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Level 6 – 25th May, 2020

Car rental group Hertz files for bankruptcy

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The car rental company Hertz has filed for bankruptcy protection in the US after plummeting rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a household name. It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries on six continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already furloughed or laid off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global workforce. It said: "The impact of the pandemic on travel demand was sudden and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future bookings." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt on its books as of March the 31st.

Hertz was founded in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company bought a small car rental company. He pioneered what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His mission was, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-efficient vehicle and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has impacted Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated by the plunge in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen sharply."

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/22/business/hertz-bankruptcy/index.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52780841>
<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/hertz-files-for-bankruptcy-protection-as-coronavirus-crisis-slams-car-rental-business-2020-05-22>

WARM-UPS

1. BANKRUPTCY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about bankruptcy. 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?

car / rental / bankruptcy / protection / household / furloughed / global / workforce / cab / drive / system / dozen / equipment / pandemic / industry / revenue / airports

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

3. CAR RENTAL: Students A **strongly** believe renting a car is better than buying one; Students B **strongly** believe buying one is better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. HOUSEHOLD NAMES: What do you know about these household names? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Hertz		
Sony		
Louis Vuitton		
Nivea		
BBC		
Evian		

5. CAR: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "car". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. RENT: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to rent at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cars
- Apartments
- CDs
- Friends
- Bicycles
- Parking space
- Clothes
- An allotment

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. file | a. A business given a license to operate and use the name, branding and services of a parent company. |
| 2. bankruptcy | b. Sent or submitted a document or application to an official or legal office. |
| 3. plummeting | c. Falling or dropping straight down at high speed. |
| 4. franchise | d. Sudden and unexpected. |
| 5. furloughed | e. Something, usually money, that is owed or due. |
| 6. abrupt | f. The state of (in law) not having enough money to be able to pay off debts. |
| 7. debt | g. Laid off (not employed temporarily) workers because of a shortage of work. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. founded | h. Had a strong effect on someone or something. |
| 9. pioneered | i. Fell suddenly and uncontrollably. |
| 10. mission | j. Destroyed or ruined. |
| 11. impacted | k. An important assignment carried out for political, religious, or commercial purposes. |
| 12. entire | l. With no part left out; whole. |
| 13. devastated | m. Established or started a business, organisation or other institution. |
| 14. plunge | n. Developed or was the first to use or apply a new method, area of knowledge, or activity. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

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

- a. Hertz has filed for bankruptcy protection because it cannot buy cars. **T / F**
- b. Hertz is the world's largest car rental company. **T / F**
- c. Hertz furloughed or laid off over half its workers because of COVID-19. **T / F**
- d. Hertz said it has no debt but has to file for bankruptcy. **T / F**
- e. Hertz was founded by Mr Hertz in 1923. **T / F**
- f. The Hertz company started with just 12 cars. **T / F**
- g. Hertz wanted to be the most cost-efficient car rental company. **T / F**
- h. Almost two-thirds of Hertz's revenue comes from airport locations. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. filed | a. unexpected |
| 2. plummeting | b. destroyed |
| 3. dried up | c. reservations |
| 4. sudden | d. nosediving |
| 5. bookings | e. affected |
| 6. founded | f. sites |
| 7. pioneered | g. submitted |
| 8. impacted | h. established |
| 9. devastated | i. dwindled |
| 10. locations | j. developed |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hertz has filed for bankruptcy | a. efficient |
| 2. a household | b. of the pandemic |
| 3. It had already furloughed | c. on its books |
| 4. The impact | d. in travel |
| 5. Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt | e. or laid off |
| 6. customer- | f. fallen sharply |
| 7. cost- | g. protection |
| 8. how the pandemic has | h. focused |
| 9. devastated by the plunge | i. name |
| 10. air travel has | j. impacted Hertz |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The car rental company Hertz has (1) _____ for bankruptcy protection in the US after (2) _____ rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a (3) _____ name. It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries on six continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already (4) _____ or laid off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global (5) _____. It said: "The impact of the pandemic on travel demand was (6) _____ and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future (7) _____. " Hertz had \$18.8 billion of (8) _____ on its books as of March the 31st.

