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**Level 3 – 8th August, 2021**

## **Taliban capture first Afghan provincial capital city**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

### **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

The Taliban have captured an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the border with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too few government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the group. He said the victory would increase the morale of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

The Taliban are fighting to take control of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces defeated them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have spent 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are currently pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".

Sources: <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2021/08/06/asia/afghanistan-taliban-zaranj-nimroz-intl/index.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58119886>  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/6/taliban-capture-afghan-provincial-capital-zaranj-nimruz>

# WARM-UPS

**1. AFGHANISTAN:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Afghanistan. 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?

capital city / province / control / border / government / soldiers / important / soon / the first time / 2001 / train / army / police / western powers / war / catastrophe

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

**3. UNITED NATIONS:** Students A **strongly** believe United Nations soldiers should try to keep the peace in Afghanistan. Students B **strongly** believe this would not work. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. ROLES:** What are the roles of these organizations / countries in Afghanistan? What is their future? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Their Role	Their Future
The Taliban		
The U.N.		
The USA		
The Afghan Government		
Russia		
China		

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

**6. HELP:** Rank these with your partner. Put the countries that need help the most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Afghanistan
- Syria
- South Sudan
- Somalia
- Lebanon
- Ukraine
- Myanmar
- Yemen

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. captured  | a. Country.  |
| 2. forces    | b. A person who works and speaks for a company, organization or country. |
| 3. official  | c. Confidence, mental energy and enthusiasm.                             |
| 4. border    | d. Took by force.  |
| 5. morale    | e. Now; at this moment.  |
| 6. currently | f. Groups of soldiers, police, sailors, etc.                             |
| 7. nation    | g. The line between two areas or two countries.                          |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. defeated     | h. A messenger or representative, especially one on a diplomatic mission.            |
| 9. power        | i. Causing great harm or damage.   |
| 10. peaceful    | j. A disaster.   |
| 11. envoy       | k. A country, especially one that has international influence and military strength. |
| 12. destructive | l. A period or stage in a series of events or a process of change or development.    |
| 13. phase       | m. Calm.   |
| 14. catastrophe | n. Won a victory over someone or something.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

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

1. The Taliban are in control its first provincial capital since 2001. **T / F**
2. The province the Taliban took borders Iran. **T / F**
3. The Taliban said the taking of Zaranj was not so important. **T / F**
4. The Taliban said it would take other provinces soon. **T / F**
5. The Taliban were beaten by US-led forces in 2001. **T / F**
6. The Taliban gave up their fight for a decade. **T / F**
7. The UK is currently pulling its forces out of Afghanistan. **T / F**
8. A U.N. envoy said things would now be more peaceful in Afghanistan. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>captured</b>     | a. presently  |
| 2. <b>province</b>     | b. confidence |
| 3. <b>important</b>    | c. disaster   |
| 4. <b>morale</b>       | d. conquered  |
| 5. <b>currently</b>    | e. countries  |
| 6. <b>defeated</b>     | f. ambassador |
| 7. <b>powers</b>       | g. region     |
| 8. <b>ending</b>       | h. beat       |
| 9. <b>envoy</b>        | i. finishing  |
| 10. <b>catastrophe</b> | j. momentous  |

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

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. captured an Afghan provincial capital | a. control of Afghanistan  |
| 2. Taliban forces are now                | b. of his fighters         |
| 3. too few government                    | c. forces out              |
| 4. victory would increase the morale     | d. soldiers to help        |
| 5. There is currently heavy              | e. for catastrophe         |
| 6. The Taliban are fighting to take      | f. city for the first time |
| 7. pulling their                         | g. in the country          |
| 8. They are ending their time            | h. fighting in the cities  |
| 9. entered a new, deadlier, and more     | i. in control              |
| 10. the country was heading              | j. destructive phase       |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

The Taliban have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too (4) \_\_\_\_\_ government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He said the victory would increase the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our (7) \_\_\_\_\_ very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for the nation's capital Kabul.

