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## Level 3

### Farmers help ease water problems in California

25th May, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1505/150525-water.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/1505/150525-water.html>

The U.S. state of California is going through the worst drought in its history. Water supplies are now at dangerously low levels. The state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water shortages. California farmers have stepped in to do their part in helping to conserve water. California's agriculture sector has agreed to cut back on its water use by 25 per cent. This will be on a voluntary basis. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown to cut water use in cities by 25 per cent. This was introduced as an emergency measure and it made many city residents angry. They did not want to be the only people having to cut back on water.

California's water system serves over 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of farmland. It is the world's largest and most productive water system. It is also one of the most difficult systems because too many people want too little water. There is a great demand for water in the state. Farmers say it is important they get water first because growing food is essential. However, some crops, like almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the most to be able to live. There is also demand from California's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the wealthy people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people by the year 2020.

Sources: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article21701118.html#storylink=cpy>  
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-water-rights-20150522-story.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water\\_in\\_California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_in_California)

# WARM-UPS

**1. WATER:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about water. 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?

*drought / history / levels / shortages / cut back / voluntary / emergency / measure / irrigates / farmland / productive / demand / essential / almond trees / golf courses*

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

**3. WATER SHORTAGES:** How do water shortages affect people and how can problems be overcome? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems	Solutions
Golf courses		
Gardeners		
Restaurants		
Schools		
Homes		
Water parks		

**4. CHARGES:** Students A **strongly** believe there should be higher charges for water use; Students B **strongly** believe water should be free. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. SHORTAGES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things to be short of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- water
- chocolate
- phone battery
- money
- electricity
- sun
- free time
- medicine

**6. DROUGHT:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "drought". 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/1505/150525-water.html>

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. California is suffering from its second worst ever drought.       | T / F |
| b. The California government has not yet passed water shortage laws. | T / F |
| c. California farmers agreed to cut back on water by 25%.            | T / F |
| d. California residents totally understand the 25% cuts.             | T / F |
| e. Over 30 million people use the California water system.           | T / F |
| f. The water system in California is the biggest in the world.       | T / F |
| g. Almond trees need very little water.                              | T / F |
| h. The population of California will be 50 million by 2020.          | T / F |

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

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. worst     | a. deal          |
| 2. prevent   | b. economise     |
| 3. conserve  | c. call          |
| 4. agreement | d. necessary     |
| 5. cut back  | e. most terrible |
| 6. irrigates | f. require       |
| 7. demand    | g. safeguard     |
| 8. essential | h. rich          |
| 9. need      | i. stop          |
| 10. wealthy  | j. waters        |

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

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. going through the worst                | a. sector                 |
| 2. prevent                                | b. back on water          |
| 3. California's agriculture               | c. people                 |
| 4. introduced as an emergency             | d. acres of farmland      |
| 5. the only people having to cut          | e. drought in its history |
| 6. nearly six million                     | f. many golf courses      |
| 7. too many people want                   | g. measure                |
| 8. There is also demand from California's | h. year 2020              |
| 9. wealthy                                | i. water shortages        |
| 10. by the                                | j. too little water       |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

The U.S. state of California is going through the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ drought in its history. Water supplies are now at (2) \_\_\_\_\_ low levels. The state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water shortages. California farmers have stepped in to do their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in helping to conserve water. California's agriculture sector has agreed to cut (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on its water use by 25 per cent. This will be on a voluntary (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown to cut water (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in cities by 25 per cent. This was introduced as an emergency (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and it made many city (8) \_\_\_\_\_ angry. They did not want to be the only people having to cut back on water.

*part*  
*basis*  
*dangerously*  
*measure*  
*worst*  
*use*  
*residents*  
*back*

California's water system serves over 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of (9) \_\_\_\_\_. It is the world's largest and most (10) \_\_\_\_\_ water system. It is also one of the most difficult systems because too many people want too (11) \_\_\_\_\_ water. There is a great (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for water in the state. Farmers say it is important they get water first because growing food is (13) \_\_\_\_\_. However, some crops, like almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the most to be able to live. There is also demand from California's (14) \_\_\_\_\_ golf courses and for the swimming pools of the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the year 2020.

