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## **Level 3**

### **Shoppers in Venezuela to be fingerprinted**

**25th August, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

There are many food shortages in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made worse because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's a kind of panic buying. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers must soon start scanning their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people can buy an equal share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people close to him say it could be January. It is also unclear how much food people can buy and what happens if they buy too much.

There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government blames smugglers who buy cheap goods and take them to Colombia to resell them for up to four times their original price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is too low for them to make a profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A final reason is the strength of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very expensive to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have less control.

Sources: <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/08/22/venezuela-wants-to-fingerprint-grocery-shoppers-to-control-how-much-food-by/>  
<http://www.biometricupdate.com/201408/venezuela-government-looking-to-biometrics-to-prevent-food-smuggling>  
<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2349150&CategoryId=10717>

# WARM-UPS

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

*food shortages / basic goods / panic buying / fingerprints / grocery stores / system / smugglers / cheap goods / the price of food / make a profit / currency / privacy*

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

**3. FINGERPRINTING:** Where might fingerprinting be good or bad? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good things	Bad things
Paying for things		
Accessing a computer		
Unlocking a door		
Passport replacement		
Car key replacement		
Legal contracts		

**4. GROCERY STORES:** Students A **strongly** believe fingerprinting is a good way to control food shortages; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. FOOD SHORTAGES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the things you would miss most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- chocolate
- onions
- bread
- eggs
- potatoes
- tomatoes
- chicken
- rice

**6. SUPERMARKET:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "supermarket". 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/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Panic buying is helping to create food shortages in Venezuela.          | T / F |
| b. Venezuela's president will start a system to limit what people can buy. | T / F |
| c. Shoppers in Venezuela will be fingerprinted when they buy petrol.       | T / F |
| d. Shoppers will not be able to buy more than three of any item.           | T / F |
| e. The government blames people who smuggle goods from Colombia.           | T / F |
| f. In Venezuela, the government controls the price of food.                | T / F |
| g. Some people are worried fingerprinting will take away people's privacy. | T / F |
| h. Critics said the economy should stay as it is.                          | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. basic      | a. method    |
| 2. stores     | b. make      |
| 3. system     | c. uncertain |
| 4. equal      | d. removes   |
| 5. unclear    | e. necessary |
| 6. goods      | f. first     |
| 7. initial    | g. shops     |
| 8. produce    | h. identical |
| 9. takes away | i. entire    |
| 10. whole     | j. products  |

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

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. basic                             | a. share of food         |
| 2. It's a kind of panic              | b. people's privacy      |
| 3. Shoppers must soon start scanning | c. food people can buy   |
| 4. buy an equal                      | d. smugglers             |
| 5. It is also unclear how much       | e. buying                |
| 6. The government blames             | f. their original price  |
| 7. resell them for up to four times  | g. goods                 |
| 8. the price is too low for          | h. of the US dollar      |
| 9. the strength                      | i. their fingerprints    |
| 10. fingerprinting takes away        | j. them to make a profit |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

There are many food (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made (2) \_\_\_\_\_ because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's a kind of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ buying. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers must soon start (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people can buy an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to him say it could be January. It is also (7) \_\_\_\_\_ how much food people can buy and what (8) \_\_\_\_\_ if they buy too much.

*scanning*  
*happens*  
*panic*  
*shortages*  
*unclear*  
*worse*  
*equal*  
*close*

There are many (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for Venezuela's food shortages. The government blames (10) \_\_\_\_\_ who buy cheap goods and take them to Colombia to resell them for up to four times their (11) \_\_\_\_\_ price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is too (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for them to make a profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A final reason is the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very expensive to (14) \_\_\_\_\_ food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have (16) \_\_\_\_\_ control.

*low*  
*privacy*  
*smugglers*  
*less*  
*reasons*  
*strength*  
*original*  
*import*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

- 1) Many Venezuelans cannot buy \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. basically goods
  - b. basics goods
  - c. basic goods
  - d. basic good
- 2) It's a kind of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. panics buying
  - b. panic buying
  - c. panicked buying
  - d. picnic buying
- 3) Shoppers must soon start \_\_\_\_\_ fingerprints
  - a. scanning their
  - b. scamming their
  - c. scan in their
  - d. scanning in their
- 4) This is to make sure that more people can buy \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. an equality share
  - b. an equals share
  - c. an equaled share
  - d. an equal share
- 5) unclear how much food people can buy and what \_\_\_\_\_ too much
  - a. happens if they buy
  - b. happened if they buy
  - c. happenings if they buy
  - d. happen if they buy
- 6) The government \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. blamed smugglers
  - b. blame smugglers
  - c. blames smuggler
  - d. blames smugglers
- 7) resell them for up to four times \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their originally price
  - b. their originals price
  - c. their origin all price
  - d. their original price
- 8) Many food companies say the price is too low for them to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. make a profits
  - b. make a profitable
  - c. make a profit
  - d. make a profited
- 9) A final reason is the strength of the US dollar against \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Venezuela's currency
  - b. Venezuela's current see
  - c. Venezuela's currant sea
  - d. Venezuela's currencies
- 10) Critics say the fingerprinting takes away \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. people's privet see
  - b. people's private sea
  - c. people's privacy
  - d. people's privacies