*morale*  
*border*  
*fight*  
*captured*  
*southern*  
*group*  
*hands*  
*few*

The Taliban are fighting to take (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces (10) \_\_\_\_\_ them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have spent 20 years trying to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never (12) \_\_\_\_\_ up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are (13) \_\_\_\_\_ pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are (14) \_\_\_\_\_ their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special (15) \_\_\_\_\_ for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "(16) \_\_\_\_\_".

*train*  
*envoy*  
*defeated*  
*currently*  
*control*  
*catastrophe*  
*gave*  
*ending*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

- 1) The Taliban have captured an Afghan provincial capital city for the first \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. time stints 2001
  - b. time stance 2001
  - c. time sins 2001
  - d. time since 2001
- 2) Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. southerly Nimroz province
  - b. south urn Nimroz province
  - c. southerner Nimroz province
  - d. southern Nimroz province
- 3) The police there were unable to fight because there were \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers
  - a. too flew government
  - b. two flew government
  - c. tooth you government
  - d. too few government
- 4) He said the victory would increase the \_\_\_\_\_ fighters
  - a. moral of his
  - b. morale of his
  - c. more all of his
  - d. moral off his
- 5) Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may \_\_\_\_\_ Taliban
  - a. fall beef or the
  - b. fall be four the
  - c. fall before the
  - d. fall befall the
- 6) This is when US-led forces defeated them \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. after them attacks
  - b. after then attacks
  - c. after the attacks
  - d. after they attacks
- 7) The USA and other western powers have spent 20 years \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. trying to train
  - b. train to trying
  - c. trained to train
  - d. try inter train
- 8) the Taliban never gave up their fight to take \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the country back
  - b. the country backs
  - c. the country backed
  - d. the country backer
- 9) The USA and the UK are currently pulling \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their forces out
  - b. their force is out
  - c. their for sis out
  - d. their four CIS out
- 10) She warned that the country was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. head din for catastrophe
  - b. heady for catastrophe
  - c. head ding for catastrophe
  - d. heading for catastrophe

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

The Taliban (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Nimroz is on the border with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there (3) \_\_\_\_\_ government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the group. He said the victory would (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands very soon." There is currently (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban fight for (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Kabul.

The Taliban are fighting (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led (8) \_\_\_\_\_ after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other (9) \_\_\_\_\_ spent 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are currently pulling their (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

1. When was the last time the Taliban controlled a provincial capital?
2. What country does the province of Nimroz border?
3. What kind of day did a Taliban official say it was?
4. What did an official say would fall into Taliban hands?
5. How many cities does the article mention where there is heavy fighting?
6. Who does the article say defeated the Taliban in 2001?
7. How long did western powers train the Afghan army?
8. What are the USA and UK currently doing to their forces?
9. What is the role of Deborah Lyons in the United Nations?
10. What did Deborah Lyons say Afghanistan was heading for?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

- 1) When was the last time the Taliban controlled a provincial capital?
  - a) 2002
  - b) 2001
  - c) 2011
  - d) 2010
- 2) What country does the province of Nimroz border?
  - a) China
  - b) Turkey
  - c) Iran
  - d) Tajikistan
- 3) What kind of day did a Taliban official say it was?
  - a) sad
  - b) tough
  - c) OK
  - d) important
- 4) What did an official say would fall into Taliban hands?
  - a) the people
  - b) more provinces
  - c) Kabul
  - d) the whole country
- 5) How many cities does the article mention where there is heavy fighting?
  - a) 4
  - b) 3
  - c) 2
  - d) 1
- 6) Who does the article say defeated the Taliban in 2001?
  - a) US-led forces
  - b) UM forces
  - c) Russian forces
  - d) the Afghan army
- 7) How long did western powers train the Afghan army?
  - a) 12 years
  - b) 15 years
  - c) 18 years
  - d) 20 years
- 8) What are the USA and UK currently doing to their forces?
  - a) increasing them
  - b) training them
  - c) pulling them out
  - d) protecting them
- 9) What is the role of Deborah Lyons in the United Nations?
  - a) assistant secretary-general
  - b) conflict advisor
  - c) lead secretary
  - d) special envoy
- 10) What did Deborah Lyons say Afghanistan was heading for?
  - a) an uncertain future
  - b) catastrophe
  - c) dark times
  - d) economic difficulties

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

## **Role A – Afghanistan**

You think Afghanistan is the country most in need of help. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as high on the list. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): Somalia, Lebanon or Myanmar.

