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Level 1 – 28th September, 2018

French fries will be 3cm shorter

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180928-potato-shortage-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180928-potato-shortage-1.html>

Europe grew a lot fewer potatoes this summer. This means French fries will be up to 3cm shorter than usual. Europe had a very hot summer. It had a long heatwave, record high temperatures and very little rain, so farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes. A potato growers' spokesman in Belgium said this increased potato prices. It also made the average size of potatoes smaller. Smaller potatoes means French fries will be shorter.

The potato shortage is a hot topic in Belgium. Fries are Belgium's national dish. There are over 5,000 shops there that sell fries. Belgians call them "Belgian fries" because they say the fry was invented in Belgium. Belgium exports lots of frozen fries. The spokesman explained why fries would be shorter. He said long fries of 8 to 9 cm need potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm. This summer's smaller potatoes means fries will be shorter.

Sources: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/experience/2018/09/23/french-fries-likely-lose-inch-europe/1406665002/>
<https://potatonewstoday.com/2018/09/21/british-chips-to-become-much-shorter/>
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/09/18/british-chips-3cm-shorter-usual-belgian-potatoes-hit-dry-hot/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180928-potato-shortage-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. French fries will be up | a. rain |
| 2. Europe had a very | b. prices |
| 3. record high | c. hot summer |
| 4. very little | d. of potatoes |
| 5. farmers grew 25 per cent | e. temperatures |
| 6. A potato growers' | f. fewer potatoes |
| 7. this increased potato | g. spokesman |
| 8. the average size | h. to 3cm shorter |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The potato shortage is a hot | a. dish |
| 2. Fries are Belgium's national | b. potatoes |
| 3. Belgium exports lots | c. 8 to 9 cm |
| 4. explained why fries | d. shorter |
| 5. long fries of | e. of frozen fries |
| 6. a diameter | f. would be shorter |
| 7. This summer's smaller | g. topic in Belgium |
| 8. fries will be | h. of more than 50mm |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180928-potato-shortage-1.html>

Europe (1) _____ fewer potatoes this summer. This means French fries (2) _____ to 3cm (3) _____. Europe had a very hot summer. It had a long heatwave, record high temperatures and (4) _____, so farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes. A potato growers' spokesman in Belgium said this (5) _____. It also made the average size of potatoes smaller. Smaller potatoes means French fries (6) _____.

The potato shortage is (7) _____ in Belgium. Fries are Belgium's national dish. (8) _____ 5,000 shops there that sell fries. Belgians call them "Belgian fries" because they say the fry (9) _____ Belgium. Belgium exports lots (10) _____. The spokesman explained why fries would be shorter. He said long fries of 8 to 9 cm need potatoes with (11) _____ more than 50mm. This summer's smaller potatoes (12) _____ be shorter.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180928-potato-shortage-1.html>

Europe grew a lot fewer potatoes this summer. This means French fries will be up to 3cm shorter than usual. Europe had a very hot summer. It had a long heatwave, record high temperatures and very little rain, so farmers grew 25 percent fewer potatoes. A potato growers' spokesman in Belgium said this increased potato prices. It also made the average size of potatoes smaller. Smaller potatoes means French fries will be shorter. The potato shortage is a hot topic in Belgium. Fries are Belgium's national dish. There are over 5,000 shops there that sell fries. Belgians call them "Belgian fries" because they say the fry was invented in Belgium. Belgium exports lots of frozen fries. The spokesman explained why fries would be shorter. He said long fries of 8 to 9cm need potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm. This summer's smaller potatoes means fries will be shorter.

POTATOES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180928-potato-shortage-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about potatoes 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) _____

