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## Level 6

### Australia to dump sludge in Great Barrier Reef

4th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia's government has approved a plan to dump massive amounts of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from a project to expand a coal port at Abbot Point, on the coast near the reef. The decision to give the go-ahead to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in December. It has caused environmentalists to be up in arms about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is outrageous to put corporate profits ahead of such an important marine environment. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral.

The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to limit the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its delicate ecosystems by bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue. Greenpeace warned that the dumping, "is one more body blow for the Reef which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage status and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision marked, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/01/31/world/asia/great-barrier-reef-dump-approved/>  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/grief-for-great-barrier-reef-say-environmentalists-20140131-31sjj.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Barrier\\_Reef](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Barrier_Reef)

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE GREAT BARRIER REEF:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the *Great Barrier Reef*. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*approved / plan / project / Great Barrier Reef / environmentalists / up in arms / profits / system / protection / fishing / tourism / delicate / marine life / decision / sad day*

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

**3. WHAT WOULD THEY SAY?:** What would these people say about the plan to pour 3 million cubic meters of mud into the Great Barrier Reef? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they'd say	Do you agree?
The coal mine CEO		
A marine biologist		
A scuba-diving tourist		
Greenpeace		
A reef tour operator		
Australia's leader		

**4. PROFITS?:** Students A **strongly** believe profits are more important than the environment; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. GREAT BARRIER REEF JOBS:** Rank these and share with your partner. Put the most important jobs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fisherman
- marine biologist
- Greenpeace activist
- scuba-diving teacher
- environmental scientist
- coal mine CEO
- underwater photographer
- reef security

**6. MUD:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "mud". 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/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Australia's government wants to stop a mine putting mud in the reef.  | T / F |
| b. Australia's Environment Minister approved the dumping plan.           | T / F |
| c. Environmentalists are worried it will cost an arm and a leg.          | T / F |
| d. Around 3 million cubic metres of sludge will be poured into the reef. | T / F |
| e. The reef covers an area of approximately 2,600 square kilometres.     | T / F |
| f. The sun is already bleaching and killing coral.                       | T / F |
| g. The reef generates about \$3 million a year through tourism.          | T / F |
| h. Greenpeace said the decision was a body blow for the reef.            | T / F |

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

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. approved   | a. green light |
| 2. expand     | b. fragile     |
| 3. go-ahead   | c. spans       |
| 4. up in arms | d. develop     |
| 5. outrageous | e. OK'd        |
| 6. stretches  | f. endangers   |
| 7. receives   | g. shocking    |
| 8. delicate   | h. represented |
| 9. threatens  | i. angry       |
| 10. marked    | j. gets        |

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

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. approved                           | a. be up in arms          |
| 2. dump massive                       | b. 344,400 square km      |
| 3. The decision to give               | c. amounts of sludge      |
| 4. It has caused environmentalists to | d. a sad day for the reef |
| 5. 3 million cubic                    | e. a plan                 |
| 6. approximately                      | f. delicate ecosystems    |
| 7. limit the impact                   | g. meters of mud          |
| 8. damaging its                       | h. blow for the Reef      |
| 9. one more body                      | i. of fishing and tourism |
| 10. the decision marked               | j. the go-ahead           |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia's government has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a plan to dump massive amounts of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from a project to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a coal port at Abbot Point, on the coast near the reef. The decision to give the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in December. It has caused environmentalists to be up in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to put corporate profits ahead of such an important (6) \_\_\_\_\_ environment. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be (7) \_\_\_\_\_ into the reef's waters. Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*coral*  
*outrageous*  
*go-ahead*  
*approved*  
*marine*  
*expand*  
*poured*  
*arms*

The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef (9) \_\_\_\_\_. It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an area of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 344,400 square kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its (12) \_\_\_\_\_ ecosystems by bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in (13) \_\_\_\_\_ revenue. Greenpeace warned that the dumping, "is one more (14) \_\_\_\_\_ blow for the Reef which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision (16) \_\_\_\_\_, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".

