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Level 5 – 29th May 2023

New York City sinking four millimetres a year

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking-5.html>

New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of all its skyscrapers. The United States Geological Survey calculated New York has around 1,080,000 buildings. They weigh around 764 billion kilograms. There is additional weight from furniture, the transport infrastructure, and the weight of the city's 8.5 million inhabitants. Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual sinking and rising sea levels could make New York prone to natural disasters. He said new high-rise buildings could increase flood risks, especially along coasts and rivers.

The researchers compared New York City to Venice and Jakarta. Venice is experiencing more floods despite its new \$5.3 billion system of sea walls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from scratch because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. Dr Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end up with subsidence." He said New York was typical of a place where many people move to and then has a high concentration of new buildings.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/23/nyregion/nyc-sinking.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230523-new-yorks-skyscrapers-are-causing-it-to-sink-what-can-be-done-about-it>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/23/world/nyc-sinking-sea-level-climate-scen/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. New York City is sinking by up | a. million inhabitants |
| 2. under the weight of | b. 1,080,000 buildings |
| 3. New York has around | c. infrastructure |
| 4. They weigh around | d. all its skyscrapers |
| 5. the transport | e. increase flood risks |
| 6. the weight of the city's 8.5 | f. 764 billion kilograms |
| 7. new high-rise buildings could | g. and rivers |
| 8. especially along coasts | h. to four millimetres |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Venice is experiencing | a. people move to |
| 2. its new \$5.3 billion system | b. live in cities |
| 3. building a new capital city | c. of new buildings |
| 4. the world's population will | d. more floods |
| 5. you end up | e. was typical |
| 6. He said New York | f. from scratch |
| 7. a place where many | g. with subsidence |
| 8. a high concentration | h. of sea walls |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking-5.html>

New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year (1) _____ of all its skyscrapers. The United States Geological Survey calculated New York has around 1,080,000 buildings. (2) _____ 764 billion kilograms. There is additional (3) _____, the transport infrastructure, and the weight of the city's 8.5 million inhabitants. Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual (4) _____ sea levels could make New York (5) _____ disasters. He said new high-rise buildings could increase flood risks, especially (6) _____ rivers.

The researchers compared New York City to Venice and Jakarta. Venice is experiencing (7) _____ its new \$5.3 billion (8) _____ walls. Indonesia is building a new capital (9) _____ because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will (10) _____ by 2050. Dr Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end (11) _____." He said New York was typical of a place where many people move to and then has (12) _____ of new buildings.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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NEW YORK CITY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about New York City 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking-5.html>

Write about **New York City** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
