. Who doubted whether figures could be met?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

1. When was the original Suez Canal built?
 - a) 1896
 - b) 1979
 - c) 1869
 - d) 1928
2. How long did the original canal take to build?
 - a) 10 years
 - b) 9 years
 - c) 8 years
 - d) 7 years
3. How long did experts think the current extension would take?
 - a) 2 years
 - b) 3 years
 - c) 4 years
 - d) 5 years
4. What did Egypt's leader wear as he sailed to the inauguration?
 - a) jeans and T-shirt
 - b) military fatigues
 - c) a business suit
 - d) a white robe
5. What did President Sisi describe the canal as?
 - a) the final piece of a jigsaw
 - b) a global superhighway
 - c) a gift to the world
 - d) a masterpiece
6. What does Egypt's government hope the canal will give the economy?
 - a) tax
 - b) a boost
 - c) energy
 - d) water
7. What does Egypt need to get from its waterways?
 - a) prestige
 - b) tourism
 - c) fame
 - d) revenue
8. What will emerge if the canal can't make enough money?
 - a) chaos
 - b) alternative routes
 - c) debts
 - d) traffic jams
9. How many ships per day are needed by 2023?
 - a) 97
 - b) 79
 - c) 49
 - d) 94
10. Who doubted whether figures could be met?
 - a) shipping companies
 - b) Mohab Mamish
 - c) Egypt's leader
 - d) some economists

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Role A – Suez Canal

You think the Suez Canal is the greatest gift to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the International Space Station, Disneyland or Big Ben.

Role B – The International Space Station

You think the International Space Station is the greatest gift to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the Suez Canal, Disneyland or Big Ben.

Role C – Disneyland

You think Disneyland is the greatest gift to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the International Space Station, the Suez Canal or Big Ben.

Role D – Big Ben

You think Big Ben is the greatest gift to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the International Space Station, Disneyland or the Suez Canal.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'major' and 'extension'.

major	extension
--------------	------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• major• 10• 12• five• first• gift	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• boost• head• handle• emerge• 13.2• 97
---	--

CANALS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Write five GOOD questions about canals in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

CANALS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Egypt'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) How important are the waterways in your country?
- 5) What do you know about the Suez Canal?
- 6) How did Egypt build the canal 4 years earlier than experts predicted?
- 7) What are the most important recent construction projects in your country?
- 8) How important are canals?
- 9) What are the differences between canals and rivers?
- 10) To what degree is the new canal a 'gift to the world'?

Egypt opens extension of Suez Canal – 9th August, 2015
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CANALS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How much of a boost do you think the new canal will be?
- 13) In which areas does your country need a boost?
- 14) How important do you think Suez is to world trade?
- 15) In what other ways do you think Egypt makes money?
- 16) How do shipping and air freight compare?
- 17) What do you think will happen to world trade by 2023?
- 18) Would you like to sail through the canal? Why?
- 19) Why do you think some economists doubt the canal's success?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask President Sisi?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdelfattah el-Sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to (1) _____ a major extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was constructed in (2) _____ under 12 months, beating (3) _____ predictions by industry experts that it would take five years. The canal provides a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed (4) _____ the canal in his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military fatigues to (5) _____ the inauguration. The El Mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a century-and-a- (6) _____ ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "gift to the world".

Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed (7) _____ for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was important to (8) _____ Egypt earns revenues from its waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't (9) _____ this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian (10) _____, alternative routes will emerge." He hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would need to grow from 49 per day (11) _____ present to 97 by 2023. This would entail a nine per cent increase in global trade. Some economists have cast doubt on whether these figures can be (12) _____.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) unveil | (b) unravel | (c) veil | (d) avail |
| 2. | (a) simply | (b) there | (c) just | (d) fact |
| 3. | (a) every | (b) whole | (c) all | (d) others |
| 4. | (a) heading | (b) within | (c) at | (d) up |
| 5. | (a) attend | (b) attendance | (c) attendant | (d) attending |
| 6. | (a) halved | (b) half | (c) halves | (d) halfway |
| 7. | (a) baste | (b) beast | (c) boast | (d) boost |
| 8. | (a) sure | (b) ensure | (c) reassure | (d) insure |
| 9. | (a) wheel | (b) knob | (c) handle | (d) rail |
| 10. | (a) treachery | (b) pleasure | (c) measurement | (d) treasury |
| 11. | (a) by | (b) in | (c) on | (d) at |
| 12. | (a) welcomed | (b) met | (c) greeted | (d) befriended |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Paragraph 1

1. attended a rconyeme
2. ivleun a major extension
3. beating all nttiopedcs
4. industry psxrete
5. cylfofiial sail through the original canal
6. nearly a yuetncr-and-a-half ago

Paragraph 2

7. provide a much-needed otobs
8. turn it into vreeenu
9. tnvearlaite routes
10. the current lunana \$5.3 billion
11. Some osenimotcs
12. cast otbdu on

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	up the canal in his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military fatigues to attend the
()	was constructed in just under 12 months, beating all predictions by industry experts that it would
(1)	Egypt's President Abdelfattah el-Sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to unveil a major extension
()	trade. Some economists have cast doubt on whether these figures can be met.
()	it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative routes will emerge." He hopes revenues will increase from the
()	take five years. The canal provides a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed
()	current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would need to grow
()	of the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal
()	economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was important to
()	Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed boost for the country's
()	from 49 per day at present to 97 by 2023. This would entail a nine per cent increase in global
()	ensure Egypt earns revenues from its waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't handle this and turn
()	inauguration. The El Mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a century-and-a-
()	half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "gift to the world".

