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**Level 3 – 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.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

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

A poor potato harvest in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than usual. The poor harvest is because of the very hot summer Europe had. There were record hot temperatures in many countries. The heatwave caused a lack of rain, which meant farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal. The effect of this is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller at the moment, we will all be eating smaller chips."

Belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a big talking point. Fries are the national dish in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries specializing in fries. Belgians love their fries so much that there is a campaign to rename them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented in their country. Belgium is one of the largest exporters of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries would be shorter. He said: "Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the 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/>

# WARM-UPS

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

poor / harvest / centimeters / temperatures / heatwave / potatoes / effect / prices / shortage / national dish / specializing / campaign / frozen fries / exporters / time

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

**3. FRENCH FRIES:** Students A **strongly** believe French fries are one of the best foods in the world; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. FOOD:** How tasty and useful are these different foods? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Tastiness	Usefulness
Potatoes		
Eggs		
Bread		
Rice		
Tomatoes		
Onions		

**5. HARVEST:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "harvest". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. POTATO DISHES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best potato dishes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- French fries
- Mashed potato
- Roast potato
- Hash browns
- Baked potato
- Potato salad
- Potato pancakes
- Boiled potatoes

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1. poor     | a. The most, biggest, best, worst, smallest, biggest, fastest, etc. of something.          |
| 2. harvest  | b. A change on one thing because of another thing.   |
| 3. record   | c. Worse than is usual, expected, or wanted; of a lower standard or quality.               |
| 4. heatwave | d. The process or period of cutting and collecting vegetables, fruit and wheat, rice, etc. |
| 5. lack     | e. A long, long period of very, very hot weather.  |
| 6. effect   | f. There not being enough of something.  |
| 7. average  | g. Usual, normal, standard.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. shortage      | h. Created or designed something that has not existed before.                |
| 9. national dish | i. A state or situation in which something is not there in enough amounts.   |
| 10. campaign     | j. As an alternative (a different choice) for something.                     |
| 11. instead of   | k. Things that one country sells to another or others.                       |
| 12. invented     | l. The food that a country decides is its most famous or best loved.         |
| 13. exports      | m. A straight line passing from side to side through the center of a circle. |
| 14. diameter     | n. An organized course of action to achieve a particular goal.               |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. French fries will be shorter because of poor potato harvests in the USA. **T / F**
- b. Farmers in Europe produced 25% fewer potatoes than usual. **T / F**
- c. The price of potatoes has increased and potatoes have got smaller. **T / F**
- d. French fries will be smaller because potatoes are smaller. **T / F**
- e. French fries are the national dish in Belgium. **T / F**
- f. There are 15,000 places that sell fries in Belgium. **T / F**
- g. People in Belgium prefer the name 'French fries'. **T / F**
- h. Potatoes with a diameter of 50mm give fries that are 18cm long. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>poor</b>      | a. drive     |
| 2. <b>usual</b>     | b. result    |
| 3. <b>lack</b>      | c. because   |
| 4. <b>effect</b>    | d. shortage  |
| 5. <b>average</b>   | e. described |
| 6. <b>dish</b>      | f. bad       |
| 7. <b>campaign</b>  | g. as a rule |
| 8. <b>explained</b> | h. standard  |
| 9. <b>generally</b> | i. food      |
| 10. <b>as</b>       | j. normal    |

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

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A poor potato                      | a. of 8 to 9 cm        |
| 2. three centimeters shorter          | b. of rain             |
| 3. There were record hot temperatures | c. size of potatoes    |
| 4. The heatwave caused a lack         | d. than usual          |
| 5. the average                        | e. "Belgian fries"     |
| 6. the potato shortage is             | f. more than 50mm      |
| 7. there is a campaign to rename them | g. a big talking point |
| 8. one of the largest exporters       | h. harvest in Europe   |
| 9. potatoes with a diameter of        | i. of frozen fries     |
| 10. Then you get fries                | j. in many countries   |

# GAP FILL

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

A poor potato (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The poor harvest is because of the very hot summer Europe had. There were (3) \_\_\_\_\_ hot temperatures in many countries. The heatwave caused a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of rain, which meant farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal. The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of this is that potato prices are up and the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller at the (8) \_\_\_\_\_, we will all be eating smaller chips."