*status*  
*approximately*  
*tourism*  
*system*  
*limit*  
*marked*  
*delicate*  
*body*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

- 1) Australia's government has approved a plan to dump massive \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. amount of sludge
  - b. amounts of sludge
  - c. a mounts of sludge
  - d. a mount of sludge
- 2) The mud will come from a project to expand \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a coal port
  - b. a coal part
  - c. a coal pert
  - d. a coal post
- 3) It has caused environmentalists to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be up in alms
  - b. be up in arms
  - c. be up in aims
  - d. be up in arm
- 4) it is outrageous to put corporate profits ahead of such an important \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. mariner environment
  - b. mariners environment
  - c. marring environment
  - d. marine environment
- 5) Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of any coral
  - b. of any corral
  - c. of any quarrels
  - d. of any quarrel
- 6) It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an area of approximately \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. 344,400 squared km
  - b. 344,400 squares km
  - c. 344,400 squarely km
  - d. 344,400 square km
- 7) limit the impact of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fishing and tourist
  - b. fish in and tourism
  - c. fishing and tourism
  - d. fish and tourists
- 8) Climate change is already damaging its \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. deli cat ecosystems
  - b. delicacy ecosystems
  - c. dedicate ecosystems
  - d. delicate ecosystems
- 9) The reef creates \$3 billion a year in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tourism revenues
  - b. tourist revenue
  - c. tourism revenue
  - d. tourist revenues
- 10) The World Wildlife Fund said the decision \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. harked a sad day
  - b. marked a sad day
  - c. barked a sad day
  - d. parked a sad day

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia's government has approved a plan to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from a project to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ at Abbot Point, on the coast near the reef. The decision to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in December. It has caused environmentalists to be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They (5) \_\_\_\_\_ put corporate profits ahead of such an important marine environment. About 3 million (6) \_\_\_\_\_ will be poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral.

The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 344,400 square kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its (9) \_\_\_\_\_ by bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue. Greenpeace warned that the dumping, "is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for the Reef which further threatens marine life, its (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision marked, "a sad day for the reef and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ about its future".

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

1. What is being expanded?

---

2. Who gave the green light for the project?

---

3. What was the reaction of environmentalists?

---

4. What do environmentalists think is being put before the environment?

---

5. How much sludge will end up in the Great Barrier Reef?

---

6. How big is the Great Barrier Reef?

---

7. What is climate change doing to the coral?

---

8. How much money does the reef generate in tourism?

---

9. Who said the plan to dump the sludge was a "body blow" for the reef?

---

10. What kind of day did the World Wildlife Fund say it was?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

1. What is being expanded?
  - a) the reef
  - b) environmental protection plans
  - c) a coal port
  - d) coral
2. Who gave the green light for the project?
  - a) Australia's Environment Minister
  - b) Greenpeace
  - c) the local fishing industry
  - d) a scuba-diving operator
3. What was the reaction of environmentalists?
  - a) they were out of their heads
  - b) they were up in arms
  - c) they were up to their neck
  - d) they were all fingers and toes
4. What do environmentalists think is being put before the environment?
  - a) the environment
  - b) fish
  - c) decisions
  - d) profits
5. How much sludge will end up in the Great Barrier Reef?
  - a) 300,000 sq metres
  - b) 30,000,000 cubic metres
  - c) About 3 million m<sup>3</sup>
  - d) 344,400 square kilometres
6. How big is the Great Barrier Reef?
  - a) 344,400 km<sup>3</sup>
  - b) 344,400 km<sup>2</sup>
  - c) 344,400 cubic kilometres
  - d) 344,400 circular kilometres
7. What is climate change doing to the coral?
  - a) flattening it
  - b) making it bigger
  - c) diversifying it
  - d) bleaching it
8. How much money does the reef generate in tourism?
  - a) \$30,000 a week
  - b) \$3 billion a year
  - c) \$300,000,000 a year
  - d) \$3 million a day
9. Who said the plan to dump the sludge was a "body blow" for the reef?
  - a) Friends of Nemo
  - b) Greenpeace
  - c) a tour operator
  - d) The World Wildlife Fund
10. What kind of day did the World Wildlife Fund say it was?
  - a) a sad one
  - b) a windy one
  - c) a calamitous one
  - d) one to visit the reef

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

## **Role A – Marine biologist**

You think a marine biologist is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): a Greenpeace activist, an underwater photographer or a scuba-diving teacher.

## **Role B – Greenpeace activist**

You think a Greenpeace activist is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): a marine biologist, an underwater photographer or a scuba-diving teacher.

## **Role C – Underwater photographer**

You think an underwater photographer is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): a Greenpeace activist, a marine biologist or a scuba-diving teacher.