## **Role B – Somalia**

You think Somalia is the country most in need of help. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as high on the list. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): Afghanistan, Lebanon or Myanmar.

## **Role C – Lebanon**

You think Lebanon is the country most in need of help. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as high on the list. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): Somalia, Afghanistan or Myanmar.

## **Role D – Myanmar**

You think Myanmar is the country most in need of help. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as high on the list. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): Somalia, Lebanon or Afghanistan.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

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

<b>nation</b>	<b>capital</b>
---------------	----------------

- 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"><li>• capture</li><li>• control</li><li>• unable</li><li>• morale</li><li>• just</li><li>• before</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• take</li><li>• defeated</li><li>• spent</li><li>• pulling</li><li>• envoy</li><li>• warned</li></ul>
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# AFGHANISTAN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Afghanistan 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.

# AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Afghanistan'?
3. What do you know about Afghanistan?
4. What do you know about the Taliban?
5. What are the Taliban fighting for?
6. What do you think the Afghan people think of the Taliban?
7. Would you like to visit Afghanistan?
8. Why isn't the Afghan army defeating the Taliban?
9. What would life in Afghanistan be like if the Taliban take over?
10. What advice do you have for the Afghan people?

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# AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'capital'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about the attacks on the World Trade Centre?
15. What did the western powers achieve in Afghanistan?
16. What do you think of the US and UK pulling out of Afghanistan?
17. Do you think the Taliban will take full control of Afghanistan?
18. What will Afghanistan be like in ten years?
19. What would 'catastrophe' look like in Afghanistan?
20. What questions would you like to ask a Taliban leader?

## 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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

The Taliban have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the border (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too (4) \_\_\_\_\_ government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the group. He said the victory would increase the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our (6) \_\_\_\_\_ very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

The Taliban are fighting to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ control of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces defeated them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western (8) \_\_\_\_\_ have spent 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave (9) \_\_\_\_\_ their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are currently pulling their (10) \_\_\_\_\_ out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for "catastrophe".

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

- |     |               |                |              |              |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) corrupted | (b) raptured   | (c) ruptured | (d) captured |
| 2.  | (a) by        | (b) on         | (c) off      | (d) of       |
| 3.  | (a) at        | (b) with       | (c) on       | (d) in       |
| 4.  | (a) small     | (b) little     | (c) few      | (d) enough   |
| 5.  | (a) heavy     | (b) fierce     | (c) morale   | (d) gun      |
| 6.  | (a) hands     | (b) stomachs   | (c) ears     | (d) feet     |
| 7.  | (a) do        | (b) take       | (c) real     | (d) save     |
| 8.  | (a) powers    | (b) strengths  | (c) energies | (d) muscles  |
| 9.  | (a) on        | (b) up         | (c) in       | (d) out      |
| 10. | (a) excels    | (b) ejects     | (c) forces   | (d) stations |
| 11. | (a) species   | (b) specially  | (c) special  | (d) specs    |
| 12. | (a) legging   | (b) stomaching | (c) backing  | (d) heading  |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. capital of the outernhs Nimroz province
2. Taliban forces are now in rntcolo
3. Nimroz is on the derrbo with Iran
4. increase the rmaeol of his fighters
5. Other penvsicor will fall into our hands
6. There is tuerlrync heavy fighting

## Paragraph 2

7. US-led forces fteeaedd them
8. other nestewr powers
9. keep the country faeupehc
10. The UN's special yenov for Afghanistan
11. a new, deadlier, and more riuetvedtsc phase
12. the country was heading for oacsathrpte