*lack*  
*harvest*  
*average*  
*grew*  
*record*  
*moment*  
*usual*  
*effect*

Belgium is one country where the potato (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is a big talking point. Fries are the national (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries specializing (11) \_\_\_\_\_ fries. Belgians love their fries so much that there is a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to rename them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented in their country. Belgium is one of the largest (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun (14) \_\_\_\_\_ why fries would be shorter. He said: "Generally, to have (15) \_\_\_\_\_ fries, we work with potatoes with a (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."

*in*  
*exporters*  
*dish*  
*long*  
*campaign*  
*diameter*  
*shortage*  
*explained*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) French fries are up to three centimeters \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. shorter that usually
  - b. shorter they usual
  - c. shorter than usual
  - d. shorten that usual
- 2) farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. they normal do
  - b. they normally done
  - c. they normally doing
  - d. they normally do
- 3) a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fewer potatoes
  - b. few are potatoes
  - c. few or potatoes
  - d. few as potatoes
- 4) The effect of this is that potato prices are up and the \_\_\_\_\_ potatoes
  - a. averages size of
  - b. average size of
  - c. averaged size of
  - d. averaging size of
- 5) Because the potatoes are smaller at the moment, we will all be \_\_\_\_\_ chips
  - a. eat in smaller
  - b. eating smaller
  - c. eaten smaller
  - d. eat tin smaller
- 6) Belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a \_\_\_\_\_ point
  - a. big talk in
  - b. bigger talking
  - c. big talk king
  - d. big talking
- 7) The country has over 5,000 eateries \_\_\_\_\_ fries
  - a. specializing on
  - b. specializing an
  - c. specializing in
  - d. specializing inn
- 8) ... instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was \_\_\_\_\_ country
  - a. invent it in their
  - b. invented in there
  - c. invent it in they're
  - d. invented in their
- 9) Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with a \_\_\_\_\_ than 50mm
  - a. diameter of more
  - b. diameter rough more
  - c. diameter off more
  - d. diameter oft more
- 10) This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the fries \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. will being shorten
  - b. will be shorten
  - c. will been shorter
  - d. will be shorter

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

A poor potato harvest in Europe this (1) \_\_\_\_\_ French fries are up to three centimeters (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The poor harvest is because of the very hot summer Europe had. There were record hot temperatures in many countries. The heatwave (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of rain, which meant farmers produced (4) \_\_\_\_\_ potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller at the moment, we will (6) \_\_\_\_\_ smaller chips."

Belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Fries are the national dish in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Belgians love their fries so much that there (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to rename them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented in their country. Belgium is one of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with (12) \_\_\_\_\_ more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Where was there a poor potato harvest?
2. What kind of temperatures did the article talk about?
3. What kind of association is Pierre Lebrun a spokesman for?
4. How many fewer potatoes did farmers grow?
5. Why will we be eating smaller chips?
6. What country has fries as its national dish?
7. How many eateries are there in Belgium that serve fries?
8. Where do Belgians believe French fries were invented?
9. How many tons of frozen French fries does Belgium export each year?
10. What diameter of potato is needed to make 9cm-long French fries?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Where was there a poor potato harvest?
  - a) Japan
  - b) the USA
  - c) Europe
  - d) Africa
- 2) What kind of temperatures did the article talk about?
  - a) record temperatures
  - b) scorching hot temperatures
  - c) average temperatures
  - d) cooler temperatures
- 3) What kind of association is Pierre Lebrun a spokesman for?
  - a) waffle makers
  - b) potato growers
  - c) French fries stores
  - d) meteorologists
- 4) How many fewer potatoes did farmers grow?
  - a) 18% fewer
  - b) 20% fewer
  - c) 22% fewer
  - d) 25% fewer
- 5) Why will we be eating smaller chips?
  - a) government rules
  - b) cost
  - c) potatoes are smaller
  - d) people want to be healthy
- 6) What country has fries as its national dish?
  - a) Uganda
  - b) Belgium
  - c) the USA
  - d) Brazil
- 7) How many eateries are there in Belgium that serve fries?
  - a) exactly 5,000
  - b) less than 5,000
  - c) about 5,000
  - d) more than 5,000
- 8) Where do Belgians believe French fries were invented?
  - a) Switzerland
  - b) Belgium
  - c) France
  - d) Italy
- 9) How many tons of frozen French fries does Belgium export each year?
  - a) 3.2 million tons
  - b) 2.3 million tons
  - c) 23 million tons
  - d) 32 million tons
- 10) What diameter of potato is needed to make 9cm-long French fries?
  - a) 50mm
  - b) 45mm
  - c) 40mm
  - d) 35mm

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – French Fries**

You think French fries are the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): hash browns, potato salad or roast potatoes.