*productive*  
*many*  
*farmland*  
*demand*  
*by*  
*wealthy*  
*little*  
*essential*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

- 1) The U.S. state of California is going through the worst drought \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on its history
  - b. in its history
  - c. and its history
  - d. un its history
- 2) Water supplies are now at dangerously \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lowly levels
  - b. low level
  - c. lowly level
  - d. low levels
- 3) California farmers have stepped in to do their part in helping \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to con serve water
  - b. toucan swerve water
  - c. two can save water
  - d. to conserve water
- 4) California's agriculture sector has agreed to cut back on its water \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. used by 25 per cent
  - b. use by 25 per cent
  - c. uses by 25 per cent
  - d. usage by 25 per cent
- 5) They did not want to be the only people having to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. cutback on water
  - b. cutbacks on water
  - c. cuts back on water
  - d. cut back on water
- 6) California's water system serves over 30 million people and irrigates \_\_\_\_\_ acres
  - a. near six million
  - b. nearly six million
  - c. in early six million
  - d. on early six million
- 7) It is also one of the most difficult systems because too many people \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. want too little water
  - b. want too few water
  - c. want too small water
  - d. want two little water
- 8) Farmers say it is important they get water first because growing \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. food is essential
  - b. food is essentially
  - c. food is essence shall
  - d. food is essence stall
- 9) People in the cities say they need water the most to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be able to live
  - b. bay ball to live
  - c. be able too live
  - d. be able to lives
- 10) California's population will be almost 50 million people \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. buy the year 2020
  - b. bye the year 2020
  - c. bay the year 2020
  - d. by the year 2020

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

The U.S. state of California is going through (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in its history. Water supplies are now (2) \_\_\_\_\_ levels. The state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water shortages. California farmers have stepped (3) \_\_\_\_\_ part in helping to conserve water. California's agriculture sector has agreed (4) \_\_\_\_\_ water use by 25 per cent. This will be on a voluntary basis. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in cities by 25 per cent. This was introduced as an emergency measure and it made many city residents angry. They did not (6) \_\_\_\_\_ only people having to cut back on water.

California's water (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of farmland. It is the world's largest and most productive water system. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the most difficult systems because too many people (9) \_\_\_\_\_ water. There is a great demand for water in the state. Farmers say it is important they get water first because growing (10) \_\_\_\_\_. However, some crops, like almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the most (11) \_\_\_\_\_ live. There is also demand from California's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the wealthy people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

1. How bad is the drought for California, historically?

---

2. How low are the water levels in California?

---

3. Who stepped in to help with the water shortages?

---

4. Who is Jerry Brown?

---

5. Who was angry that the water supply was cut by 25%?

---

6. How many people use California's water system?

---

7. Where is the world's most productive water system?

---

8. Which nut mentioned in the article needs a lot of water to grow?

---

9. What do California's wealthy need water for?

---

10. When will California's population be around 50 million?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

1. How bad is the drought for California, historically?
  - a) not as bad as some
  - b) the worst
  - c) the second worst
  - d) average
2. How low are the water levels in California?
  - a) a little lower than usual
  - b) pretty low
  - c) lower than 10 metres
  - d) dangerously low
3. Who stepped in to help with the water shortages?
  - a) city residents
  - b) gold course owners
  - c) farmers
  - d) water workers
4. Who is Jerry Brown?
  - a) California's governor
  - b) a water conservation professor
  - c) a gold course owner
  - d) a swimming pool company CEO
5. Who was angry that the water supply was cut by 25%?
  - a) gold course owners
  - b) city residents
  - c) water companies
  - d) farmers
6. How many people use California's water system?
  - a) more than 30,000,000
  - b) just under 30 million
  - c) over 3,000,000
  - d) around 300,000
7. Where is the world's most productive water system?
  - a) Brazil
  - b) Germany
  - c) California
  - d) Japan
8. Which nut mentioned in the article needs a lot of water to grow?
  - a) the almond
  - b) the peanut
  - c) the cashew
  - d) the macadamia
9. What do California's wealthy need water for?
  - a) air conditioning
  - b) water parks
  - c) washing Ferraris
  - d) swimming pools
10. When will California's population be around 50 million?
  - a) May 2020
  - b) just after 2020
  - c) by 2020
  - d) in 2020

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

## **Role A – Water**

You think water is the worst thing to be short of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why being short of their things isn't so good. Also, tell the others which of these can you do without most (and why): money, free time or sunlight.