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

There are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made worse because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ buying. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers must soon start scanning (3) \_\_\_\_\_ they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people (4) \_\_\_\_\_ share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people (5) \_\_\_\_\_ it could be January. It is also unclear how much food people can buy and what happens if (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government (7) \_\_\_\_\_ buy cheap goods and take them to Colombia to resell them (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their original price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ them to make a profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A final (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very expensive to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

1. What kind of goods are Venezuelans finding it difficult to buy?

---

2. What did the article call the problem of people buying too much?

---

3. Where will shoppers have to scan their fingerprints?

---

4. What will fingerprinting make sure people get an equal share of?

---

5. When might the new system start?

---

6. Who does the government blame for the food shortages?

---

7. How much more than the original price are smugglers selling goods?

---

8. What did companies say they cannot make because of low prices?

---

9. What strong currency is one of the reasons for the food shortages?

---

10. What are critics worried about being removed?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

1. What kind of goods are Venezuelans finding it difficult to buy?
  - a) basic goods
  - b) imported goods
  - c) expensive goods
  - d) luxuries
2. What did the article call the problem of people buying too much?
  - a) overbuying
  - b) problem buying
  - c) panic buying
  - d) market buying
3. Where will shoppers have to scan their fingerprints?
  - a) a government department
  - b) grocery stores and supermarkets
  - c) at home
  - d) in police stations
4. What will fingerprinting make sure people get an equal share of?
  - a) bread
  - b) shopping time
  - c) money
  - d) food and groceries
5. When might the new system start?
  - a) January
  - b) February
  - c) March
  - d) April
6. Who does the government blame for the food shortages?
  - a) Colombia
  - b) food companies
  - c) grocery stores
  - d) smugglers
7. How much more than the original price are smugglers selling goods?
  - a) 3
  - b) 4
  - c) 5
  - d) 6
8. What did companies say they can't make because of low prices?
  - a) goods
  - b) bread
  - c) jobs
  - d) profits
9. What strong currency is one of the reasons for the food shortages?
  - a) euro
  - b) peso
  - c) dollar
  - d) yen
10. What are critics worried about being removed?
  - a) fingerprints
  - b) privacy
  - c) discounts
  - d) shelves

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

## **Role A – Paying for things**

You think the best use of fingerprints is paying for things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): unlocking doors, as a passport or as a car key.

## **Role B – Unlocking doors**

You think the best use of fingerprints is for unlocking doors. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): paying for things, as a passport or as a car key.

## **Role C – Passport**

You think the best use of fingerprints is as a passport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): unlocking doors, paying for things or as a car key.

## **Role D – Car key replacement**

You think the best use of fingerprints is as a car key. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): unlocking doors, as a passport or paying for things.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

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

<b>finger</b>	<b>print</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>• basic</li><li>• see</li><li>• stop</li><li>• sure</li><li>• start</li><li>• happens</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reasons</li><li>• four</li><li>• low</li><li>• final</li><li>• privacy</li><li>• less</li></ul>
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# FOOD SHORTAGES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

Write five GOOD questions about food shortages 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.

# FOOD SHORTAGES 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 'fingerprint'?
- c) Have you ever experienced a shortage of something?
- d) What do you do when your favourite things are sold out?
- e) Has your country ever experienced shortages?
- f) Why do people panic buy?
- g) What do you think of fingerprinting shop customers?
- h) Is the fingerprinting a good way to control food shortages?
- i) Do you think a parent of ten will be able to buy more than a single person?
- j) What do you think will happen if people still buy too much?

*Shoppers in Venezuela to be fingerprinted – 25th August, 2014*  
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# FOOD SHORTAGES DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How bad is smuggling?
- c) What are the worst things that people smuggle?
- d) How can Venezuela stop smugglers selling things in Colombia?
- e) Why does Venezuela's government control food prices?
- f) Why is it important if a currency is strong or weak?
- g) What imported food do you buy, and why?
- h) What do you think about fingerprinting and privacy?
- i) What would you do if a cashier asked to scan your fingerprint?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Venezuela's president?

# 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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

There are many food shortages in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy (1) \_\_\_\_\_ goods. This problem is made worse because people buy too much of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ when they see it in the stores. It's a kind of panic buying. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ people buying too much. Shoppers must soon start (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people can buy an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people close to him say it could be January. It is also (6) \_\_\_\_\_ how much food people can buy and what happens if they buy too much.

