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Level 6 – 6th August, 2021

Global timber shortage increases house prices

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a dearth in supply and major problems for the housing and construction industry. The decrease in the availability of timber has caused a sharp spike in the prices of newly built homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber has shot up by about 25 per cent. One of the reasons builders are struggling to get supplies is because people have been repairing or reforming their homes during lockdown. Another reason is that post-lockdown construction and additional DIY projects have created "extraordinary demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the clock" but are "struggling to keep up".

Environmental scientists assert that a major reason for the shortage is climate change. Global warming is increasing the pressure on the sustainability of forests. An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large swathes of forest. Many have been completely razed to the ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the number of pests that cause damage to trees and stunt tree growth. Sweden, which supplies almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its lowest timber stocks for 20 years. A solution the UK has come up with is to plant more trees. It said it is "committed to trebling tree planting rates". A builder joked that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.

Sources: <https://indaily.com.au/news/2021/07/27/timber-shortage-threatens-to-send-builders-to-the-wall/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57920510>
<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/pandemic-demand-causes-unprecedented-building-supply-shortage>

WARM-UPS

1. WOOD: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about wood. 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?

shortage / timber / supply / problems / spike / homes / builders / lockdown / project / scientists / climate change / pressure / forest / ground / pests / wood / joke / planting

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

3. ALTERNATIVES: Students A **strongly** believe we should use alternatives to wood; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SHORTAGES: What would happen if there were shortages of these things? How would you be affected? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Would Happen?	How Would You Be Affected?
Wood		
Chocolate		
Taxis		
Food		
Water		
YouTube videos		

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

6. DIY: Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful DIY tasks at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Changing a light bulb
- Painting the ceiling
- Making bookshelves
- Fixing electronics
- Oiling a creaking door
- Making a vegetable patch
- Repairing the gutters
- Fixing a leaky tap

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. dearth | a. A great lack of something. |
| 2. construction | b. Very unusual or remarkable. |
| 3. spike | c. The building of large structures considered as an industry. |
| 4. struggling | d. Do-it-yourself; making or fixing things by yourself. |
| 5. DIY | e. A sharp increase in the size or power of something. |
| 6. extraordinary | f. Really trying to achieve or attain something in the face of difficulty. |
| 7. federation | g. An organization or group within which smaller divisions have some degree of internal autonomy. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. assert | h. Rapid increase in numbers. |
| 9. sustainability | i. Completely destroyed. |
| 10. swathes | j. State a fact or belief confidently. |
| 11. razed | k. A destructive insect or other animal that attacks crops, food, livestock, etc. |
| 12. proliferation | l. The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level. |
| 13. pest | m. Multiplied by or occurring three times. |
| 14. trebling | n. A broad strip or area of something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

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

1. There is a dearth in the supply of timber worldwide. **T / F**
2. The article says the timber shortage increased the price of old homes. **T / F**
3. The price of timber in some countries has increased by a third. **T / F**
4. People doing DIY is one reason for the timber shortage. **T / F**
5. Environmentalists blame climate change for the timber shortage. **T / F**
6. The articles says there were swathes and swathes of wildfires. **T / F**
7. Pests are one reason for the lack of available timber. **T / F**
8. The UK said it would treble the amount of trees it plants. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. shortage | a. astonishing |
| 2. spike | b. quipped |
| 3. struggling | c. increase |
| 4. repairing | d. maintain |
| 5. extraordinary | e. areas |
| 6. assert | f. dearth |
| 7. swathes | g. restrict |
| 8. razed | h. endeavouring |
| 9. stunt | i. levelled |
| 10. joked | j. mending |

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. A shortage of timber worldwide is | a. number of pests |
| 2. The decrease in the availability | b. shot up |
| 3. a sharp | c. tree growth |
| 4. the price builders pay for timber has | d. for the shortage |
| 5. working around | e. of timber |
| 6. a major reason | f. planting rates |
| 7. An increase in the number | g. the clock |
| 8. a proliferation in the | h. causing a dearth in supply |
| 9. cause damage to trees and stunt | i. of wildfires |
| 10. committed to trebling tree | j. spike in the prices |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a (1) _____ in supply and major problems for the housing and construction industry. The decrease in the (2) _____ of timber has caused a sharp spike in the prices of newly (3) _____ homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber has (4) _____ up by about 25 per cent. One of the reasons builders are (5) _____ to get supplies is because people have been repairing or reforming their homes during (6) _____. Another reason is that post-lockdown construction and additional (7) _____ projects have created "extraordinary demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the (8) _____" but are "struggling to keep up".