## **Role B – Money**

You think money is the worst thing to be short of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why being short of their things isn't so good. Also, tell the others which of these can you do without most (and why): water, free time is or sunlight.

## **Role C – Free time**

You think free time is the worst thing to be short of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why being short of their things isn't so good. Also, tell the others which of these can you do without most (and why): money, water or sunlight.

## **Role D – Sunlight**

You think sunlight is the worst thing to be short of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why being short of their things isn't so good. Also, tell the others which of these can you do without most (and why): money, free time or water.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

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

<b>low</b>	<b>level</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>• worst</li><li>• low</li><li>• part</li><li>• agreed</li><li>• move</li><li>• only</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30</li><li>• 6</li><li>• little</li><li>• food</li><li>• live</li><li>• by</li></ul>
---	--

# WATER SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

Write five GOOD questions about water 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.

# WATER 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 'water'?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) What would you do if water was in short supply?
- e) Should we pay more for water so we don't waste it?
- f) Why should farmers have to cut the amount of water they use?
- g) What would happen if your water supply was cut by 25%?
- h) How could you cut back on water?
- i) Should companies stop producing bottled water?
- j) What will the water situation be like in 50 years from now?

*Farmers help ease water problems in California – 25th May, 2015*  
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# WATER DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What can California do to solve its drought problem?
- c) Should California ration its water?
- d) Is it easy to taste the difference between bottled and tap water?
- e) Should water be free for everyone?
- f) What do you think of swimming pools in a water shortage?
- g) Should golf courses be banned from using water?
- h) Do you think there will be water wars in the future?
- i) Someone once said water is the only drink for a wise man. Do you agree?
- j) What questions would you like to ask California's governor?

## **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/1505/150525-water.html>

The U.S. state of California is going (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the worst drought in its history. Water supplies are now at (2) \_\_\_\_\_ low levels. The state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water shortages. California farmers have stepped (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to do their part (4) \_\_\_\_\_ helping to conserve water. California's agriculture sector has agreed to cut back on its water use by 25 per cent. This will be on a voluntary (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown to cut water use in cities by 25 per cent. This was introduced as an emergency measure and it (6) \_\_\_\_\_ many city residents angry. They did not want to be the only people having to cut back on water.

California's water system (7) \_\_\_\_\_ over 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of farmland. It is the world's largest and most (8) \_\_\_\_\_ water system. It is also one of the most difficult systems because too many people want too little water. There is a great (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for water in the state. Farmers say it is important they get water first because growing food is essential. However, some crops, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to be able to live. There is also demand from California's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the wealthy people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the year 2020.

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

- |     |                |                |                |                  |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) though     | (b) threw      | (c) thou       | (d) through      |
| 2.  | (a) dangers    | (b) danger     | (c) endangered | (d) dangerously  |
| 3.  | (a) on         | (b) in         | (c) by         | (d) over         |
| 4.  | (a) on         | (b) as         | (c) in         | (d) to           |
| 5.  | (a) basis      | (b) ratio      | (c) frame      | (d) formula      |
| 6.  | (a) made       | (b) did        | (c) went       | (d) created      |
| 7.  | (a) service    | (b) servers    | (c) severs     | (d) serves       |
| 8.  | (a) productive | (b) production | (c) produces   | (d) productively |
| 9.  | (a) supply     | (b) demand     | (c) ask        | (d) order        |
| 10. | (a) similar    | (b) akin       | (c) like       | (d) as           |
| 11. | (a) more       | (b) many       | (c) most       | (d) much         |
| 12. | (a) of         | (b) by         | (c) at         | (d) as           |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. the worst rthdgou in its history
2. water ilsepsup
3. etveprn water shortages
4. on a olrantyuv basis
5. introduced as an eyregenm measure
6. it made many city trsieedns angry

## Paragraph 2

7. California's water symtse
8. most duoivceptr
9. There is a great dnmdae for water
10. growing food is asiestnel
11. talwehy people
12. California's tplonaipuo