There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government (7) \_\_\_\_\_ smugglers who buy cheap goods and take them to Colombia to resell them for up to four times their (8) \_\_\_\_\_ price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is too (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for them to make a profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A (10) \_\_\_\_\_ reason is the strength of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very expensive to import food (11) \_\_\_\_\_ other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ control.

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

- |     |              |               |                 |               |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) base     | (b) basically | (c) basics      | (d) basic     |
| 2.  | (a) nothing  | (b) thing     | (c) anything    | (d) something |
| 3.  | (a) not      | (b) stop      | (c) cease       | (d) close     |
| 4.  | (a) scans    | (b) scanned   | (c) scanning    | (d) scanner   |
| 5.  | (a) every    | (b) almost    | (c) equal       | (d) about     |
| 6.  | (a) unclear  | (b) clarity   | (c) clearly     | (d) cleared   |
| 7.  | (a) says     | (b) blames    | (c) responsible | (d) holds     |
| 8.  | (a) original | (b) originals | (c) originality | (d) origins   |
| 9.  | (a) little   | (b) low       | (c) below       | (d) small     |
| 10. | (a) semi     | (b) lastly    | (c) final       | (d) end       |
| 11. | (a) for      | (b) of        | (c) from        | (d) far       |
| 12. | (a) under    | (b) smaller   | (c) minus       | (d) less      |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. There are many food ogsrthase in Venezuela
2. ibsac goods
3. It's a kind of acpin buying
4. rcgeoyr stores and supermarkets
5. an aluge share
6. the new eytmss will start

## Paragraph 2

7. There are many srnaeos
8. The government aelsmb smugglers
9. up to four times their garlnioi price
10. make a iptrof
11. the US dollar against Venezuela's enrrccuy
12. the whole ynemooc needs to change



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

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

- ( ) system will start, but people close to him say it could be January. It is also unclear
- ( ) how much food people can buy and what happens if they buy too much.
- ( ) goods and take them to Colombia to resell them for up to four times their original price. Another reason is that the government
- ( ) profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A final reason is the strength of the US dollar against Venezuela's
- ( ) There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government blames smugglers who buy cheap
- ( ) sure that more people can buy an equal share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new
- ( ) needs to change and that the government needs to have less control.
- ( ) takes away people's privacy and will not work. They say the whole economy
- ( ) worse because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's a kind of panic
- ( ) controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is too low for them to make a
- ( **1** ) There are many food shortages in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made
- ( ) start scanning their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make
- ( ) buying. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers must soon
- ( ) currency. This means it is very expensive to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

1. Venezuela in shortages food many are There.

---

2. of something when they see it People buy too much.

---

3. their Scanning food buy they when fingerprints.

---

4. an of More buy share can equal food people.

---

5. unclear food buy also much can is how people It.

---

6. many shortages reasons for There Venezuela's are food.

---

7. to goods Colombia and take Buy them cheap.

---

8. times their original price Resell them for up to four.

---

9. is the strength of the US dollar A final reason.

---

10. say to the change whole economy They needs.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

There are *many / much* food shortages in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made *worst / worse* because people buy too much of something when they see *it / them* in the stores. It's a kind of panic *bought / buying*. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too *more / much*. Shoppers must soon start scanning their fingerprints when they buy food at *groceries / grocery* stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people can buy *an / the* equal share *for / of* food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people close to *his / him* say it could be January. It is also unclear how much food people can buy and what *happen / happens* if they buy too much.

There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government *blames / blaming* smugglers who buy cheap *greats / goods* and take them to Colombia to resell them for *up / down* to four times their *originally / original* price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is *far / too* low for them to make a profit, so they do not produce *as / so* much as they could. A final reason is the *strength / strongest* of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very *expenses / expensive* to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's *privates / privacy* and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have *less / lesser* control.

**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/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

Th\_r\_ \_r\_ m\_ny f\_\_d sh\_rt\_g\_s \_n V\_n\_z\_\_l\_. M\_ny V\_n\_z\_\_l\_ns c\_nn\_t b\_y b\_s\_c g\_\_ds. Th\_s pr\_bl\_m\_s m\_d\_ w\_rs\_ b\_c\_\_s\_ p\_\_pl\_ b\_y t\_\_ m\_ch \_f s\_m\_th\_ng wh\_n th\_y s\_\_ \_t \_n th\_st\_r\_s. \_t's \_k\_nd \_f p\_n\_c b\_y\_ng. Pr\_s\_d\_nt N\_c\_l\_s M\_d\_r\_ h\_s st\_rt\_d \_n\_w syst\_m t\_st\_p p\_\_pl\_ b\_y\_ng t\_\_ m\_ch. Sh\_pp\_rs m\_st s\_\_n st\_rt sc\_nn\_ng th\_\_r f\_ng\_rpr\_nts wh\_n th\_y b\_y f\_\_d \_t gr\_c\_ry st\_r\_s \_nd s\_p\_rm\_rk\_ts. Th\_s \_s t\_m\_k\_s\_r\_ th\_t m\_r\_ p\_\_pl\_ c\_n b\_y \_n \_q\_\_l sh\_r\_ \_f f\_\_d \_nd gr\_c\_r\_\_s. Mr M\_d\_r\_ h\_s n\_t s\_\_d wh\_n th\_n\_w syst\_m w\_ll st\_rt, b\_t p\_\_pl\_ cl\_s\_ t\_h\_m s\_y \_t c\_\_ld b\_ J\_n\_\_ry. \_t\_s \_ls\_ \_ncl\_\_r h\_w m\_ch f\_\_d p\_\_pl\_ c\_n b\_y \_nd wh\_t h\_pp\_ns \_f th\_y b\_y t\_\_ m\_ch.

