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## **Toilet paper shortage ends in Venezuela**

**24th May, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Venezuela's government has come up with a plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper. There was a danger that shops would have no toilet paper to sell. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty in paying for things from other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan currency. The government has decided to spend \$79 million on buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to make sure people do not run out. The money will also be used to buy toothpaste and soap. People around the country have to wait in long lines at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic things, sometimes for days. They then buy all they can, which means stores run out quickly.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and those who are unhappy with the government. He did not say why these people's actions meant the country almost ran out of basic supplies. Economists say the way the government runs the economy led to the shortages. The government keeps prices low for many goods, which means Venezuelan companies find it hard to produce things and make a profit. The price controls also push up inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to get it. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in Latin America. The current rate is about 25 per cent.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22621833>  
<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2013/05/22/venezuela-toilet-paper-shortage-appears-to-have-end-in-sight/#ixzz2U4qH0jec>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/22/venezuela-toilet-paper-shortage-79-million\\_n\\_3317221.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/22/venezuela-toilet-paper-shortage-79-million_n_3317221.html)

# WARM-UPS

**1. TOILET PAPER:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about toilet paper. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Venezuela / plan / danger / shortages / currency / run out of things / toothpaste / president / unhappy / basic supplies / economy / companies / profit / Latin America

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

**3. SHORTAGE:** What would you do if you were running out of these things? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s).

| Shortage of... | How big a problem? | What would you do? |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| toilet paper   |                    |                    |
| money          |                    |                    |
| water          |                    |                    |
| breath         |                    |                    |
| time to study  |                    |                    |
| other _____    |                    |                    |

**4. IMPORTANT:** Students A **strongly** believe that toilet paper is one of the most important things we must buy; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. ESSENTIALS:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things you need most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- toilet paper
- mobile phone
- toothpaste
- bicycle
- chocolate
- Internet
- deodorant
- music

**6. DANGER:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'danger'. 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/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

- Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).
- a. Venezuela has found a way to make sure people have toilet paper. T / F
  - b. Most of the shops in Venezuela had no toilet paper to sell. T / F
  - c. Venezuela's government bought 79 million toilet rolls. T / F
  - d. Sometimes people had to wait in line for days to buy toilet paper. T / F
  - e. Venezuela's leader said rich people caused the shortage of toilet paper. T / F
  - f. Economists agreed that rich people's actions led to the shortage. T / F
  - g. It is difficult for many Venezuelan companies to make a profit. T / F
  - h. Venezuela has one of Latin America's lowest rates of inflation. T / F

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- 1. come up with
- 2. danger
- 3. difficulty
- 4. run out of
- 5. basic
- 6. rich
- 7. supplies
- 8. produce
- 9. push up
- 10. current
- a. use up
- b. stocks
- c. simple
- d. make
- e. thought of
- f. present
- g. increase
- h. risk
- i. wealthy
- j. problems

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- 1. come up
- 2. end the country's
- 3. it has difficulty
- 4. wait in
- 5. They then buy
- 6. ran out
- 7. the way the government
- 8. The government keeps prices
- 9. push
- 10. The current rate is
- a. in paying for things
- b. runs the economy
- c. all they can
- d. up inflation
- e. shortage of toilet paper
- f. low for many goods
- g. with a plan
- h. about 25 per cent
- i. of basic supplies
- j. long lines

## GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Venezuela's government has come (1) \_\_\_\_\_ with a plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper. There was a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that shops would have no toilet paper to sell. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty (3) \_\_\_\_\_ paying for things from other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The government has decided to spend \$79 million on buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ sure people do not run out. The money will also be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to buy toothpaste and soap. People around the country have to wait in long (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic things, sometimes for days. They then buy all they can, which means stores (8) \_\_\_\_\_ out quickly.

*currency*

*lines*

*danger*

*used*

*up*

*run*

*in*

*make*

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ people and those who are unhappy with the government. He did not say why these people's actions meant the country almost ran out of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ supplies. Economists say the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the government runs the economy (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the shortages. The government keeps prices low for many goods, which means Venezuelan companies find it (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to produce things and make a profit. The price controls also (14) \_\_\_\_\_ up inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to get it. Venezuela has the highest (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of inflation in Latin America. The (16) \_\_\_\_\_ rate is about 25 per cent.

