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Level 3

Ebola virus getting worse in Africa

4th July, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

The deadly Ebola virus is getting worse in Africa. More and more people are getting affected. So far, 763 people have the virus, and 468 of these have died. The United Nations said it is the biggest and deadliest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. Most of the deaths have been in Guinea. This is where the outbreak started. People have also died in neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health ministers from African countries are getting increasingly worried about the outbreak. Ministers from 11 countries are meeting in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. They will talk about what they can do to control the situation. They want to stop more people from dying.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said "drastic" action was needed to stop the virus from spreading across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein told reporters the organization was trying to get all countries to work together. He said if everyone helps, "we can get a grip and halt this outbreak". He said this was important because strong trading links between African countries means the virus could easily spread. He said: "We need a strong response, especially along the shared border areas where commercial and social activities continue between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There is no vaccine or cure for it.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-28108668>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/01/ebola-deaths-west-africa_n_5548344.html
<http://www.businessinsider.com/guinea-ebola-outbreak-is-worst-ever-2014-7#ixzz36HGSQlqs>

WARM-UPS

1. VIRUSES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about viruses. 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?

virus / affected / outbreak / neighbouring / worried / capital city / control / situation / drastic action / work together / get a grip / important / trading links / border / vaccine

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

3. OUTBREAK: What advice should governments give if there is a deadly global outbreak? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share often.

Advice re...	Advice	Why?
travel		
medicine		
food		
large groups		
becoming ill		
health		

4. VACCINES: Students A **strongly** believe there will be vaccines for all diseases in the future; Students B **strongly** believe there won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. WORRIES: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put your biggest worries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- outbreaks
- computer viruses
- war
- money
- terrorism
- the environment
- your looks
- your English

6. OUTBREAK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "outbreak". 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/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. So far, the Ebola virus has killed 763 people in Africa. | T / F |
| b. The outbreak is the biggest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. | T / F |
| c. The outbreak is currently spread across three countries. | T / F |
| d. Ministers from all African countries will meet for talks in Ghana. | T / F |
| e. The WHO said drastic action is needed to stop the outbreak spreading. | T / F |
| f. The WHO said the situation could be controlled if everyone helps. | T / F |
| g. The WHO said cross-border trading would stop during the outbreak. | T / F |
| h. There is a vaccine for Ebola but it is very expensive. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. deadly | a. serious |
| 2. died | b. more and more |
| 3. neighbouring | c. reaction |
| 4. increasingly | d. passed away |
| 5. stop | e. stretching |
| 6. drastic | f. lethal |
| 7. spreading | g. remedy |
| 8. links | h. prevent |
| 9. response | i. ties |
| 10. cure | j. next-door |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. More and | a. spreading across Africa |
| 2. Most of the deaths have | b. control the situation |
| 3. countries are getting increasingly | c. to stop |
| 4. what they can do to | d. more people |
| 5. They want to stop more | e. areas |
| 6. stop the virus from | f. been in Guinea |
| 7. we can get a grip and halt | g. or cure for it |
| 8. along the shared border | h. people from dying |
| 9. That's unlikely | i. this outbreak |
| 10. There is no vaccine | j. worried |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

The (1) _____ Ebola virus is getting worse in Africa. More and more people are getting (2) _____. So far, 763 people have the virus, and 468 of these have died. The United Nations said it is the biggest and (3) _____ Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. Most of the (4) _____ have been in Guinea. This is where the (5) _____ started. People have also died in neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health ministers from African countries are getting (6) _____ worried about the outbreak. Ministers from 11 countries are meeting in Accra, the (7) _____ city of Ghana. They will talk about what they can do to control the (8) _____. They want to stop more people from dying.

increasingly
deaths
affected
capital
deadly
situation
deadliest
outbreak

The World Health Organization (WHO) said "drastic" (9) _____ was needed to stop the virus from (10) _____ across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein told reporters the organization was trying to get all (11) _____ to work together. He said if everyone helps, "we can get a grip and (12) _____ this outbreak". He said this was important because strong trading (13) _____ between African countries means the virus could easily spread. He said: "We need a strong (14) _____, especially along the shared border areas where commercial and (15) _____ activities continue between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There is no (16) _____ or cure for it.