Th\_r\_ \_r\_ m\_ny r\_\_s\_ns f\_r V\_n\_z\_\_l\_'s f\_\_d sh\_rt\_g\_s. Th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt bl\_m\_s sm\_ggl\_rs wh\_ b\_y ch\_\_p g\_\_ds \_nd t\_k\_ th\_m t\_ C\_l\_mb\_\_ t\_r\_s ll th\_m f\_r \_p\_t\_ f\_\_r t\_m\_s th\_\_r \_r\_g\_n\_l pr\_c\_. \_n\_th\_r r\_\_s\_n \_s th\_t th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt c\_ntr\_ls th\_ pr\_c\_ \_f f\_\_d. M\_ny f\_\_d c\_m\_p\_n\_\_s s\_y th\_ pr\_c\_ \_s t\_\_ l\_w f\_r th\_m t\_m\_k\_ \_pr\_f\_t, s\_ th\_y d\_n\_t pr\_d\_c\_\_s m\_ch \_s th\_y c\_\_ld. \_f\_n\_l r\_\_s\_n \_s th\_ str\_ngth \_f th\_ \_\$ d\_ll\_r \_g\_\_nst V\_n\_z\_\_l\_'s c\_rrncy. Th\_s m\_\_ns t\_s v\_ry \_xp\_ns\_v\_ t\_ \_mp\_rt f\_\_d fr\_m th\_r c\_\_ntr\_\_s. Cr\_t\_cs s\_y th\_ f\_ng\_rpr\_nt\_ng t\_k\_s \_w\_y p\_\_pl\_'s pr\_v\_cy \_nd w\_ll n\_t w\_rk. Th\_y s\_y th\_ wh\_l\_ \_c\_n my n\_\_ds t\_ ch\_ng\_ \_nd th\_t th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt n\_\_ds t\_ h\_v\_ l\_ss c\_ntr\_l.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

there are many food shortages in venezuela many venezuelans cannot buy basic goods this problem is made worse because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores it's a kind of panic buying president nicolas maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much shoppers must soon start scanning their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets this is to make sure that more people can buy an equal share of food and groceries mr maduro has not said when the new system will start but people close to him say it could be january it is also unclear how much food people can buy and what happens if they buy too much

there are many reasons for venezuela's food shortages the government blames smugglers who buy cheap goods and take them to colombia to resell them for up to four times their original price another reason is that the government controls the price of food many food companies say the price is too low for them to make a profit so they do not produce as much as they could a final reason is the strength of the us dollar against venezuela's currency this means it is very expensive to import food from other countries critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy and will not work they say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have less control

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

There are many food shortages in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made worse because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's a kind of panic buying. President Nicolas Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers must soon start scanning their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people can buy an equal share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people close to him say it could be January. It is also unclear how much food people can buy and what happens if they buy too much. There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government blames smugglers who buy cheap goods and take them to Colombia to resell them for up to four times their original price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is too low for them to make a profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A final reason is the strength of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very expensive to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have less control.

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

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

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# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages.html>

Fingerprinting shoppers is never a good idea. Discuss.

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# 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 food shortages in Venezuela. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. FINGERPRINTING:** Write a magazine article about fingerprinting. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 food shortages. Ask him/her three questions about the situation in Venezuela. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make things better. 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 T    c F    d F    e F    f T    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. basic      | a. necessary |
| 2. stores     | b. shops     |
| 3. system     | c. method    |
| 4. equal      | d. identical |
| 5. unclear    | e. uncertain |
| 6. goods      | f. products  |
| 7. initial    | g. first     |
| 8. produce    | h. make      |
| 9. takes away | i. removes   |
| 10. whole     | j. entire    |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Basic goods
2. Panic buying
3. Grocery stores
4. Food and groceries
5. January
6. Smugglers
7. 4
8. Profits
9. Dollar
10. Privacy

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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