furloughed
debt
workforce
plummeting
bookings
filed
sudden
household

Hertz was (9) _____ in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company bought a small car rental company. He (10) _____ what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His (11) _____ was, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-efficient (12) _____ and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has (13) _____ Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated by the (14) _____ in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its (15) _____ comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen (16) _____."

pioneered
vehicle
plunge
mission
sharply
founded
revenue
impacted

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

- 1) The car rental company Hertz has filed for _____
 - a. bankruptcy protective
 - b. bankruptcy protecting
 - c. bankruptcy protect shun
 - d. bankruptcy protection
- 2) Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is _____
 - a. a householder name
 - b. a housework name
 - c. a household name
 - d. a homework name
- 3) It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries _____
 - a. on sick incontinence
 - b. on six continents
 - c. on six incontinence
 - d. in six contents
- 4) impact of the pandemic on travel demand was sudden and dramatic, causing _____
 - a. an abrupt decline
 - b. an abruptly decline
 - c. an corrupt decline
 - d. an adept decline
- 5) revenue and future bookings." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt _____
 - a. on its hooks
 - b. on its books
 - c. on its looks
 - d. on its nooks
- 6) He pioneered what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available _____
 - a. adjust a dozen
 - b. juice a dozen
 - c. just a dozen
 - d. gest a dozen
- 7) to be the most customer-focused, _____
 - a. cost-efficiency vehicle
 - b. cost-efficient vehicle
 - c. costly-efficient vehicle
 - d. costed-efficient vehicle
- 8) CNN wrote about how the pandemic has impacted Hertz and the entire _____
 - a. car rental industry
 - b. car rental industrial
 - c. car rental industries
 - d. car rental industrious
- 9) It said rentals have been "devastated by the _____"
 - a. plunger in travel
 - b. plunged in travel
 - c. plunges in travel
 - d. plunge in travel
- 10) its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel _____
 - a. has fall on sharply
 - b. has falling sharply
 - c. has fallen sharply
 - d. has fall in sharply

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The car rental company Hertz (1) _____ bankruptcy protection in the US after plummeting rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is (2) _____. It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 (3) _____ continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already (4) _____ off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global workforce. It said: "The impact of the (5) _____ demand was sudden and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's (6) _____ bookings." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt on its books as of March the 31st.

Hertz was founded in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company bought a small car rental company. He (7) _____ called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His (8) _____ be the most customer-focused, (9) _____ and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the (10) _____ Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated by (11) _____ travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

1. What kind of protection has Hertz filed for?
2. How many franchises does Hertz have?
3. How many workers did Hertz furlough or lay off?
4. What did the article say dried up worldwide?
5. How much was Hertz in debt?
6. When was Hertz founded?
7. What system did John Hertz pioneer?
8. How many cars did Hertz have when it started?
9. What news agency commented on Hertz?
10. How much of Hertz's revenue is from rentals at airport locations?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

- 1) What kind of protection has Hertz filed for?
 - a) police protection
 - b) security protection
 - c) debtor protection
 - d) bankruptcy protection
- 2) How many franchises does Hertz have?
 - a) around 10,200
 - b) over 10,200
 - c) exactly 10,200
 - d) just under 10,200
- 3) How many workers did Hertz furlough or lay off?
 - a) exactly 20,000
 - b) less than 20,000
 - c) more than 20,000
 - d) around 20,000
- 4) What did the article say dried up worldwide?
 - a) rentals
 - b) water
 - c) demand
 - d) petrol
- 5) How much was Hertz in debt?
 - a) \$19.8 billion
 - b) \$18.9 billion
 - c) \$18.8 billion
 - d) \$19.9 billion
- 6) When was Hertz founded?
 - a) 1932
 - b) 1923
 - c) 1928
 - d) 1982
- 7) What system did John Hertz pioneer?
 - a) reversing
 - b) gears
 - c) online reservations
 - d) a drive-yourself system
- 8) How many cars did Hertz have when it started?
 - a) 12
 - b) 13
 - c) 14
 - d) 15
- 9) What news agency commented on Hertz?
 - a) Al Jazeera
 - b) BBC
 - c) CNN
 - d) Fox News
- 10) How much of Hertz's revenue is from rentals at airport locations?
 - a) 80%
 - b) nearly two-thirds
 - c) half
 - d) a bit

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

Role A – Cars

You think cars are the best things to rent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to rent (and why): CDs, clothes or friends.