## **Role D – Scuba-diving teacher**

You think a scuba-diving teacher is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): a Greenpeace activist, an underwater photographer or a marine biologist.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

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

<b>barrier</b>	<b>reef</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>• plan</li><li>• near</li><li>• arms</li><li>• ahead</li><li>• waters</li><li>• top</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• area</li><li>• special</li><li>• change</li><li>• year</li><li>• life</li><li>• future</li></ul>
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# THE OCEAN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the ocean 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.

# THE OCEAN 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 'reef'?
- c) What do you think of the plan?
- d) Are you surprised Australia's government OK'd it?
- e) What damage do you think this sludge might cause?
- f) When was the last time you were up in arms about something?
- g) Are environmentalists right to be up in arms about this?
- h) Do you think profits are being put ahead of the environment?
- i) Do you believe the authorities who say sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral?
- j) Why dump in the Great Barrier Reef?

*Australia to dump sludge in Great Barrier Reef – 4th February, 2014*  
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# THE OCEAN DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you know about the Great Barrier Reef?
- c) Why is it important to protect the Great Barrier Reef?
- d) What will the rest of the world think about Australia over this decision?
- e) Should all fishing and tourism be banned on the Great Barrier Reef?
- f) What do you know about the Great Barrier Reef?
- g) How likely is it that the dumpers know what they are doing?
- h) What message would you like to give Australia's Environment Minister?
- i) What do you think the future holds for the Great Barrier Reef?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Australia's Environment Minister?

## **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/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia's government has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a plan to dump massive amounts of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from a project to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a coal port at Abbot Point, on the coast near the reef. The decision to give the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in December. It has caused environmentalists to be up in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is outrageous to put corporate profits (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of such an important marine environment. About 3 million (6) \_\_\_\_\_ meters of mud will be poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral.

The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an area of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 344,400 square kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to limit the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its (9) \_\_\_\_\_ ecosystems by bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue. Greenpeace warned that the dumping, "is one more (10) \_\_\_\_\_ blow for the Reef which further threatens (11) \_\_\_\_\_ life, its World Heritage status and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision (12) \_\_\_\_\_, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".

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

- |     |                  |                  |                 |                   |
|-----|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) approval     | (b) approving    | (c) approved    | (d) approves      |
| 2.  | (a) expand       | (b) expend       | (c) expunge     | (d) expound       |
| 3.  | (a) go-ahead     | (b) get-go       | (c) go-go       | (d) go-between    |
| 4.  | (a) arms         | (b) the clouds   | (c) the air     | (d) smoke         |
| 5.  | (a) front        | (b) ahead        | (c) before      | (d) forward       |
| 6.  | (a) diced        | (b) squared      | (c) circular    | (d) cubic         |
| 7.  | (a) elongates    | (b) lengthens    | (c) stretches   | (d) broadens      |
| 8.  | (a) approximated | (b) approximates | (c) approximate | (d) approximately |
| 9.  | (a) delicate     | (b) delicacy     | (c) dedicate    | (d) dedicated     |
| 10. | (a) body         | (b) head         | (c) foot        | (d) back          |
| 11. | (a) mariner      | (b) marine       | (c) marring     | (d) marinade      |
| 12. | (a) attested     | (b) graded       | (c) marked      | (d) scarred       |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. pardoepva plan
2. aeimssv amounts
3. give the hd-oeag
4. an important ienmar environment
5. About 3 million bciuc meters
6. seArouthtii say the sludge will not be dumped

## Paragraph 2

7. an area of yeatrapmixplo 344,400 square kilometres
8. special oitnteocrp
9. eetdliac ecosystems
10. \$3 billion a year in tourism eereunv
11. its World tgaerHie status
12. tourism and fishing istreuidns

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

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

- ( ) profits ahead of such an important marine environment. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be
- ( **1** ) Australia's government has approved a plan to dump massive amounts of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will
- ( ) The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an
- ( ) ahead to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in
- ( ) marked, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".
- ( ) bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue. Greenpeace warned that the
- ( ) come from a project to expand a coal port at Abbot Point, on the coast near the reef. The decision to give the go-
- ( ) area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to
- ( ) December. It has caused environmentalists to be up in arms about the possible
- ( ) dumping, "is one more body blow for the Reef which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage
- ( ) damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is outrageous to put corporate
- ( ) status and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision
- ( ) poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral.
- ( ) limit the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its delicate ecosystems by

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

1. plan massive sludge a dump of Approved to amounts.