Environmental scientists (9) _____ that a major reason for the shortage is climate change. Global warming is increasing the (10) _____ on the sustainability of forests. An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large (11) _____ of forest. Many have been completely (12) _____ to the ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the number of pests that cause damage to trees and (13) _____ tree growth. Sweden, which supplies almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its lowest timber (14) _____ for 20 years. A solution the UK has come up with is to plant more trees. It said it is "(15) _____ to trebling tree planting rates". A builder (16) _____ that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.

built
lockdown
dearth
clock
struggling
availability
DIY
shot

swathes
stunt
committed
assert
joked
pressure
stocks
razed

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

- 1) A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a _____
 - a. death in supply
 - b. hearth in supply
 - c. thud in supply
 - d. thunder in supply
- 2) In some countries, the price builders pay for timber _____
 - a. has shot up
 - b. has fired up
 - c. has attacked up
 - d. has higher up
- 3) get supplies is because people have been repairing or reforming their _____
 - a. homes while lockdown
 - b. homes during lockdown
 - c. homes adjourning lockdown
 - d. homes adjoining lockdown
- 4) Another reason is that post-lockdown construction and _____
 - a. additionally DIY projects
 - b. addition ally DIY projects
 - c. addition all DIY projects
 - d. additional DIY projects
- 5) suppliers were working around the clock but are struggling _____
 - a. too keep up
 - b. took quay pup
 - c. to keep up
 - d. to key pup
- 6) Global warming is increasing the pressure on the _____
 - a. sustain ability of forests
 - b. sustain nobility of forests
 - c. sustain a billet of forests
 - d. sustainability of forests
- 7) An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large _____
 - a. swathe soft forest
 - b. swathes of forest
 - c. switches of forest
 - d. stashes of forest
- 8) The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the _____
 - a. numbered off pests
 - b. number off pests
 - c. number of pests
 - d. numeral of pests
- 9) half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its lowest timber _____ years
 - a. stacks for 20
 - b. stocks for 20
 - c. sticks for 20
 - d. stuck for 20
- 10) It said it is committed to trebling _____
 - a. tree planting rates
 - b. tree plantain rates
 - c. tree plant tin rates
 - d. tree plan tin rates

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

A (1) _____ worldwide is causing a dearth in supply and major problems for the (2) _____ industry. The decrease in the availability of timber has caused a (3) _____ the prices of newly built homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber (4) _____ by about 25 per cent. One of the reasons builders are struggling to get supplies is because people have been (5) _____ their homes during lockdown. Another reason is that post-lockdown construction and additional DIY projects have created "extraordinary demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the clock" but are "(6) _____ up".

Environmental (7) _____ a major reason for the shortage is climate change. Global warming is (8) _____ on the sustainability of forests. An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large (9) _____. Many have been completely razed to the ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the (10) _____ that cause damage to trees and stunt tree growth. Sweden, which supplies almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its lowest timber stocks for 20 years. (11) _____ UK has come up with is to plant more trees. It said it is "committed to (12) _____ rates". A builder joked that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

1. What two industries are affected by the shortage of timber?
2. What has the shortage caused a sharp spike in?
3. By how much have builders' costs gone up?
4. When were people reforming their homes?
5. When have many suppliers been working?
6. What did scientists say is increasing the pressure on sustainability?
7. What has destroyed large swathes of forests?
8. What has there been a proliferation in the number of?
9. How much of the wood the UK buys is from Sweden?
10. What will the UK do to its tree-planting rate?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

