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Level 5 – 9th December, 2019

Sydney bush fires combine to form 'mega-fire'

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-5.html>

Fire-fighters in Australia are battling what is being called the worst fire they have ever seen. Eight different bushfires combined north of the city of Sydney. People are dubbing it a "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes and properties are in its path. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land and its front is roughly 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. A fire official said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease."

The spread of the fires has been worsened by a prolonged drought. This is worrying authorities, who said it is early in the season for the ground to be so dry. They said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from dangerous and toxic smoke. The city is covered in a choking shroud. Residents have received advice about exercising outside. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and frail at the moment."

Sources: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/australia-bushfires-combine-form-mega-fire-north-sydney-191206074513633.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/another-tough-day-nsw-firefighters-battling-city-sized-inferno-20191207-p53hs3.html>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-07/how-rfs-are-tackling-nsw-mega-fire-bigger-than-sydney/11776874>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. bushfires combined | a. these fires |
| 2. People are dubbing it | b. north of the city |
| 3. an hour's drive | c. conditions ease |
| 4. thousands of homes | d. a "mega-fire" |
| 5. The giant inferno | e. of control |
| 6. burning out | f. from Sydney |
| 7. We cannot stop | g. is burning |
| 8. They will just keep burning until | h. and properties |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The spread of the fires has | a. choking shroud |
| 2. a prolonged | b. ever" fire |
| 3. it is early in the | c. at the moment |
| 4. the horrific consequences | d. season |
| 5. The city is covered in a | e. been worsened |
| 6. advice about exercising | f. of fire |
| 7. Locals say it is the "worst | g. drought |
| 8. very tested and frail | h. outside |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-5.html>

Fire-fighters in Australia (1) _____ is being called the worst fire they have ever seen. Eight different bushfires (2) _____ the city of Sydney. People are (3) _____ "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes and properties are (4) _____. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land and (5) _____ roughly 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning (6) _____ and is too vast to contain. A fire official said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease."

The spread of the fires has been worsened by (7) _____. This is worrying authorities, who said it is early in (8) _____ the ground to be so dry. They said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the (9) _____ fire so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from dangerous and toxic smoke. The city is covered in (10) _____. Residents have received advice about exercising outside. (11) _____ is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and frail (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-5.html>

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BUSHFIRES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bushfires 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