## **Role B – Hash Browns**

You think hash browns are the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): French fries, potato salad or roast potatoes.

## **Role C – Potato Salad**

You think potato salad is the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): hash browns, French fries or roast potatoes.

## **Role D – Roast Potato**

You think roast potatoes are the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): hash browns, potato salad or French fries.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

<b>potato</b>	<b>fry</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>• poor</li><li>• hot</li><li>• lack</li><li>• normally</li><li>• effect</li><li>• average</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• big</li><li>• 5,000</li><li>• much</li><li>• largest</li><li>• year</li><li>• time</li></ul>
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# POTATOES SURVEY

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

# POTATOES DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'potato'?
3. How important are potatoes?
4. What do you think of French fries?
5. What happens to farmers if there is a heatwave?
6. How long should French fries be, and why?
7. How often do you eat French fries?
8. How has bad weather affected the food you eat?
9. What is the best thing to eat French fries with?
10. Is the term 'French fries' or 'chips' better?

*French fries will be 3cm shorter – 28th September, 2018*  
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# POTATOES DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'fry'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What food do people in your country talk about a lot?
15. What do you think of your country's national dish?
16. Should French fries be renamed 'Belgian fries'?
17. What do you know about French fries?
18. How do you make French fries?
19. What can you do with a potato?
20. What questions would you like to ask the potato growers' spokesman?

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

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ potato harvest in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than usual. The poor harvest is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the very hot summer Europe had. There were (3) \_\_\_\_\_ hot temperatures in many countries. The heatwave caused a lack of rain, which meant farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal. The effect of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the moment, we will all be eating smaller chips."

Belgium is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ country where the potato shortage is a big talking point. Fries are the national dish in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries specializing (8) \_\_\_\_\_ fries. Belgians love their fries so much that there is a campaign to rename them "Belgian fries" (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented in their country. Belgium is one of the largest exporters of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries would be shorter. He said: "Generally, to have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ fries, we work with potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."

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

- |     |              |               |             |              |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) poor     | (b) poorly    | (c) poverty | (d) poorness |
| 2.  | (a) due      | (b) cause     | (c) because | (d) that     |
| 3.  | (a) recorder | (b) recording | (c) records | (d) record   |
| 4.  | (a) done     | (b) do        | (c) doing   | (d) does     |
| 5.  | (a) those    | (b) these     | (c) them    | (d) this     |
| 6.  | (a) on       | (b) by        | (c) at      | (d) to       |
| 7.  | (a) once     | (b) one       | (c) only    | (d) onus     |
| 8.  | (a) in       | (b) by        | (c) at      | (d) of       |
| 9.  | (a) instead  | (b) rather    | (c) place   | (d) prefer   |
| 10. | (a) that     | (b) this      | (c) them    | (d) their    |
| 11. | (a) length   | (b) longest   | (c) longing | (d) long     |
| 12. | (a) its      | (b) as        | (c) was     | (d) has      |

# SPELLING

## Paragraph 1

1. A poor potato aerhvst in Europe
2. three centimeters shorter than luasu
3. There were roredc hot temperatures
4. a potato growers' sataioocisn
5. The ectffe of this
6. the vgeraea size of potatoes

## Paragraph 2

7. the potato tgheorsa is a big talking point
8. Fries are the naoiltn dish in Belgium
9. a apmgaicn to rename them
10. It ropxste around 2.3 million tons
11. eanlregly, to have long fries
12. a mirdetae of more than 50mm

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) hot temperatures in many countries. The heatwave caused a lack of rain, which meant farmers
- ( ) produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers'
- ( ) more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."
- ( ) world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries would be
- ( ) usual. The poor harvest is because of the very hot summer Europe had. There were record
- ( ) much that there is a campaign to rename them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was
- ( **1** ) A poor potato harvest in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than
- ( ) association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal. The effect
- ( ) invented in their country. Belgium is one of the largest exporters of frozen fries in the
- ( ) "Because the potatoes are smaller at the moment, we will all be eating smaller chips."
- ( ) Belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a big talking point. Fries are the national
- ( ) dish in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries specializing in fries. Belgians love their fries so
- ( ) of this is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said:
- ( ) shorter. He said: "Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with a diameter of