- 1) What two industries are affected by the shortage of timber?
 - a) logging and shipping
 - b) housing and construction
 - c) retail and logistics
 - d) tourism and leisure
- 2) What has the shortage caused a sharp spike in?
 - a) fights outside DIY stores
 - b) wood splinters
 - c) injuries
 - d) the prices of newly built homes
- 3) By how much have builders' costs gone up?
 - a) about 25%
 - b) exactly 25%
 - c) just above 25%
 - d) just under 25%
- 4) When were people reforming their homes?
 - a) since time began
 - b) when the Internet started
 - c) during lockdown
 - d) last week
- 5) When have many suppliers been working?
 - a) all God's hours
 - b) around the clock
 - c) night and day
 - d) 24-7
- 6) What did scientists say is increasing the pressure on sustainability?
 - a) climate change
 - b) DIY stores
 - c) new housing
 - d) us
- 7) What has destroyed large swathes of forests?
 - a) floods
 - b) logging
 - c) wildfires
 - d) acid rain
- 8) What has there been a proliferation in the number of?
 - a) pests
 - b) hikers
 - c) bears
 - d) invasive tree species
- 9) How much of the wood the UK buys is from Sweden?
 - a) almost half
 - b) over half
 - c) exactly 50%
 - d) around 50%
- 10) What will the UK do to its tree-planting rate?
 - a) double it
 - b) halve it
 - c) quadruple it
 - d) treble it

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

Role A – Changing a Light Bulb

You think changing a light bulb is the most important DIY task. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their tasks. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): fixing electronics, repairing the gutters or fixing a leaky tap.

Role B – Fixing Electronics

You think fixing electronics is the most important DIY task. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their tasks. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): changing a light bulb, repairing the gutters or fixing a leaky tap.

Role C – Repairing the Gutters

You think repairing the gutters is the most important DIY task. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their tasks. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): fixing electronics, changing a light bulb or fixing a leaky tap.

Role D – Fixing a Leaky Tap

You think fixing a leaky tap is the most important DIY task. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their tasks. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): fixing electronics, repairing the gutters or changing a light bulb.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

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

global	timber
---------------	---------------

- 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">• dearth• sharp• 25• repairing• DIY• clock	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• major• pressure• large• pests• 20• joked
---	---

WOOD SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wood 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.

WOOD 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 'wood'?
3. What do you think of wood?
4. What could we use as a replacement for wood?
5. Do you think it is wrong to cut down trees for our use?
6. How important is the construction industry?
7. What are house prices like in your country?
8. How did you spend your time during lockdown?
9. Have you ever struggled to keep up with something?
10. Have you ever worked around the clock?

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WOOD 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 'shortage'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How useful is wood in our lives?
15. What can we do about climate change?
16. What do you think of DIY?
17. What pests are there that damage trees?
18. Why aren't we growing more trees?
19. What do you think of the joke at the end of the article?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

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/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a (1) _____ in supply and major problems for the housing and construction industry. The decrease (2) _____ the availability of timber has caused a sharp spike in the prices of newly built homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber has (3) _____ up by about 25 per cent. One of the reasons builders are struggling to (4) _____ supplies is because people have been repairing or reforming their homes during lockdown. Another reason is that (5) _____ -lockdown construction and additional DIY projects have created "extraordinary demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the clock" but are "struggling to (6) _____ up".

Environmental scientists (7) _____ that a major reason for the shortage is climate change. Global warming is increasing the pressure (8) _____ the sustainability of forests. An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large swathes of forest. Many have been completely razed (9) _____ the ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the number of pests that cause damage to trees and (10) _____ tree growth. Sweden, which supplies almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its lowest timber stocks for 20 years. A solution the UK has come (11) _____ with is to plant more trees. It said it is "committed to trebling tree planting (12) _____". A builder joked that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) dearth | (b) hearth | (c) berth | (d) oath |
| 2. | (a) an | (b) on | (c) in | (d) at |
| 3. | (a) spat | (b) slot | (c) shot | (d) spot |
| 4. | (a) slice | (b) pay | (c) obtuse | (d) get |
| 5. | (a) post | (b) mail | (c) send | (d) package |
| 6. | (a) float | (b) keep | (c) ramp | (d) elevate |
| 7. | (a) assuage | (b) asset | (c) assist | (d) assert |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) of | (d) as |
| 9. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) to | (d) at |
| 10. | (a) fungal | (b) abate | (c) fortune | (d) stunt |
| 11. | (a) as | (b) down | (c) top | (d) up |
| 12. | (a) seeds | (b) rates | (c) seedlings | (d) saplings |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

