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**Level 4** – 20th June, 2022

## Italy's largest river experiencing drought

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought-4.html>

Europe is experiencing water shortages. A region in Italy has its worst drought for 70 years. This is because of almost no rainfall in the past four months and less snow in winter. The water level of Italy's largest river, the Po, is three metres lower than average. This has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. If it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water shortage. This will mean water rationing. Farmers will have problems finding water for irrigation.

The River Po gets much of its water from a lake in the Alps. The lake has had its lowest water levels since 1946. High temperatures are making things worse. A farmer from a rural town near Milan said she is expecting a "disastrous" and "catastrophic" year. She added: "We believe that there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% fall in fruit and vegetable production.

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/po-river-italy-dries-up-exposes-1943-shipwreck-zibello/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/15/italy-drought-po-valley-ration-water>  
<https://www.euronews.com/2022/06/17/crops-and-drinking-water-threatened-in-italys-po-valley-amid-worst-drought-in-70-years>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. its worst drought           | a. irrigation       |
| 2. in the                      | b. average          |
| 3. three metres lower than     | c. shortage         |
| 4. exposed a World War II      | d. past four months |
| 5. there'll be a serious water | e. have problems    |
| 6. This will mean water        | f. for 70 years     |
| 7. Farmers will                | g. rationing        |
| 8. finding water for           | h. shipwreck        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The River Po gets much of its | a. temperatures      |
| 2. its lowest water levels       | b. catastrophic year |
| 3. High                          | c. town              |
| 4. making things                 | d. production        |
| 5. A farmer from a rural         | e. fall              |
| 6. a disastrous and              | f. water from a lake |
| 7. a 30 to 40%                   | g. worse             |
| 8. fruit and vegetable           | h. since 1946        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought-4.html>

Europe (1) \_\_\_\_\_ shortages. A region in Italy has its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 70 years. This is because of almost no rainfall in the past four months and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ winter. The water level of Italy's largest river, the Po, is three metres (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. If it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This will mean water rationing. Farmers will have problems finding (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The River Po gets (7) \_\_\_\_\_ water from a lake in the Alps. The lake has had its lowest (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 1946. High temperatures are (9) \_\_\_\_\_. A farmer from a rural town near Milan said she is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and "catastrophic" year. She added: "We believe that there will be (11) \_\_\_\_\_ wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and vegetable production.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought-4.html>

Europe is experiencing water shortages. A region in Italy has its worst drought for 70 years. This is because of almost no rain in the past four months and less snow in winter. The water level of Italy's largest river, the Po, is three metres lower than average. This has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. If it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water shortage. This will mean water rationing. Farmers will have problems finding water for irrigation. The River Po gets much of its water from a lake in the Alps. The lake has had its lowest water levels since 1946. High temperatures are making things worse. A farmer from a rural town near Milan said she is expecting a "disastrous" and "catastrophic" year. She added: "We believe that there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 percent." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% fall in fruit and vegetable production.

# DROUGHTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about droughts 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Italy's largest river experiencing drought – 20th June, 2022*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