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. A poor this harvest summer . Europe in potato
2. the of very summer Because had . Europe hot
3. record hot were There in countries . many temperatures
4. fewer do . than Produced they potatoes normally
5. average potatoes size is of The smaller .
6. point . is The potato talking shortage big a
7. fries . specializing eateries in The has country 5,000
8. fries . One frozen of exporters of largest the
9. them . of around million It tons exports 2.3
10. more with 50mm . of a diameter Potatoes than

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

A *poor / poverty* potato harvest in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than *usually / usual*. The poor harvest is because *for / of* the very hot summer Europe had. There were record hot temperatures in many countries. The heatwave caused a *slack / lack* of rain, which meant farmers produced a lot *fewer / few* potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' *association / associating* in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes *than / that* normal. The *affect / effect* of this is that potato prices are up and the *average / averages* size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller at the *moment / monument*, we will all be eating smaller chips."

Belgium is one country where the potato *shortening / shortage* is a big talking point. Fries are the *nation / national* dish in Belgium. The country has *over / overly* 5,000 eateries specializing in fries. Belgians love *them / their* fries so much that there is a campaign to *remain / rename* them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented *on / in* their country. Belgium is one of the largest *experts / exporters* of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries would be *shorter / shorten*. He said: "Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with a *data / diameter* of more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, *as / was* the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."

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

A p\_\_ r p\_t\_t\_ h\_r v\_s t \_n E\_r\_p\_ t h\_s s\_m m\_r  
c\_\_ l d m\_\_ n F\_r n c h f\_r\_\_ s \_r\_ \_p t\_ t h r\_\_  
c\_n t\_m\_t\_r s s h\_r t\_r t h\_n \_s\_\_ l. Th\_ p\_\_ r h\_r  
v\_s t \_s b\_c\_\_ s\_ \_f t h\_ v\_r y h\_t s\_m m\_r E\_r\_p\_  
h\_d. Th\_r\_ w\_r\_ r\_c\_r d h\_t t\_m p\_r\_t\_r s \_n m\_n  
y c\_\_ n t r\_\_ s. Th\_ h\_\_ t w\_v\_ c\_\_ s\_d \_ l\_c k \_f  
r\_\_ n, w h\_c h m\_\_ n t f\_r m\_r s p\_r\_d\_c\_d \_ l\_t  
f\_w\_r p\_t\_t\_\_ s t h\_n t h\_y n\_r m\_l l\_y d. P\_\_ r r\_  
L\_b\_r\_n, \_ s p\_k\_s m\_n f\_r m \_ p\_t\_t\_ g\_r\_w\_r s' \_s  
s\_c\_\_ t\_\_ n \_n B\_l g\_\_ m, s\_\_ d f\_r m\_r s g\_r\_w 2  
5 p\_r c\_n t f\_w\_r p\_t\_t\_\_ s t h\_n n\_r m\_l. Th\_  
\_f f\_c t \_f t h\_s \_s t h\_t p\_t\_t\_ p\_r\_c\_s \_r\_ \_p \_n d  
t h\_ \_v\_r\_g\_ s\_z\_ \_f p\_t\_t\_\_ s \_s s\_m\_l\_l\_r. M\_r L\_b  
r\_n s\_\_ d: " B\_c\_\_ s\_ t h\_ p\_t\_t\_\_ s \_r\_ s\_m\_l\_l\_r t  
t h\_ m\_m\_n t, w\_ w\_l l \_l l b\_\_ \_t\_n g s\_m\_l\_l\_r c  
h\_p s. "