Paragraph 1

1. causing a adethr in supply
2. the bivatalliyai of timber
3. post-lockdown cscototnruni
4. get espsiupl
5. redtyorarnxia demand
6. sngitrlggu to keep up

Paragraph 2

7. Environmental scientists rsetsa that
8. the syiliusaintbat of forests
9. large ewtassh of forest
10. a aoeprfioirltn in the number of pests
11. A sntuloio the UK has come up
12. committed to glibnter tree planting rates

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () built homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber has shot
- () been repairing or reforming their homes during lockdown. Another reason is that post-
- () ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the number of pests that cause damage to trees and stunt
- () Environmental scientists assert that a major reason for the shortage is climate
- () lockdown construction and additional DIY projects have created "extraordinary
- () demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the clock" but are "struggling to keep up".
- () trees. It said it is "committed to trebling tree planting rates". A builder joked that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.
- () its lowest timber stocks for 20 years. A solution the UK has come up with is to plant more
- () up by about 25 per cent. One of the reasons builders are struggling to get supplies is because people have
- () tree growth. Sweden, which supplies almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded
- () construction industry. The decrease in the availability of timber has caused a sharp spike in the prices of newly
- (**1**) A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a dearth in supply and major problems for the housing and
- () change. Global warming is increasing the pressure on the sustainability of forests. An increase in the number
- () of wildfires is causing great damage to large swathes of forest. Many have been completely razed to the

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

1. prices homes . A in the spike sharp of
2. has builders timber for pay The price increased .
3. One builders are the reasons of struggling .
4. DIY have extraordinary created Additional demand . projects
5. the were suppliers around working clock . They said
6. major A for climate is shortages reason change .
7. great large to Causing damage of forest . swathes
8. number a pests . the in There's proliferation of
9. trebling tree committed is planting It to rates .
10. trees to for He have time grow . didn't

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a *death / dearth* in supply and major problems for the housing and construction *industrial / industry*. The decrease in the availability of timber has caused a *sharp / sharpen* spike in the prices of newly *building / built* homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber has shot *sky / up* by about 25 per cent. One of the reasons builders are struggling *on / to* get supplies is because people have *being / been* repairing or reforming their homes *while / during* lockdown. Another reason is *that / what* post-lockdown construction and additional DIY projects have created "*extraordinary / extraordinaire* demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the clock" but are "struggling to keep.

Environmental scientists assert that a *majority / major* reason for the shortage is climate change. Global warming is increasing the pressure *on / in* the sustainability *to / an* forests. An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large *switches / swathes* of forest. Many have been completely *razed / risen* to the ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation *on / in* the number of pests that cause damage *for / to* trees and stunt tree growth. Sweden, which *supplies / suppliers* almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its *lowest / low* timber stocks for 20 years. A solution the UK has come up with is to plant more trees. It said it is "committed to trebling tree planting rates". A builder *joking / joked* that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.

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/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

_ sh_rt_g_ _f t_mb_r w_rldw_d_ _s c__s_ng _ d__rth
_n s_pply _nd m_j_r pr_bl_ms f_r th_ h__s_ng _nd
c_nstr_ct__n _nd_stry. Th_ d_cr__s_ _n th_
_v__l_b_l_ty _f t_mb_r h_s c__s_d _ sh_rp sp_k_ _n
th_ pr_c_s _f n_wly b__lt h_m_s _r__nd th_ w_rld. _n
s_m_ c__ntr__s, th_ pr_c_ b__ld_rs p_y f_r t_mb_r h_s
sh_t _p by _b__t 25 p_r c_nt. _n_ _f th_ r__s_ns
b__ld_rs _r_ str_ggl_ng t_ g_t s_ppl__s _s b_c__s_
p__pl_ h_v_ b__n r_p__r_ng _r r_fm_ng th__r h_m_s
d_rng l_ckd_wn. _n_th_r r__s_n _s th_t p_st-l_ckd_wn
c_nstr_ct__n _nd _dd_t__n_l D_Y pr_j_cts h_v_ cr__t_d
"_xtr__rd_n_ry d_m_nd". _ t_mb_r tr_d_ f_d_r_t__n
s__d s_ppl__rs w_r_ "w_rkng _r__nd th_ cl_ck" b_t
r "str_ggl_ng t_ k__p _p".