response
vaccine
countries
action
halt
social
spreading
links

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

- 1) More and more people are _____
 - a. getting effected
 - b. getting affected
 - c. getting afflicted
 - d. getting effect it
- 2) the biggest and deadliest Ebola outbreak the world _____
 - a. has never seen
 - b. has ever seen
 - c. has even seen
 - d. has even sawn
- 3) Health ministers from African countries are getting _____
 - a. increasingly worried
 - b. increasingly worried
 - c. increasingly worrying
 - d. increasingly worries
- 4) Ministers from 11 countries are meeting in Accra, the _____ Ghana
 - a. capitals city of
 - b. capital cities of
 - c. capital city of
 - d. capital city off
- 5) They will talk about what they can do to _____
 - a. controls the situation
 - b. control a situation
 - c. control the situations
 - d. control the situation
- 6) The World Health Organization (WHO) _____
 - a. said "drastic" action
 - b. said "plastic" action
 - c. said "natsy" action
 - d. said "drastic" action
- 7) He said if everyone helps, "we can get a grip and _____"
 - a. halt this outbreak
 - b. fault this outbreak
 - c. hold this outbreak
 - d. horde this outbreak
- 8) trading links between African countries means the virus _____
 - a. could easily spreads
 - b. could easily spread
 - c. couldn't easily spread
 - d. couldn't easy spread
- 9) We need a strong response, especially along the _____
 - a. shared border area
 - b. shared borders areas
 - c. shared border areas
 - d. shared borders area
- 10) There is no vaccine _____
 - a. or cure for it
 - b. or careful it
 - c. or care for it
 - d. or clue for it

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

The deadly Ebola virus is getting worse in Africa. (1) _____ are getting affected. (2) _____ have the virus, and 468 of these have died. The United Nations said it is the (3) _____ Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. Most of the deaths have been in Guinea. This is where (4) _____. People have also died in neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health ministers from African countries are getting increasingly worried (5) _____. Ministers from 11 countries are meeting in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. They will talk about what they (6) _____ the situation. They want to stop more people from dying.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said "drastic" action was needed to (7) _____ spreading across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein told reporters the organization (8) _____ countries to work together. He said if everyone helps, "we (9) _____ halt this outbreak". He said this was important because strong trading links between African countries means (10) _____ spread. He said: "We need a strong response, especially along the shared border areas where commercial (11) _____ continue between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There (12) _____ cure for it.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

1. How many people have died from the Ebola virus?

2. How big is this outbreak compared to other Ebola outbreaks?

3. Where did the outbreak start?

4. How many countries are sending their health ministers to a meeting?

5. Where will the health ministers' meeting be?

6. What kind of action did the WHO say was needed?

7. What does a WHO spokesman want all countries to do?

8. What links between African countries could spread the virus?

9. What kind of response is needed?

10. What percentage of infected people does the Ebola virus kill?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

1. How many people have died from the Ebola virus?
 - a) 846
 - b) 684
 - c) 468
 - d) 486
2. How big is this outbreak compared to other Ebola outbreaks?
 - a) the biggest ever
 - b) almost as big as the last one
 - c) about half the size
 - d) nowhere near as big
3. Where did the outbreak start?
 - a) Ghana
 - b) Guinea
 - c) Grenada
 - d) Guyana
4. How many countries are sending their health ministers to a meeting?
 - a) 8
 - b) 9
 - c) 10
 - d) 11
5. Where will the health ministers' meeting be?
 - a) Liberia
 - b) Ethiopia
 - c) Ghana
 - d) Sierra Leone
6. What kind of action did the WHO say was needed?
 - a) step-by-step action
 - b) drastic action
 - c) expensive
 - d) urgent action
7. What does a WHO spokesman want all countries to do?
 - a) start a curfew
 - b) provide clean water
 - c) ban travelling
 - d) work together
8. What links between African countries could spread the virus?
 - a) rail links
 - b) trading links
 - c) language links
 - d) family ties
9. What kind of response is needed?
 - a) a carefully planned one
 - b) a strong response
 - c) an international one
 - d) a strange one
10. What percentage of infected people does the Ebola virus kill?
 - a) 90%
 - b) 80%
 - c) 70%
 - d) 60%

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

Role A – Money

You think money is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or hygiene.

Role B – Education

You think education is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): money, a travel ban or hygiene.

Role C – Travel ban

You think a travel ban is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, money or hygiene.

Role D – Hygiene

You think hygiene is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or money.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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

capital	city
----------------	-------------

- 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">• deadly• 468• most• neighbouring• 11• situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• drastic• trying• helps• links• shared• cure
---	--

VIRUSES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

Write five GOOD questions about viruses 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.

VIRUSES 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 'virus'?
- c) What do you know about Ebola?
- d) What have you seen about Ebola on the news?
- e) What would you do if the virus was spreading in your country?
- f) Do you feel safe from viruses where you live?
- g) How much do you worry when you hear about a new virus?
- h) Should there be more information about Ebola on TV?
- i) What can countries do to stop Ebola from spreading?

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VIRUSES DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What "drastic" action could the WHO take?
- c) Should other countries help to halt the spread of Ebola?
- d) What is a virus?
- e) Should the affected countries stop people travelling?
- f) How scary is Ebola?
- g) Have you seen any movies about viruses or outbreaks?
- h) Do you think scientists can find a vaccine for Ebola?
- i) What questions would you like to ask a virus expert?