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

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

- ( ) live. There is also demand from California's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the wealthy
- ( ) by 25 per cent. This was introduced as an emergency measure and it made many city residents
- ( ) California's water system serves over 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of
- ( ) sector has agreed to cut back on its water use by 25 per cent. This will be on a voluntary
- ( ) state. Farmers say it is important they get water first because growing food is essential. However, some crops,
- ( ) difficult systems because too many people want too little water. There is a great demand for water in the
- ( ) basis. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown to cut water use in cities
- ( ) farmland. It is the world's largest and most productive water system. It is also one of the most
- ( ) like almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the most to be able to
- ( ) dangerously low levels. The state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water
- ( ) angry. They did not want to be the only people having to cut back on water.
- ( **1** ) The U.S. state of California is going through the worst drought in its history. Water supplies are now at
- ( ) people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people by the year 2020.
- ( ) shortages. California farmers have stepped in to do their part in helping to conserve water. California's agriculture

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

1. drought in its history California is going through the worst .

---

2. supplies low are levels now at Water dangerously .

---

3. part farmers in their California stepped do have to .

---

4. This measure emergency an as introduced was .

---

5. only They want the not be people did to .

---

6. people many Too water little too want .

---

7. is get it they first say important water Farmers .

---

8. water a trees , lot , like Some of need almond crops .

---

9. demand many also California's courses is from golf There .

---

10. the 50 year million 2020 people by Almost .

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

The U.S. *stated / state* of California is going through the worst *draught / drought* in its history. Water supplies are now *by / at* dangerously low levels. The state government has introduced many *laws / law* to try to prevent water *shortages / shorts*. California farmers have stepped in to do their *partner / part* in helping to conserve water. California's agriculture sector has agreed to cut *forward / back* on its water use by 25 per cent. This will be on a voluntary *base / basis*. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown to cut water *using / use* in cities by 25 per cent. This was introduced as an emergency *measure / measures* and it made many city residents angry. They did not want to be the only people having to cut back *on / in* water.

California's water system *service / serves* over 30 million people and *irrigates / irrigation* nearly six million acres of farmland. It is the world's largest and *must / most* productive water system. It is also one of the most difficult systems because too many people want *two / too* little water. There is a great demand for water *on / in* the state. Farmers say it is important they get water first because *growing / growth* food is essential. However, some crops, *like / likely* almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the most to be *able / ability* to live. There is also demand from California's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the *wealthy / wealth* people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people *by / at* the year 2020.

**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/1505/150525-water.html>

Th\_ \_ .S. st\_t\_ \_ f C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_ \_s g\_\_ng thr\_\_gh th\_ w\_rst dr\_\_ght \_n \_ts h\_st\_ry. W\_t\_r s\_ppl\_\_s \_r\_n\_w \_t d\_ng\_r\_\_sly l\_w l\_v\_ls. Th\_ st\_t\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s \_ntr\_d\_c\_d m\_ny l\_ws t\_ try t\_ pr\_v\_nt w\_t\_r sh\_rt\_g\_s. C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_ f\_rmr\_s h\_v\_ st\_pp\_d \_n t\_d\_ th\_\_r p\_rt \_n h\_lp\_ng t\_ c\_nsrv\_ w\_t\_r. C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_'s \_gr\_c\_ltr\_s ct\_r h\_s \_gr\_\_d t\_ c\_t\_b\_ck \_n\_ts w\_t\_r \_s\_ by 25 p\_r\_c\_nt. Th\_s w\_ll b\_ \_n \_v\_l\_nt\_ry b\_s\_s. Th\_ \_gr\_\_m\_nt f\_ll\_ws \_ m\_v\_ by C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_'s g\_v\_rn\_r J\_rry Br\_wn t\_ c\_t\_w\_t\_r\_s \_n c\_t\_\_s by 25 p\_r\_c\_nt. Th\_s w\_s \_ntr\_d\_c\_d \_s \_n \_mrgncy m\_\_s\_r\_ \_nd \_t m\_d\_ m\_ny c\_ty r\_s\_d\_nts \_ngry. Th\_y d\_d n\_t w\_nt t\_b\_ th\_ \_nly p\_\_pl\_ h\_v\_ng t\_ c\_t\_b\_ck \_n w\_t\_r.