---

2. a project come The coal to from mud port expand a will.

---

3. to decision The dumping the to ahead - go the give.

---

4. arms has to in It environmentalists up caused be.

---

5. meters cubic million 3 About mud of.

---

6. Covering an area of approximately 344,400 square km.

---

7. change delicate is ecosystems already damaging Climate its.

---

8. revenue tourism in year a billion \$3 creates reef The.

---

9. The the body is dumping Reef blow one for more.

---

10. The reef the for day sad a marked decision.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia's government has *approved* / *approval* a plan to dump massive amounts of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from a project to *expend* / *expand* a coal port at Abbot Point, *in* / *on* the coast near the reef. The decision to give the *go-ahead* / *get-go* to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in December. It has caused environmentalists to be *an arm and a leg* / *up in arms* about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is *outlandish* / *outrageous* to put corporate profits *ahead* / *front* of such an important *marine* / *maritime* environment. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured into the reef's *watery* / *waters*. *Authorities* / *Authorises* say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral.

The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef *systematic* / *system*. It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an area of *approximated* / *approximately* 344,400 *square* / *circular* kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to *delimit* / *limit* the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its *delicacy* / *delicate* ecosystems by *bleaching* / *belching* and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in *tourism* / *tourists* revenue. Greenpeace warned that the dumping, "is one more body *brow* / *blow* for the Reef which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage *statues* / *status* and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision *graded* / *marked*, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".

**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/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

\_\_str\_l\_\_'s g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s \_ppr\_v\_d \_ pl\_n t\_ d\_mp  
m\_ss\_v\_\_m\_\_nts \_f sl\_dg\_\_n th\_ Gr\_\_t B\_rr\_\_r R\_\_f.  
Th\_ m\_d w\_ll c\_m\_ fr\_m \_ pr\_j\_ct t\_ \_xp\_nd \_ c\_\_l  
p\_rt \_t \_bb\_t P\_\_nt, \_n th\_ c\_\_st n\_\_r th\_ r\_\_f. Th\_  
d\_c\_s\_\_n t\_ g\_v\_ th\_ g\_-h\_\_d t\_ th\_ d\_mp\_ng \_f th\_  
sl\_dg\_ w\_s m\_d\_ by \_\_str\_l\_\_'s \_nv\_r\_nm\_nt M\_n\_st\_r  
\_n D\_c\_mb\_r. \_t h\_s c\_\_s\_d \_nv\_r\_nm\_nt\_l\_sts t\_ b\_  
\_p \_n \_rms \_b\_\_t th\_ p\_ss\_bl\_ d\_m\_g\_ t\_ th\_ w\_rld's  
l\_rg\_st \_nd m\_st\_f\_m\_\_s c\_r\_l\_r\_\_f. Th\_y s\_y \_t \_s  
\_\_tr\_g\_\_s t\_ p\_t c\_rp\_r\_t\_p\_r\_f\_ts \_h\_\_d \_f\_s\_ch\_n  
\_mp\_rt\_nt m\_r\_n\_ \_nv\_r\_nm\_nt. \_b\_\_t 3 m\_ll\_\_n  
c\_b\_c m\_t\_rs \_f m\_d w\_ll b\_ p\_\_r\_d\_nt\_ th\_ r\_\_f's  
w\_t\_rs. \_\_th\_r\_t\_s\_s\_y th\_ sl\_dg\_ w\_ll n\_t b\_ d\_mp\_d  
\_n t\_p \_f \_ny c\_r\_l.