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

1. Suez To major the a of Canal unveil extension .

2. take five years Predictions by industry experts that it would .

3. up in yacht sailed canal presidential Sisi the his .

4. the original canal The first ship to officially sail through .

5. canal new the described Sisi world the to gift Egypt's as .

6. needed will provide a new much - boost . The canal

7. its from revenues earns Egypt Ensure waterways .

8. turn revenue can't and into I this it If handle .

9. Revenues \$5.3bn annual current the from increase will .

10. met doubt these be Cast whether can on figures .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdelfattah el-Sisi *attended / attendance* a ceremony yesterday to unveil a *major / majority* extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was *completion / completed* in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was *constructing / constructed* in just under 12 months, beating *all / every* predictions by industry experts that it would take five years. The canal *resides / provides* a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed up the canal in his *presidential / president* yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military *fatigues / tiredness* to attend the inauguration. The El Mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail *though / through* the original canal nearly a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "*gift / gist* to the world".

Egypt's government hopes the new canal will *provision / provide* a much-needed *boast / boost* for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was *importance / important* to ensure Egypt *earns / earnings* revenues from its waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't *hold / handle* this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative routes will *converge / emerge*." He hopes revenues will increase from the *currency / current* annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would *needy / need* to grow from 49 per day at present to 97 by 2023. This would *entail / retail* a nine per cent increase in global trade. Some economists have cast doubt on whether these figures can be *met / meeting*.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to unveil a major extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. Then, \$8.5 billion canal was constructed in just under 12 months, being all products by industry experts that the world took five years. The canal provides a passage way between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. President Sisi said upon the canal's inauguration, the 14th anniversary, warning military forces to attend the anniversary. The 14th anniversary was the first shipment of coffee through the original canal nearly a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "gift to the world".

Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed boost for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohamed Mosh, said the new canal was important to ensure Egypt remains relevant from its waters in the future. He told reporters: "I can't handle the sound that the revenue for the Egypt treasury, it's not a virtue that will emerge." He hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would need to grow from 49 per day to present 97 by 2023. The world's largest port is expected to increase in global trade. Some concerns have surfaced about whether the figures can be met.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

egypt's president abdefattah el-sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to unveil a major extension of the suez canal the original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build the new \$85 billion canal was constructed in just under 12 months beating all predictions by industry experts that it would take five years the canal provides a passageway between the mediterranean and red seas president sisi sailed up the canal in his presidential yacht the el mahrousa wearing military fatigues to attend the inauguration the el mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a century-and-a-half ago president sisi described the new canal as egypt's "gift to the world"

egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed boost for the country's economy the head of the suez canal authority mohab mamish said the new canal was important to ensure egypt earns revenues from its waterways in the future he told reporters "if i can't handle this and turn it into revenue for the egyptian treasury alternative routes will emerge" he hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$53 billion to \$132 billion by 2023 that means shipping traffic would need to grow from 49 per day at present to 97 by 2023 this would entail a nine per cent increase in global trade some economists have cast doubt on whether these figures can be met

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal.html>

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi attended a ceremony yesterday to unveil a major extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was completed in 1869 and took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was constructed in just under 12 months, beating all predictions by industry experts that it would take five years. The canal provides a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed up the canal in his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, wearing military fatigues to attend the inauguration. The El Mahrousa was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal nearly a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi described the new canal as Egypt's "gift to the world". Egypt's government hopes the new canal will provide a much-needed boost for the country's economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority, Mohab Mamish, said the new canal was important to ensure Egypt earns revenues from its waterways in the future. He told reporters: "If I can't handle this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative routes will emerge." He hopes revenues will increase from the current annual \$5.3 billion to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic would need to grow from 49 per day at present to 97 by 2023. This would entail a nine percent increase in global trade. Some economists have cast doubt on whether these figures can be met.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the new Suez Canal. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CANALS: Make a poster about canals. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. GLOBAL TRADE: Write a magazine article about global trade. Include imaginary interviews with people who think it will increase a lot in the next decade and with those who think it will not.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on canals. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make better use from them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c T d T e F f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. attended | a. was present at |
| 2. major | b. significant |
| 3. predictions | c. forecasts |
| 4. inauguration | d. launch |
| 5. original | e. first |
| 6. boost | f. lift |
| 7. ensure | g. guarantee |
| 8. handle | h. manage |
| 9. alternative | i. other |
| 10. doubt | j. uncertainty |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

- 1869
- 10 years
- Five years
- Military fatigues
- Egypt's gift to the world
- A boost
- Revenues
- Alternative routes
- 97
- Some economists

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)