*hard*

*way*

*rate*

*rich*

*current*

*push*

*basic*

*led*

# **LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper
  - a. come up with a
  - b. came up with a
  - c. coming up with a
  - d. comes up with a
- 2) a danger that shops would have no toilet \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. paper to selling
  - b. paper to sale
  - c. paper to sell
  - d. paper to sells
- 3) it has difficulty in paying for things \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. from another country
  - b. from all other countries
  - c. from the other countries
  - d. from other countries
- 4) wait in long lines at supermarkets and pharmacies to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. buy basic thing
  - b. buy basically things
  - c. buy basics things
  - d. buy basic things
- 5) They then buy all they can, which means stores \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. run up quickly
  - b. run out quickly
  - c. run over quickly
  - d. run in quickly
- 6) the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and those who are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. unhappy with the government
  - b. unhappy at the government
  - c. unhappy without the government
  - d. unhappy within the government
- 7) He did not say why these people's actions meant the country almost ran out \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of basic suppliers
  - b. of basic supplies
  - c. of basic supply
  - d. of basic surprise
- 8) Venezuelan companies find it hard to produce things and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. make a profit
  - b. make the profit
  - c. make any profit
  - d. make big profits
- 9) The price controls also push up inflation because when there is a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. shortage of some thing
  - b. shortage of something
  - c. shortage of some things
  - d. shortage if some thing
- 10) The current rate is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. about 20 per cent
  - b. around 25 per cent
  - c. around 20 per cent
  - d. about 25 per cent

## **LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Venezuela's government has come (1) \_\_\_\_\_ end the country's shortage of toilet paper. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ shops would have no toilet paper to sell. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty (3) \_\_\_\_\_ other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan currency. The government has decided to spend \$79 million (4) \_\_\_\_\_ rolls of toilet paper to make sure people do not run out. The money will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ toothpaste and soap. People around the country have to wait in long lines at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic things, sometimes for days. They (6) \_\_\_\_\_, which means stores run out quickly.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with the government. He did not say why these people's actions meant the country almost ran (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Economists say the way the government runs the economy led to the shortages. The government (9) \_\_\_\_\_ many goods, which means Venezuelan companies find it hard to produce (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The price (11) \_\_\_\_\_ inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to get it. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in Latin America. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 25 per cent.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

1. Who thought of a plan to end a toilet paper shortage?

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2. What danger did the article describe?

---

3. What is it difficult for Venezuela to do?

---

4. What other things did Venezuela spend \$79 million on?

---

5. How long did people have to wait to buy toilet paper?

---

6. Who did Venezuela's leader say created the shortage?

---

7. Who did economists say created the shortages?

---

8. What is it difficult for Venezuelan companies to do?

---

9. What do price controls do?

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10. Which South American country has the highest inflation rate?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

1. Who thought of a plan to end a toilet paper shortage?
  - a) the boss of a toilet paper company
  - b) Venezuela's government
  - c) an economist
  - d) a supermarket worker
2. What danger did the article describe?
  - a) toilet paper riots in the streets
  - b) \$10 for one roll of toilet paper
  - c) stores running out of toilet paper
  - d) everyone getting diarrhoea
3. What is it difficult for Venezuela to do?
  - a) find 39 million toilet paper rolls
  - b) make its own toilet paper
  - c) spend its oil money
  - d) pay for foreign goods
4. What other things did Venezuela spend \$79 million on?
  - a) washing-up liquid and bleach
  - b) deodorant and mouthwash
  - c) toothpaste and soap
  - d) lipstick and mascara
5. How long did people have to wait to buy toilet paper?
  - a) days
  - b) weeks
  - c) months
  - d) 7 hours
6. Who did Venezuela's leader say created the shortage?
  - a) wealthy people
  - b) foreign governments
  - c) toilet paper makers
  - d) supermarkets and pharmacies
7. Who did economists say created the shortages?
  - a) people who go to the toilet too often
  - b) the whole world
  - c) the company P&G
  - d) Venezuela's government
8. What is it difficult for Venezuelan companies to do?
  - a) push up inflation
  - b) sell toilet paper
  - c) make profits
  - d) make 4-ply toilet paper
9. What do price controls do?
  - a) make people richer
  - b) help rich people
  - c) lower inflation
  - d) increase inflation
10. Which South American country has the highest inflation rate?
  - a) Brazil
  - b) Venezuela
  - c) Bolivia
  - d) Argentina

# **ROLE PLAY**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

## **Role A – Toilet paper**

You think toilet paper is the most essential thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): toothbrushes, soap or deodorant.