Role B – CDs

You think CDs are the best things to rent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to rent (and why): cars, clothes or friends.

Role C – Clothes

You think clothes are the best things to rent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to rent (and why): CDs, cars or friends.

Role D – Friends

You think friends are the best things to rent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to rent (and why): CDs, clothes or cars.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

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

car	rental
------------	---------------

- 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">• filed• name• laid• half• sudden• debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1923• drive• mission• entire• plunge• sharply
--	--

BANKRUPTCY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bankruptcy 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.

BANKRUPTCY DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'car'?
3. What do you know about the company Hertz?
4. How does a company become bankrupt?
5. What would you do if you went bankrupt?
6. What things do you rent?
7. How are companies doing in your country during the pandemic?
8. What's the difference between 'laid off' and 'furloughed'?
9. What is the future of car rental companies?
10. How can Hertz pay off its debts?

Car rental group Hertz files for bankruptcy – 25th May, 2020
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BANKRUPTCY DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'rental'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Should governments protect companies with a long history?
15. What do you know about Ford Model T cars?
16. How has the pandemic impacted the travel industry?
17. How do you feel about travelling overseas?
18. How is your country's economy doing?
19. What other companies can you see going bust?
20. What questions would you like to ask the bosses of Hertz?

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The car rental company Hertz has filed for bankruptcy (1) _____ in the US after plummeting rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a (2) _____ name. It operates over 10,200 (3) _____ in 150 countries on six continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already (4) _____ or laid off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global workforce. It said: "The impact of the pandemic (5) _____ travel demand was sudden and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future bookings." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of (6) _____ on its books as of March the 31st.

Hertz was (7) _____ in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company bought a small car rental company. He (8) _____ what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His mission was, "to be the most customer-focused, (9) _____-efficient vehicle and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has impacted Hertz and the (10) _____ car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated (11) _____ the plunge in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen (12) _____."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) protects | (b) protection | (c) protected | (d) protecting |
| 2. | (a) housework | (b) household | (c) homework | (d) housing |
| 3. | (a) chases | (b) purchases | (c) friendships | (d) franchises |
| 4. | (a) furrowed | (b) furloughed | (c) ploughed | (d) trough |
| 5. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) in | (d) on |
| 6. | (a) cost | (b) payback | (c) debt | (d) burden |
| 7. | (a) founded | (b) floundered | (c) foundry | (d) fondant |
| 8. | (a) ratcheted | (b) zoomed | (c) pioneered | (d) expected |
| 9. | (a) purchase | (b) pay | (c) spend | (d) cost |
| 10. | (a) entire | (b) all | (c) every | (d) holy |
| 11. | (a) by | (b) on | (c) at | (d) as |
| 12. | (a) sharply | (b) bluntly | (c) unwisely | (d) invisibly |

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. mnmipgelut rentals
2. It operates over 10,200 ainfcehsrs
3. It had already lugfuroedh or laid off more
4. half of its global ocrekrfow
5. causing an rautbp decline
6. Hertz had \$18.8 billion of tedb on its books

Paragraph 2

7. He erndoeip what he called a...
8. to be the most customer-ecfusod
9. cost-fnicfteei vehicle
10. the eienrt car rental industry
11. devastated by the nulegp
12. Nearly two-thirds of its eneveur

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries on six continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file
- (**1**) The car rental company Hertz has filed for bankruptcy protection in the US after plummeting
- () Hertz was founded in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company
- () car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated by the plunge in travel since
- () of the pandemic on travel demand was sudden and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future
- () bookings." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt on its books as of March the 31st.
- () bought a small car rental company. He pioneered what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a
- () dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His mission was, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-
- () employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global workforce. It said: "The impact
- () efficient vehicle and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has impacted Hertz and the entire
- () rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a household name. It operates
- () comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen sharply."
- () for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already furloughed or laid off more than 20,000 of its
- () the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

1. 150 operates over It franchises countries . 10,200 in
2. is half about of its global This workforce .
3. the pandemic on impact The demand . travel of
4. in decline an revenue . Causing the abrupt company's
5. Hertz had its on \$18.8bn debt of books .
6. pioneered called he He system . a "drive-yourself" what
7. the most to mission be His was customer-focused .
8. car industry . the entire rental Hertz and Impacted
9. were in the devastated Rentals plunge by travel .
10. rentals . from its of revenue two-thirds Nearly comes