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special
- ( ) hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat
- ( ) up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are currently pulling their forces
- ( ) and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.
- ( ) help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the group. He said the victory would increase the morale
- ( ) defeated them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have spent
- ( ) of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our
- ( **1** ) The Taliban have captured an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city
- ( ) of Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the
- ( ) border with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too few government soldiers to
- ( ) 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave
- ( ) The Taliban are fighting to take control of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces
- ( ) destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".
- ( ) envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

1. Taliban have provincial an Afghan captured city . The
2. Iran . Nimroz is border with the on
3. were to few government There help . soldiers too
4. fighters . his increase would the morale of Victory
5. the fight for Taliban capital . will The nation's
6. to The are fighting Taliban control . take
7. never Taliban fight . The up gave their
8. their are They time the country . ending in
9. phase . The a entered war deadlier new, had
10. was country warned the She catastrophe . for heading

## CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

The Taliban have *ruptured* / *captured* an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital *of* / *off* the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now *on* / *in* control. Nimroz is on the border with Iran. The police there were *unable* / *inability* to fight because there were too few government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important *daily* / *day* for the group. He said the victory would increase the *moral* / *morale* of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the *begin* / *beginning*. Other provinces will fall into our *hands* / *feet* very soon." There is currently *heavy* / *heavily* fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall *then* / *before* the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

The Taliban are fighting to *take* / *give* control of Afghanistan for the first *time* / *times* since 2001. This is when US-led forces *defeated* / *defeat* them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have *spent* / *spending* 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to *give* / *keep* the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are *currency* / *currently* pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special *convoy* / *envoy* for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the *wart* / *war* there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive *phrase* / *phase*". She warned that the country was heading *for* / *from* "catastrophe".

**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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

Th\_ T\_l\_b\_n h\_v\_ c\_pt\_r\_d \_n \_fgh\_n pr\_v\_nc\_\_l  
c\_p\_t\_l c\_ty f\_r th\_ f\_rst t\_m\_ s\_nc\_ 2001. P\_l\_c\_ \_n  
th\_ c\_ty \_f Z\_r\_nj, c\_p\_t\_l \_f th\_ s\_\_th\_rn N\_mr\_z  
pr\_v\_nc\_, s\_\_d T\_l\_b\_n f\_rc\_s \_r\_ n\_w \_n c\_ntr\_l.  
N\_mr\_z \_s \_n th\_ b\_rdr w\_th \_r\_n. Th\_ p\_l\_c\_ th\_r\_  
w\_r\_ \_n\_bl\_ t\_ f\_gh\_t b\_c\_\_s\_ th\_r\_ w\_r\_ t\_\_ f\_w  
g\_v\_rnm\_nt s\_ld\_\_rs t\_ h\_lp. \_ T\_l\_b\_n \_ff\_c\_\_l s\_\_d  
\_t w\_s \_n \_mp\_rtn\_t d\_y f\_r th\_ gr\_\_p. H\_ s\_\_d th\_  
v\_ct\_ry w\_\_ld \_ncr\_\_s\_ th\_ m\_r\_l\_ \_f h\_s f\_gh\_t\_rs \_n  
\_th\_r pr\_v\_nc\_s. H\_ \_dd\_d: "Th\_s \_s j\_st th\_  
b\_g\_nn\_ng. \_th\_r pr\_v\_nc\_s w\_ll f\_ll \_nt\_ \_\_r h\_nds  
v\_ry s\_\_n." Th\_r\_ \_s c\_rr\_ntly h\_\_vy f\_gh\_t\_ng \_n th\_  
c\_t\_\_s \_f L\_shk\_r G\_h, K\_nd\_z, H\_r\_t \_nd K\_nd\_h\_r.  
Th\_y m\_y f\_ll b\_f\_r\_ th\_ T\_l\_b\_n f\_gh\_t f\_r th\_  
n\_t\_\_n's c\_p\_t\_l K\_b\_l.