## **Role B – Toothbrush**

You think toothbrushes are the most essential things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): toilet paper, soap or deodorant.

## **Role C – Soap**

You think soap is the most essential thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): toothbrushes, toilet paper or deodorant.

## **Role D – Deodorant**

You think deodorant is the most essential thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): toothbrushes, soap or toilet paper.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

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

| toilet | paper |
|--------|-------|
|        |       |

- 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>• come</li><li>• danger</li><li>• currency</li><li>• 39</li><li>• soap</li><li>• stores</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rich</li><li>• actions</li><li>• economy</li><li>• profit</li><li>• higher</li><li>• 25</li></ul> |
|---|---|

# TOILET PAPER SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Write five GOOD questions about toilet paper 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.

# **TOILET PAPER DISCUSSION**

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'toilet paper'?
- c) How important is toilet paper in our life?
- d) What do you think of an oil-rich country running low on toilet paper?
- e) Which is more important, toilet paper or a newspaper?
- f) Do you think 39 million rolls of toilet paper is enough?
- g) How long would you wait in line for toilet paper?
- h) What would you do if you ran out of toilet paper?
- i) What is the best toilet paper in the world?
- j) How do they make toilet paper?

*Toilet paper shortage ends in Venezuela – 24th May, 2013*  
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# **TOILET PAPER DISCUSSION**

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How could rich people cause the toilet paper shortage?
- c) What would you think of your government if there was no toilet paper?
- d) Is the word "toilet paper" a good word or is there a better word?
- e) Which is better - white, coloured or patterned toilet paper?
- f) What's the maximum you would pay for a roll of toilet paper?
- g) Have you ever had a bad "toilet paper experience"?
- h) What are the good and bad things about toilet paper?
- i) What kind of toilet paper might we use in 100 years from now?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the boss of a toilet paper maker?

## **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. \_\_\_\_\_

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Venezuela's government has (1) \_\_\_\_ up with a plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper. There was a (2) \_\_\_\_ that shops would have no toilet paper to sell. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty (3) \_\_\_\_ paying for things from other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan currency. The government has decided to (4) \_\_\_\_ \$79 million on buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to make sure people do not run out. The money will also be used to buy toothpaste and soap. People around the country have to wait in long (5) \_\_\_\_ at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic things, sometimes for days. They then buy all they can, which means stores run out (6) \_\_\_\_.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and those who are unhappy (7) \_\_\_\_ the government. He did not say why these people's actions (8) \_\_\_\_ the country almost ran out of basic supplies. Economists say the way the government runs the economy led to the shortages. The government (9) \_\_\_\_ prices low for many goods, which means Venezuelan companies (10) \_\_\_\_ it hard to produce things and make a profit. The price controls also push (11) \_\_\_\_ inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to get it. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in Latin America. The (12) \_\_\_\_ rate is about 25 per cent.

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

- |     |     |         |     |           |     |          |     |           |
|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|
| 1.  | (a) | came    | (b) | coming    | (c) | come     | (d) | comes     |
| 2.  | (a) | danger  | (b) | dangerous | (c) | endanger | (d) | dangers   |
| 3.  | (a) | in      | (b) | on        | (c) | by       | (d) | at        |
| 4.  | (a) | cost    | (b) | spend     | (c) | profit   | (d) | purchase  |
| 5.  | (a) | aisles  | (b) | channels  | (c) | roads    | (d) | lines     |
| 6.  | (a) | quick   | (b) | quickly   | (c) | quicken  | (d) | quickened |
| 7.  | (a) | with    | (b) | by        | (c) | at       | (d) | of        |
| 8.  | (a) | meaning | (b) | meanies   | (c) | meant    | (d) | meanings  |
| 9.  | (a) | stays   | (b) | stills    | (c) | lasts    | (d) | keeps     |
| 10. | (a) | find    | (b) | search    | (c) | recover  | (d) | look      |
| 11. | (a) | in      | (b) | up        | (c) | over     | (d) | down      |
| 12. | (a) | currant | (b) | currently | (c) | current  | (d) | currency  |

# **SPELLING**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

## **Paragraph 1**

1. Venezuela's geneorvmtn
2. it has ifdityfluc in paying for things
3. controls on the Venezuelan urcnyrce
4. decided to spend \$79 nimliol
5. thatptoseo and soap
6. supermarkets and erasimpcha