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/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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The World Health Organization (WHO) said "drastic" action was (7) _____ to stop the virus from spreading across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein told reporters the organization was trying to get (8) _____ countries to work together. He said if everyone helps, "we can get a grip and (9) _____ this outbreak". He said this was important because strong trading links between African countries means the virus could (10) _____ spread. He said: "We need a strong response, especially along the shared border areas where commercial and social activities (11) _____ between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There is no (12) _____ or cure for it.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) worst | (b) worse | (c) waste | (d) what's |
| 2. | (a) dead | (b) died | (c) deaths | (d) death |
| 3. | (a) evens | (b) even | (c) never | (d) ever |
| 4. | (a) neighbours | (b) neighbouring | (c) neighbour | (d) neighbourhood |
| 5. | (a) heightened | (b) increasingly | (c) upped | (d) escalating |
| 6. | (a) station | (b) simulation | (c) situation | (d) stimulation |
| 7. | (a) needy | (b) needful | (c) needed | (d) needing |
| 8. | (a) both | (b) whole | (c) all | (d) every |
| 9. | (a) hate | (b) bolt | (c) fault | (d) halt |
| 10. | (a) easier | (b) easy | (c) eases | (d) easily |
| 11. | (a) continue | (b) ending | (c) progression | (d) moves |
| 12. | (a) itching | (b) injection | (c) vaccine | (d) infection |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

Paragraph 1

1. The aleddy Ebola virus is getting worse
2. More and more people are getting fftecdea
3. This is where the rekutboa started
4. countries are getting lcnesariying worried
5. in Accra, the tacplai city of Ghana
6. what they can do to control the utoansiit

Paragraph 2

7. isadtcr action was needed to stop the virus
8. WHO epsmnkosa Daniel Epstein
9. We need a strong rneossep
10. scoali activities
11. 90 per cent of people who get ecfndtie
12. There is no ciaecny or cure for it

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () spreading across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein told reporters the organization was
- () about what they can do to control the situation. They want to stop more people from dying.
- () to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There is no vaccine or cure for it.
- () in Guinea. This is where the outbreak started. People have also died in neighbouring
- () The World Health Organization (WHO) said "drastic" action was needed to stop the virus from
- () grip and halt this outbreak". He said this was important because strong trading links between
- () trying to get all countries to work together. He said if everyone helps, "we can get a
- () Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health ministers from African countries are getting increasingly
- () deadliest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. Most of the deaths have been
- () worried about the outbreak. Ministers from 11 countries are meeting in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. They will talk
- (**1**) The deadly Ebola virus is getting worse in Africa. More and more people are getting affected. So far,
- () areas where commercial and social activities continue between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely
- () 763 people have the virus, and 468 of these have died. The United Nations said it is the biggest and
- () African countries means the virus could easily spread. He said: "We need a strong response, especially along the shared border

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

1. Ebola getting Africa deadly is in The virus worse.

2. more and More affected getting are people.

3. Ebola the outbreak biggest and It deadliest is.

4. to control the situation Talk about what they can do.

5. more They people want from to dying stop.

6. from spreading Drastic action was needed to stop the virus.

7. get together all countries Trying to to work.

8. a halt get and outbreak can grip this We.

9. Areas continue activities social and commercial where.

10. per up who cent to Ebola get of 90 kills infected people.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

The deadly Ebola virus is getting *worst / worse* in Africa. More and more people are getting *effectted / affected*. So far, 763 people have the virus, and 468 of these have died. The United Nations said it is the *bigger / biggest* and deadliest Ebola outbreak the world has ever *saw / seen*. Most of the deaths have been in Guinea. This is where the outbreak *starting / started*. People have also *died / dying* in neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health ministers from African countries are getting *increasingly / increases* worried about the outbreak. Ministers from 11 countries are *meeting / meet up* in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. They will *talk / say* about what they can do to control the situation. They want to stop more people from *dies / dying*.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said "*drastic*" / "*plastic*" action was needed to stop the virus from *spreads / spreading* across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein *told / spoke* reporters the organization was trying to get *all / both* countries to work together. He said if everyone *helping / helps*, "we can get a grip and *halt / halting* this outbreak". He said this was important because strong *traded / trading* links between African countries means the virus could easily spread. He said: "We need a strong response, *especially / special* along the shared border areas where commercial and *social / socially* activities continue between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There is no vaccine or *cured / cure* for it.

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/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140704-ebola.html>

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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 outbreaks of viruses. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. EBOLA: Write a magazine article about the Ebola virus. Include imaginary interviews with people who are in West Africa.

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 viruses. Ask him/her three questions about Ebola. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stop it spreading. 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 T d F e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. deadly | a. lethal |
| 2. died | b. passed away |
| 3. neighbouring | c. next-door |
| 4. increasingly | d. more and more |
| 5. stop | e. prevent |
| 6. drastic | f. serious |
| 7. spreading | g. stretching |
| 8. links | h. ties |
| 9. response | i. reaction |
| 10. cure | j. remedy |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 468
2. It's the biggest ever
3. Guinea
4. Eleven
5. Accra, Ghana
6. Drastic action
7. Work together
8. Trading links
9. A strong response
10. 90%

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 ;-)