Th\_ B\_rr\_\_r R\_\_f \_s th\_ w\_rld's l\_rg\_st c\_r\_l\_r\_\_f  
syst\_m. \_t str\_tch\_s \_f\_r \_v\_r 2,600 k\_l\_m\_tr\_s,  
c\_v\_r\_ng \_n \_r\_\_ \_f \_ppr\_x\_m\_t\_ly 344,400 sq\_\_r\_  
k\_l\_m\_tr\_s. \_t r\_c\_\_v\_s sp\_c\_\_l pr\_t\_ct\_\_n fr\_m  
\_\_str\_l\_\_'s g\_v\_rnm\_nt t\_l\_m\_t th\_ \_mp\_ct \_f f\_sh\_ng  
\_nd t\_r\_sm. Cl\_m\_t\_ch\_ng\_\_s \_lr\_\_dy d\_m\_g\_ng \_ts  
d\_l\_c\_t\_\_c\_syst\_ms by bl\_\_ch\_ng \_nd k\_ll\_ng th\_  
c\_r\_l. Th\_ r\_\_f cr\_\_t\_s \$3 b\_ll\_\_n \_y\_\_r \_n t\_r\_sm  
r\_v\_n\_\_. Gr\_\_np\_c\_ w\_rn\_d th\_t th\_ d\_mp\_ng, "\_s  
\_n\_m\_r\_ b\_dy bl\_w \_f\_r th\_ R\_\_f wh\_ch \_rth\_r  
thr\_\_t\_ns m\_r\_n\_l\_f\_, \_ts W\_rld H\_r\_t\_g\_st\_t\_s \_nd  
\_\_str\_l\_\_'s t\_r\_sm \_nd f\_sh\_ng \_nd\_str\_\_s". Th\_  
W\_rld W\_ldl\_f\_F\_nds\_s\_\_d th\_ d\_c\_s\_\_n m\_rk\_d, "\_s\_d  
d\_y \_f\_r th\_ r\_\_f \_nd \_ny\_n\_ wh\_ c\_r\_s \_b\_\_t \_ts  
f\_t\_r\_".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

australia's government has approved a plan to dump massive amounts of sludge in the great barrier reef the mud will come from a project to expand a coal port at abbot point on the coast near the reef the decision to give the go-ahead to the dumping of the sludge was made by australia's environment minister in december it has caused environmentalists to be up in arms about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef they say it is outrageous to put corporate profits ahead of such an important marine environment about 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured into the reef's waters authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral

the barrier reef is the world's largest coral reef system it stretches for over 2600 kilometres covering an area of approximately 344400 square kilometres it receives special protection from australia's government to limit the impact of fishing and tourism climate change is already damaging its delicate ecosystems by bleaching and killing the coral the reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue greenpeace warned that the dumping "is one more body blow for the reef which further threatens marine life its world heritage status and australia's tourism and fishing industries" the world wildlife fund said the decision marked "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140204-great-barrier-reef.html>

Australia's government has approved a plan to dump a massive amount of sludge in the Great Barrier Reef. The mud will come from a project to expand a coal port at Abbot Point, on the coast near the reef. The decision to give the go-ahead to the dumping of the sludge was made by Australia's Environment Minister in December. It has caused environmentalists to be up in arms about the possible damage to the world's largest and most famous coral reef. They say it is outrageous to put corporate profit ahead of such an important marine environment. About 3 million cubic meters of mud will be poured into the reef's waters. Authorities say the sludge will not be dumped on top of any coral. The Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. It stretches for over 2,600 kilometres, covering an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres. It receives special protection from Australia's government to limit the impact of fishing and tourism. Climate change is already damaging its delicate ecosystems by bleaching and killing the coral. The reef creates \$3 billion a year in tourism revenue. Greenpeace warned that the dumping, "is one more body blow for the Reef which further threatens marine life, its World Heritage status and Australia's tourism and fishing industries". The World Wildlife Fund said the decision marked, "a sad day for the reef and anyone who cares about its future".





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

**3. DANGERS:** Make a poster about the dangers the oceans face from human activity. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. GREAT BARRIER REEF:** Write a magazine article about the Great Barrier Reef and the dumping. Include imaginary interviews with the CEO of the port, a Greenpeace official and a fish who lives in the reef.

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 Australia's Environment Minister. Ask him three questions about the dumping. Give him three pieces of advice on what to do from now. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. approved   | a. OK'd        |
| 2. expand     | b. develop     |
| 3. go-ahead   | c. green light |
| 4. up in arms | d. angry       |
| 5. outrageous | e. shocking    |
| 6. stretches  | f. spans       |
| 7. receives   | g. gets        |
| 8. delicate   | h. fragile     |
| 9. threatens  | i. endangers   |
| 10. marked    | j. represented |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A coal port
2. Australia's Environment Minister
3. They were up in arms
4. Profits
5. About 3 million cubic meters
6. Approximately 344,400 square kilometres
7. Bleaching and killing it
8. \$3 billion
9. Greenpeace
10. A sad one

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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