## **Paragraph 2**

7. ran out of basic pesulpsi
8. sostoecmni say...
9. hard to edoucpr things
10. make a porfti
11. rate of fnnilaoti
12. the ruetrnc rate

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

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

- ( ) Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich
- ( ) in paying for things from other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan currency. The government has
- ( ) controls also push up inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to
- ( ) Venezuelan companies find it hard to produce things and make a profit. The price
- ( 1 ) Venezuela's government has come up with a plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper. There was a
- ( ) danger that shops would have no toilet paper to sell. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty
- ( ) sure people do not run out. The money will also be used to buy toothpaste
- ( ) get it. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in Latin America. The current rate is about 25 per cent.
- ( ) decided to spend \$79 million on buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to make
- ( ) people and those who are unhappy with the government. He did not say why these people's
- ( ) things, sometimes for days. They then buy all they can, which means stores run out quickly.
- ( ) actions meant the country almost ran out of basic supplies. Economists say the way the government runs the
- ( ) and soap. People around the country have to wait in long lines at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic
- ( ) economy led to the shortages. The government keeps prices low for many goods, which means

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

1. plan come up Venezuela's with government a has.

---

2. shops no that have paper danger would toilet A.

---

3. 39 buying rolls \$79 on million Spend million.

---

4. be buy The also to will used toothpaste money.

---

5. have to wait in long lines People around the country.

---

6. of was rich shortage paper of The toilet because people.

---

7. out the country People's almost actions ran meant.

---

8. government many keeps goods prices low The for.

---

9. inflation up push also controls price The.

---

10. the highest rate of inflation Venezuela . has

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## CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Venezuela's government has *come / coming* up with a plan to end the country's shortage *for / of* toilet paper. There was a danger that shops would have no toilet paper to *sale / sell*. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty *in / on* paying for things from other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan *currants / currency*. The government has decided to spend \$79 million *on / of* buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to make *take / sure* people do not run out. The money will also be used to buy toothpaste and soap. People around the country have to wait in long *aisles / lines* at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy *basically / basic* things, sometimes for days. They then buy all they can, which means stores run out *quickly / quick*.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and those who are *unhappy / unhappiness* with the government. He did not say why these people's actions *meaning / meant* the country almost ran out of *basically / basic* supplies. Economists say the way the government *runs / ruins* the economy led to the shortages. The government *keeps / stays* prices low for many *goods / goodies*, which means Venezuelan companies find it *solid / hard* to produce things and make a *profit / money*. The price controls also push *up / over* inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to get it. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in Latin America. *The currant / current* rate is about 25 per cent.

**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/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

V\_n\_z\_l's g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s c\_m\_ p w\_th\_ pl\_n t\_ \_nd th\_ c\_ntry's sh\_rt\_g\_ f t\_l\_t p\_p\_r. Th\_r\_ w\_s\_ d\_ng\_r th\_t sh\_ps w\_ld h\_v\_ n\_ t\_ll\_t p\_p\_r t\_ s\_ll. v\_n th\_gh V\_n\_z\_l\_ s rch\_n\_ll, t h\_s d\_ff\_c\_lty n p\_y\_ng f\_r th\_ngs fr\_m th\_r c\_ntr\_s. Th\_s\_ s b\_c\_s\_ f c\_ntr\_ls\_ n th\_ V\_n\_z\_l\_n c\_rr\_ncy. Th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s d\_c\_d\_d t\_ sp\_nd \$79 m\_ll\_n\_n b\_y\_ng 39 m\_ll\_n r\_lls\_ f t\_l\_t p\_p\_r t\_ m\_k\_ s\_r\_ p\_pl\_ d\_n\_t r\_n\_ t. Th\_ m\_n\_y w\_ll\_ ls\_ b\_s\_d t\_b\_y t\_thp\_st\_ nd s\_p. P\_pl\_r\_nd th\_ c\_ntry h\_v\_ t\_w\_t\_n l\_ng l\_n\_s\_ t s\_p\_rm\_rk\_ts\_ nd ph\_rm\_c\_s t\_b\_y b\_s\_c th\_ngs, s\_m\_t\_m\_s f\_r d\_ys. Th\_y th\_n b\_y\_ll th\_y c\_n, wh\_ch m\_ns st\_r\_s r\_n\_ t q\_ckly.