C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_'s w\_t\_r syst\_m s\_rv\_s \_v\_r 30 m\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ \_nd \_rr\_g\_t\_s n\_\_rly s\_x m\_ll\_\_n \_cr\_s \_f f\_rml\_nd. \_t \_s th\_ w\_rld's l\_rg\_st \_nd m\_st pr\_d\_ct\_v\_ w\_t\_r syst\_m. \_t \_s \_ls\_ \_n \_f th\_ m\_st d\_ff\_c\_ltr syst\_ms b\_c\_\_s\_ t\_\_ m\_ny p\_\_pl\_ w\_nt t\_\_ lttl\_w\_t\_r. Th\_r\_\_s \_gr\_\_t d\_m\_nd f\_r w\_t\_r \_n th\_ st\_t\_. F\_rmr\_s s\_y \_t \_s \_mp\_rtn\_t th\_y g\_t w\_t\_r f\_rst b\_c\_\_s\_ gr\_w\_ng f\_\_d \_s \_ss\_nt\_\_l. H\_w\_v\_r, s\_m\_ cr\_ps, l\_k\_ \_lm\_nd tr\_\_s, n\_\_d \_l\_t\_f w\_t\_r. P\_\_pl\_ \_n th\_ c\_t\_\_s s\_y th\_y n\_\_d w\_t\_r th\_ m\_st t\_b\_ \_bl\_ t\_ l\_v\_. Th\_r\_\_s \_ls\_ d\_m\_nd fr\_m C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_'s m\_ny g\_lf c\_\_rs\_s \_nd f\_r th\_ sw\_mm\_ng p\_\_ls \_f th\_ w\_\_lthy p\_\_pl\_ \_n th\_ st\_t\_. C\_l\_f\_rn\_\_'s p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n w\_ll b\_ \_lm\_st 50 m\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ by th\_y\_\_r 2020.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

the us state of california is going through the worst drought in its history water supplies are now at dangerously low levels the state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water shortages california farmers have stepped in to do their part in helping to conserve water california's agriculture sector has agreed to cut back on its water use by 25 per cent this will be on a voluntary basis the agreement follows a move by california's governor jerry brown to cut water use in cities by 25 per cent this was introduced as an emergency measure and it made many city residents angry they did not want to be the only people having to cut back on water

california's water system serves over 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of farmland it is the world's largest and most productive water system it is also one of the most difficult systems because too many people want too little water there is a great demand for water in the state farmers say it is important they get water first because growing food is essential however some crops like almond trees need a lot of water people in the cities say they need water the most to be able to live there is also demand from california's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the wealthy people in the state california's population will be almost 50 million people by the year 2020

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150525-water.html>

The U.S. state of California is going through the worst drought in its history. Water supplies are now at dangerously low levels. The state government has introduced many laws to try to prevent water shortages. California farmers have stepped in to do their part in helping to conserve water. California's agriculture sector has agreed to cut back on its water use by 25 percent. This will be on a voluntary basis. The agreement follows a move by California's governor Jerry Brown to cut water use in cities by 25 percent. This was introduced as an emergency measure and it made many city residents angry. They did not want to be the only people having to cut back on water. California's water system serves over 30 million people and irrigates nearly six million acres of farmland. It is the world's largest and most productive water system. It is also one of the most difficult systems because so many people want too little water. There is a great demand for water in the state. Farmers say it is important that they get water first because growing food is essential. However, some crops, like almond trees, need a lot of water. People in the cities say they need water the most to be able to live. There is also demand from California's many golf courses and for the swimming pools of the wealthy people in the state. California's population will be almost 50 million people by the year 2020.







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

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

**4. DROUGHT:** Write a magazine article about the drought in California. Include imaginary interviews with people who think water should be more expensive to use and with people who think it should be free.

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 water. Ask him/her three questions about water. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can conserve water better. 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 F    c T    d F    e T    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. worst     | a. most terrible |
| 2. prevent   | b. stop          |
| 3. conserve  | c. safeguard     |
| 4. agreement | d. deal          |
| 5. cut back  | e. economise     |
| 6. irrigates | f. waters        |
| 7. demand    | g. call          |
| 8. essential | h. necessary     |
| 9. need      | i. require       |
| 10. wealthy  | j. rich          |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The worst
2. Dangerously low
3. Farmers
4. California's governor
5. City residents
6. Over 30 million
7. California
8. The almond
9. Swimming pools
10. By the year 2020

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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