_nv_r_nm_nt_l sc__nt_sts _ss_rt th_t _ m_j_r r__s_n
f_r th_ sh_rt_g_ _s cl_m_t_ chng_. Gl_b_l w_rmng
_s _ncr__s_ng th_ pr_ss_r_ _n th_ s_st__n_b_l_ty _f
f_r_sts. _n _ncr__s_ _n th_ n_mb_r _f w_ldf_r_s _s
c__s_ng gr__t d_m_g_ t_ l_rg_ sw_th_s _f f_r_st.
M_ny h_v_ b__n c_mpl_t_ly r_z_d t_ th_ gr__nd. Th_
w_rm_r w__th_r h_s _ls_ c__s_d _ pr_l_f_r_t__n _n
th_ n_mb_r _f p_sts th_t c__s_ d_m_g_ t_ tr__s _nd
st_nt tr__ gr_wth. Sw_d_n, wh_ch s_ppl__s _lm_st h_lf
f th w__d _s_d _n th_ _K, h_s r_c_r_d_d _ts l_w_st
t_mb_r st_cks f_r 20 y__rs. _ s_l_t__n th_ _K h_s
c_m_ _p w_th _s t_ pl_nt m_r_ tr__s. _t s__d _t _s
"c_mm_tt_d t_ tr_b_l_ng tr__ pl_ntng r_t_s". _ b__ld_r
j_k_d th_t h_ d_dn't h_v_ t_m_ f_r th_s_ tr__s t_
gr_w.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

a shortage of timber worldwide is causing a dearth in supply and major problems for the housing and construction industry the decrease in the availability of timber has caused a sharp spike in the prices of newly built homes around the world in some countries the price builders pay for timber has shot up by about 25 per cent one of the reasons builders are struggling to get supplies is because people have been repairing or reforming their homes during lockdown another reason is that postlockdown construction and additional diy projects have created extraordinary demand a timber trade federation said suppliers were working around the clock but are struggling to keep up

environmental scientists assert that a major reason for the shortage is climate change global warming is increasing the pressure on the sustainability of forests an increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage large swathes of forest many have been completely razed to the ground the warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the number of pests that cause damage to trees and stunt tree growth sweden which supplies almost half of the wood used in the uk has recorded its lowest timber stocks for 20 years a solution the uk has come up with is to plant more trees it said it is committed to trebling tree planting rates a builder joked that he didnt have time for those trees to grow

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

A shortage of timber worldwide is causing a dearth in supply and major problems for the housing and construction industry. The decrease in the availability of timber has caused a sharp spike in the prices of newly built homes around the world. In some countries, the price builders pay for timber has shot up by about 25 percent. One of the reasons builders are struggling to get supplies is because people have been repairing or reforming their homes during lockdown. Another reason is that post-lockdown construction and additional DIY projects have created "extraordinary demand". A timber trade federation said suppliers were "working around the clock" but are "struggling to keep up". Environmental scientists assert that a major reason for the shortage is climate change. Global warming is increasing the pressure on the sustainability of forests. An increase in the number of wildfires is causing great damage to large swathes of forest. Many have been completely razed to the ground. The warmer weather has also caused a proliferation in the number of pests that caused damage to trees and stunt tree growth. Sweden, which supplies almost half of the wood used in the UK, has recorded its lowest timber stocks for 20 years. A solution the UK has come up with is to plant more trees. It said it is "committed to trebling tree planting rates". A builder joked that he didn't have time for those trees to grow.

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210806-timber-shortage.html>

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

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

4. PLASTIC OR METAL: Write a magazine article about using plastic or metal instead of wood. 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 wood. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on what we could use instead of wood. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 T 6 F 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Housing and construction
- The prices of newly built homes
- About 25%
- During lockdown
- Around the clock
- Climate change
- Wildfires
- Pests
- Almost half
- Treble it

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- A sharp spike in the prices of homes.
- The price builders pay for timber has increased.
- One of the reasons builders are struggling.
- Additional DIY projects have created extraordinary demand.
- They said suppliers were working around the clock.
- A major reason for shortages is climate change.
- Causing great damage to large swathes of forest.
- There's a proliferation in the number of pests.
- It is committed to trebling tree planting rates.
- He didn't have time for trees to grow.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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