B\_l g\_\_ m \_s \_n\_ c\_\_ n t r\_y w h\_r\_ t h\_ p\_t\_t\_ s h\_r  
t\_g\_ \_s \_ b\_g t\_l k\_n g p\_\_ n t. F\_r\_\_ s \_r\_ t h\_  
n\_t\_\_ n\_l d\_s h \_n B\_l g\_\_ m. Th\_ c\_\_ n t r\_y h\_s  
\_v\_r 5, 0 0 0 \_\_ t\_r\_\_ s s p\_c\_\_ l\_z\_n g \_n f\_r\_\_ s.  
B\_l g\_\_ n s l\_v\_ t h\_\_ r f\_r\_\_ s s\_ m\_c h t h\_t t  
h\_r\_ \_s \_ c\_m p\_\_ g n t\_r\_n\_m\_ t h\_m " B\_l g\_\_ n f  
r\_\_ s" \_n s t\_\_ d \_f " F\_r n c h f\_r\_\_ s" b\_c\_\_ s\_ B\_l  
g\_\_ n s s\_y t h\_ f\_r y w\_s \_n v\_n t\_d \_n t h\_\_ r  
c\_\_ n t r\_y. B\_l g\_\_ m \_s \_n\_ f t h\_ l\_r g\_s t \_x p\_r  
t\_r s \_f f\_r\_z\_n f\_r\_\_ s \_n t h\_ w\_r l d. I t \_x p\_r t  
s \_r\_\_ n d 2.3 m\_l l\_\_ n t\_n s \_f t h\_m \_v\_r y  
y\_\_ r. M\_r L\_b\_r\_n \_x p\_l\_\_ n\_d w h\_y f\_r\_\_ s w\_\_ l  
d b\_ s h\_r t\_r. H\_ s\_\_ d: " G\_n\_r\_l l\_y, t\_ h\_v\_  
l\_n g f\_r\_\_ s, w\_ w\_r k w\_t h p\_t\_t\_\_ s w\_t h \_  
d\_\_ m\_t\_r \_f m\_r\_ t h\_n 5 0 m m. Th\_n y\_\_ g\_t  
f\_r\_\_ s \_f 8 t\_ 9 c m. Th\_s t\_m\_, \_s t h\_  
p\_t\_t\_\_ s \_r\_ s\_m\_l\_l\_r, t h\_ f\_r\_\_ s w\_l l b\_ s h\_r  
t\_r. "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

a poor potato harvest in europe this summer could mean french fries are up to three centimeters shorter than usual the poor harvest is because of the very hot summer europe had there were record hot temperatures in many countries the heatwave caused a lack of rain which meant farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally do pierre lebrun a spokesman from a potato growers association in belgium said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal the effect of this is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller mr lebrun said because the potatoes are smaller at the moment we will all be eating smaller chips

belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a big talking point fries are the national dish in belgium the country has over 5000 eateries specializing in fries belgians love their fries so much that there is a campaign to rename them belgian fries instead of french fries because belgians say the fry was invented in their country belgium is one of the largest exporters of frozen fries in the world it exports around 23 million tons of them every year mr lebrun explained why fries would be shorter he said generally to have long fries we work with potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm this time as the potatoes are smaller the fries will be shorter"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A poor potato harvest in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than usual. The poor harvest is because of the very hot summer Europe had. There were record hot temperatures in many countries. The heat wave caused a lack of rain, which meant farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 percent fewer potatoes than normal. The effect of this is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller at the moment, we will all be eating smaller chips." Belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a big talking point. Fries are the national dish in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries specializing in fries. Belgians love their fries so much that there is a campaign to rename them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented in their country. Belgium is one of the largest exporters of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries would be shorter. He said: "Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9cm. This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."





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

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

**4. BELGIAN?:** Write a magazine article about French fries being renamed 'Belgian fries'. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 potatoes. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on potatoes. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. poor      | a. bad       |
| 2. usual     | b. normal    |
| 3. lack      | c. shortage  |
| 4. effect    | d. result    |
| 5. average   | e. standard  |
| 6. dish      | f. food      |
| 7. campaign  | g. drive     |
| 8. explained | h. described |
| 9. generally | i. as a rule |
| 10. as       | j. because   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Europe
2. Record temperatures
3. A potato growers' association
4. 25% fewer
5. Potatoes are smaller
6. Belgium
7. Over 5,000
8. Belgium
9. 2.3 million tons
10. 50mm

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. A poor potato harvest in Europe this summer.
2. Because of the very hot summer Europe had.
3. There were record hot temperatures in many countries.
4. Produced fewer potatoes than they normally do.
5. The average size of potatoes is smaller.
6. The potato shortage is a big talking point.
7. The country has 5,000 eateries specializing in fries.
8. One of the largest exporters of frozen fries.
9. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them.
10. Potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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 ;-)