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The car rental company Hertz has filed for bankruptcy *detection / protection* in the US after plummeting rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a *household / housing* name. It operates over 10,200 *franchises / friendships* in 150 countries on six *incontinence / continents*. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already *furrowed / furloughed* or laid off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried *up / down* worldwide. This is about half of its *globally / global* workforce. It said: "The impact of the pandemic on travel demand was *sudden / suddenly* and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future *books / bookings*." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt on its *magazines / books* as of March the 31st.

Hertz was *finding / founded* in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company *purchase / bought* a small car rental company. He pioneered what he *called / terminology* a "drive yourself" system, making available *just / simple* a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His mission *be / was*, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-efficient vehicle and equipment rental company in *all / every* market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has *compacted / impacted* Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated *by / of* the plunge in travel *since / for* the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen *sharply / bluntly*."

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The current company Hertz has filed for bankruptcy protection in the US following months of negotiations. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is the second largest company in the US. It reports over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries in six continents. It is the largest high-street rental company to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already filed for liquidation before March 20, 2020. It is the largest company to file for liquidation in the world. This is about half of the global workforce. It said: "The impact of the pandemic on travel demand was sudden and dramatic, causing a abrupt decline in the company's revenue and forcing bankruptcies." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt in its books as of March 31st.

Hertz was founded in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company brought small car rental company. He pioneered the "drive yourself" system, making available just-in-time Mid-Term cars to customers. His mission was, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-effective vehicle and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about the pandemic has impacted Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "diverted by the plugging in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals that are reported to be down, and the travel has fallen sharply."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

the car rental company hertz has filed for bankruptcy protection in the us after plummeting rentals hertz is the worlds second largest car rental company and is a household name it operates over 10200 franchises in 150 countries on six continents it is one of the highestprofile companies to file for bankruptcy because of covid19 it had already furloughed or laid off more than 20000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide this is about half of its global workforce it said the impact of the pandemic on travel demand was sudden and dramatic causing an abrupt decline in the companys revenue and future bookings hertz had 188 billion of debt on its books as of march the 31st

hertz was founded in 1923 when john hertz of the yellow cab and yellow truck and coach manufacturing company bought a small car rental company he pioneered what he called a drive yourself system making available just a dozen model t ford cars to customers his mission was to be the most customerfocused costefficient vehicle and equipment rental company in every market cnn wrote about how the pandemic has impacted hertz and the entire car rental industry it said rentals have been devastated by the plunge in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year it added nearly twothirds of its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations and air travel has fallen sharply

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200525-bankruptcy.html>

The car rental company Hertz has filed for bankruptcy protection in the US after plummeting rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a household name. It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries on six continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already furloughed or laid off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global workforce. It said: "The impact of the pandemic on travel demand was sudden and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future bookings." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of debt on its books as of March the 31st. Hertz was founded in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company bought a small car rental company. He pioneered what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His mission was, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-efficient vehicle and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has impacted Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated by the plunge in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen sharply."

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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BANKRUPTCY: Make a poster about bankruptcy. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. GOVERNMENTS: Write a magazine article about governments never letting companies go bankrupt. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 bankruptcy. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to help companies facing bankruptcy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. f 3. c 4. a 5. g 6. d 7. e
8. m 9. n 10. k 11. h 12. l 13. j 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b F c T d F e T f T g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. a	5. c
6. h	7. j	8. e	9. b	10. f

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Bankruptcy protection
2. Over 10,200
3. More than 20,000
4. Rentals
5. \$18.8 billion
6. 1923
7. A drive yourself system
8. Twelve (a dozen)
9. CNN
10. Nearly two-thirds

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries.
2. This is about half of its global workforce.
3. The impact of the pandemic on travel demand.
4. Causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue.
5. Hertz had \$18.8bn of debt on its books.
6. He pioneered what he called a "drive-yourself" system.
7. His mission was to be the most customer-focused.
8. Impacted Hertz and the entire car rental industry.
9. Rentals were devastated by the plunge in travel.
10. Nearly two-thirds of its revenue comes from rentals.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. a 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 ;-)