V\_n\_z\_l's Pr\_s\_d\_nt N\_c\_l\_s M\_d\_r\_ s\_d th\_ sh\_rt\_g\_ f t\_l\_t p\_p\_r w\_s b\_c\_s\_ f r\_ch p\_pl\_ \_nd th\_s\_ wh\_r nh\_ppy w\_th th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt. H\_d\_d n\_t s\_y why th\_s\_ p\_pl's ct\_ns m\_nt th\_ c\_ntry lm\_st r\_n\_ t\_f b\_s\_c s\_ppl\_s. c\_n\_m\_sts s\_y th\_ w\_y th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt r\_ns th\_ c\_n\_my l\_d t\_ th\_ sh\_rt\_g\_s. Th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt k\_ps pr\_c\_s l\_w f\_r m\_ny g\_ds, wh\_ch m\_ns V\_n\_z\_l\_n c\_mp\_n\_s f\_nd t\_h\_rd t\_ pr\_d\_c\_ th\_ngs nd m\_k\_ pr\_f\_t. Th\_ pr\_c\_ c\_ntr\_ls\_ ls\_ p\_sh\_ p\_nfl\_t\_n b\_c\_s\_ wh\_n th\_r\_ s\_ sh\_rt\_g\_ f s\_m\_th\_ng, p\_pl\_ w\_ll p\_y\_ h\_gh\_r pr\_c\_ t\_g\_t\_t. V\_n\_z\_l\_ h\_s th\_ h\_gh\_st r\_t\_ f\_nfl\_t\_n n L\_t\_n\_m\_r\_c\_. Th\_ c\_rr\_nt r\_t\_ s\_b\_t 25 p\_r c\_nt.

## PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

venezuela's government has come up with a plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper there was a danger that shops would have no toilet paper to sell even though venezuela is rich in oil it has difficulty in paying for things from other countries this is because of controls on the venezuelan currency the government has decided to spend \$79 million on buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to make sure people do not run out the money will also be used to buy toothpaste and soap people around the country have to wait in long lines at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic things sometimes for days they then buy all they can which means stores run out quickly

venezuela's president nicolas maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and those who are unhappy with the government he did not say why these people's actions meant the country almost ran out of basic supplies economists say the way the government runs the economy led to the shortages the government keeps prices low for many goods which means venezuelan companies find it hard to produce things and make a profit the price controls also push up inflation because when there is a shortage of something people will pay a higher price to get it venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in latin america the current rate is about 25 per cent

# **PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Venezuela's government has come up with a plan to end the country's shortage of toilet paper. There was a danger that shops would have no toilet paper to sell. Even though Venezuela is rich in oil, it has difficulty in paying for things from other countries. This is because of controls on the Venezuelan currency. The government has decided to spend \$79 million on buying 39 million rolls of toilet paper to make sure people do not run out. The money will also be used to buy toothpaste and soap. People around the country have to wait in long lines at supermarkets and pharmacies to buy basic things, sometimes for days. They then buy all they can, which means stores run out quickly.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said the shortage of toilet paper was because of rich people and those who are unhappy with the government. He did not say why these people's actions meant the country almost ran out of basic supplies. Economists say the way the government runs the economy led to the shortages. The government keeps prices low for many goods, which means Venezuelan companies find it hard to produce things and make a profit. The price controls also push up inflation because when there is a shortage of something, people will pay a higher price to get it. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in Latin America. The current rate is about 25 percent.

# **FREE WRITING**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

Write about **toilet paper** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

# ACADEMIC WRITING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet\\_paper.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130524-toilet_paper.html)

*Toilet paper is one of the most important things in life. Discuss.*

# 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 toilet paper. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. SHORTAGES:** Write a magazine article about shortages of basic things. Include imaginary interviews with people who ran out of them.

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 toilet paper. Ask him/her three questions about toilet paper. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. 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 F      d T      e T      f F      g T      h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. come up with | a. use up     |
| 2. danger       | b. stocks     |
| 3. difficulty   | c. simple     |
| 4. run out of   | d. make       |
| 5. basic        | e. thought of |
| 6. rich         | f. present    |
| 7. supplies     | g. increase   |
| 8. produce      | h. risk       |
| 9. push up      | i. wealthy    |
| 10. current     | j. problems   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The Venezuelan government
2. Shops having no toilet paper to sell
3. Pay for things from other countries
4. Toothpaste and soap
5. Days
6. The rich and those unhappy with the government
7. The government
8. Make things and profits
9. Push up inflation
10. Venezuela

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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 ;-)