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Level 2 – 10th August 2023

Raw sewage keeps swimmers away from UK beaches

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230810-uk-raw-sewage-crisis-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230810-uk-raw-sewage-crisis-2.html>

The UK is experiencing "poonami" - a sewage crisis. Greenpeace said water companies poured toilet waste into rivers and seas for more than 300,000 hours in 2022. Many people got sick after swimming in the sea. Others complained about the terrible smell on beaches, or the brown colour of the water. A research company conducted a poll about people's opinions on water quality. A quarter of swimmers said they might not swim in the sea because of health risks. Last week, 57 people got diarrhoea in the UK after swimming in the sea at a World Triathlon Championship.

England and Wales are the only countries to have privatized their water services. They sold their water to private companies in 1987. These companies promised to spend billions of pounds to make services better. However, things have become much worse. The companies have not invested enough money. They have not stopped leaks or modernized systems. Since 1991, they have paid over £2 billion a year to their shareholders. A water campaigner said the water companies have failed to create a quality system. He blamed the UK government for not acting.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/31/swimmers-avoiding-the-water-over-fears-of-raw-sewage-on-uk-beaches>
<https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2023/07/31/sewage-uk-water-pollution/>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sewage-alerts-mapped-swimming-storm-b2388447.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230810-uk-raw-sewage-crisis-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. a sewage | a. because of health risks |
| 2. Many people got sick | b. of the water |
| 3. Others complained about the terrible | c. diarrhoea |
| 4. the brown colour | d. after swimming |
| 5. conducted a poll about | e. of swimmers |
| 6. A quarter | f. crisis |
| 7. they might not swim in the sea | g. smell on beaches |
| 8. 57 people got | h. people's opinions |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. countries to have privatized | a. billions of pounds |
| 2. They sold their water to | b. their shareholders |
| 3. companies promised to spend | c. for not acting |
| 4. things have become | d. leaks |
| 5. They have not stopped | e. private companies |
| 6. paid over £2 billion a year to | f. campaigner |
| 7. A water | g. much worse |
| 8. He blamed the UK government | h. their water services |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230810-uk-raw-sewage-crisis-2.html>

The UK is experiencing "poonami" - (1) _____.
Greenpeace said water companies (2) _____ into rivers and seas for more than 300,000 hours in 2022. Many people (3) _____ swimming in the sea. Others complained about (4) _____ on beaches, or the brown colour of the water. A research company conducted a poll about people's opinions on water quality. A (5) _____ said they might not swim in the sea because (6) _____. Last week, 57 people got diarrhoea in the UK after swimming in the sea at a World Triathlon Championship.

England and Wales are the only countries (7) _____ their water services. They sold their water to private companies in 1987. These companies (8) _____ billions of pounds to make services better. However, things have (9) _____. The companies have not invested enough money. They have (10) _____ or modernized systems. Since 1991, they have paid over £2 billion a year (11) _____. A water campaigner said the water companies have failed to create a quality system. He blamed the UK government (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230810-uk-raw-sewage-crisis-2.html>

The UK is experiencing "poo-nami" - a sewage crisis. Greenpeace said water companies poured toilet waste into rivers and seas for more than 300,000 hours in 2022. Many people got sick after swimming in the sea. Others complained about the terrible smell on beaches, or the brown colour of the water. A research company conducted a poll about people's opinion on water quality. A quarter of swimmers said they might not swim in the sea because of health risks. Last week, 57 people got diarrhoea in the UK after swimming in the sea at a World Triathlon Championship. England and Wales are the only countries to have privatized their water services. They sold their water to private companies in 1987. These companies promised to spend billions of pounds to make services better. However, things have become much worse. The companies have not invested enough money. They have not stopped leaks or modernized systems. Since 1991, they have paid over £2 billion a year to their shareholders. A water campaigner said the water companies have failed to create a quality system. He blamed the UK government for not acting.

SEWAGE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230810-uk-raw-sewage-crisis-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about sewage 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) _____