Th\_ T\_l\_b\_n \_r\_ f\_gh\_t\_ng t\_ t\_k\_ c\_ntr\_l \_f  
\_fgh\_n\_st\_n f\_r th\_ f\_rst t\_m\_ s\_nc\_ 2001. Th\_s \_s  
wh\_n \_S-l\_d f\_rc\_s d\_f\_\_t\_d th\_m \_ft\_r th\_ \_tt\_ck\_s \_n  
th\_ W\_rld Tr\_d\_ C\_ntr\_ \_n N\_w Y\_rk. Th\_ \_S\_ \_nd  
\_th\_r w\_st\_rn p\_w\_rs h\_v\_ sp\_nt 20 y\_\_rs tryng t\_  
tr\_\_n \_n \_fgh\_n \_rmy \_nd p\_l\_c\_ \_ff\_c\_rs t\_ k\_\_p th\_  
c\_\_ntry p\_\_c\_f\_l. H\_w\_v\_r, th\_ T\_l\_b\_n n\_v\_r g\_v\_ \_p  
th\_\_r f\_gh\_t t\_ t\_k\_ th\_ c\_\_ntry b\_ck. Th\_ \_S\_ \_nd  
th\_ \_K\_ \_r\_ c\_rr\_ntly p\_llng th\_\_r f\_rc\_s \_\_t \_f  
\_fgh\_n\_st\_n. Th\_y \_r\_ \_ndng th\_\_r t\_m\_ \_n th\_  
c\_\_ntry \_ft\_r 20 y\_\_rs. Th\_ \_N's sp\_c\_\_l \_nv\_y f\_r  
\_fgh\_n\_st\_n, D\_b\_r\_h Ly\_ns, s\_\_d th\_ w\_r th\_r\_ h\_d  
\_nt\_r\_d " \_n\_w, d\_\_dl\_\_r, \_nd m\_r\_ d\_str\_ct\_v\_  
ph\_s\_". Sh\_ w\_rn\_d th\_t th\_ c\_\_ntry w\_s h\_\_d\_ng f\_r  
"c\_t\_str\_ph\_".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

the taliban have captured an afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001 police in the city of zaranj capital of the southern nimroz province said taliban forces are now in control nimroz is on the border with iran the police there were unable to fight because there were too few government soldiers to help a taliban official said it was an important day for the group he said the victory would increase the morale of his fighters in other provinces he added this is just the beginning other provinces will fall into our hands very soon there is currently heavy fighting in the cities of lashkar gah kanduz herat and kandahar they may fall before the taliban fight for the nations capital kabul

the taliban are fighting to take control of afghanistan for the first time since 2001 this is when usled forces defeated them after the attacks on the world trade center in new york the usa and other western powers have spent 20 years trying to train an afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful however the taliban never gave up their fight to take the country back the usa and the uk are currently pulling their forces out of afghanistan they are ending their time in the country after 20 years the uns special envoy for afghanistan deborah lyons said the war there had entered a new deadlier and more destructive phase she warned that the country was heading for catastrophe

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan.html>

The Taliban have captured an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the border with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too few government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the group. He said the victory would increase the morale of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul. The Taliban are fighting to take control of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces defeated them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have spent 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are currently pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".







# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. U.N.:** Write a magazine article about sending troops to Afghanistan to keep the peace. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 Afghanistan. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas for Afghanistan's future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d    2. f    3. b    4. g    5. c    6. e    7. a  
8. n    9. k    10. m    11. h    12. i    13. l    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T    2 T    3 F    4 T    5 T    6 F    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. d	2. g	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. e	8. i	9. f	10. c

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 2001
- Iran
- An important day
- More provinces
- Four
- US-led forces
- 20 years
- Pulling them out
- Special envoy
- Catastrophe

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- The Taliban have captured an Afghan provincial city.
- Nimroz is on the border with Iran.
- There were too few government soldiers to help.
- Victory would increase the morale of his fighters.
- The Taliban will fight for the nation's capital.
- The Taliban are fighting to take control.
- The Taliban never gave up their fight.
- They are ending their time in the country.
- The war had entered a new, deadlier phase.
- She warned the country was heading for catastrophe.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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