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Level 0 – 2nd February, 2019

Deadly polar vortex freezes mid-America

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-0.html>

It is colder than Antarctica in many parts of the USA. This is because of a polar vortex - freezing air and wind from the Arctic. This rarely happens. There is a state of emergency in many towns. Schools and businesses have closed. People were told not to travel. They were told not to go outside or breathe the icy air.

The temperature in a part of Minnesota fell to -60° Celsius. The Chicago River and Niagara Falls turned to ice. The cold killed eight people. Officials told people to go outside only if necessary. Freezing air can be dangerous for the skin. It can cause breathing problems. Shoveling snow can also be dangerous.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/us/extreme-cold-weather.html>
<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/427652-how-dangerous-and-historic-is-the-polar-vortex-hitting-the-midwest>
<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/75-below-zero-polar-vortex-yields-deadly-cold-as-thousands-endure-power-cuts-travel-issues-mount-in-midwest/70007291>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. This is because | a. closed |
| 2. freezing air and wind | b. to go outside |
| 3. This rarely | c. of a polar vortex |
| 4. a state of | d. icy air |
| 5. businesses have | e. happens |
| 6. People were | f. emergency |
| 7. They were told not | g. from the Arctic |
| 8. breathe the | h. told not to travel |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The temperature in a | a. to go outside |
| 2. fell to | b. problems |
| 3. Niagara Falls turned | c. -60° Celsius |
| 4. The cold killed | d. for the skin |
| 5. Officials told people | e. part of Minnesota |
| 6. only if | f. eight people |
| 7. Freezing air can be dangerous | g. necessary |
| 8. It can cause breathing | h. to ice |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-0.html>

It (1) _____ Antarctica in many parts of the USA.

This is (2) _____ polar vortex - freezing air and

wind from the Arctic. (3) _____ . There is a state

of emergency (4) _____ . Schools and businesses

have closed. People were told (5) _____ . They

were told not to go outside or (6) _____ air.

The (7) _____ part of Minnesota fell to -60°

Celsius. The Chicago River and Niagara Falls

(8) _____ . The cold killed eight people. Officials

told (9) _____ outside only if necessary. Freezing

(10) _____ dangerous for the skin.

(11) _____ breathing problems. Shoveling snow

can (12) _____ .

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-0.html>

It is colder than Antarctica in many parts of the USA. This is because of a polar vortex - freezing air and wind from the Arctic. This rarely happens. There is a state of emergency in many towns. Schools and businesses have closed. People were told not to travel. They were told not to go outside or breathe the icy air. The temperature in a part of Minnesota fell to -60°Celsius. The Chicago River and Niagara Falls turned to ice. The cold killed eight people. Officials told people to go outside only if necessary. Freezing air can be dangerous for the skin. It can cause breathing problems. Shoveling snow can also be dangerous.

FREEZING WEATHER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about freezing weather 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) _____

