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Level 1 – 2nd February, 2019

Deadly polar vortex freezes mid-America

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-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/1902/190202-polar-vortex-1.html>

It is freezing cold in a lot of America, from the north to the south. It is colder than in Antarctica. The cold is because of a polar vortex - freezing air and wind from the Arctic. This hasn't happened for decades. There is a state of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have closed because of the cold. People were told not to travel. They were told not to go outside or breathe the icy air.

The temperature in a part of Minnesota fell to -60° Celsius. Parts of the Chicago River, Lake Michigan and Niagara Falls turned to ice. The weather is responsible for the deaths of eight people. Health officials told people to go outside only if necessary. Letting freezing air get on the skin can be dangerous. It could lead to breathing problems. Shoveling snow can be dangerous. People should also be careful of snow and ice falling from the roof.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/us/extreme-cold-weather.html>
<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/427652-how-dangerous-and-historic-is-the-polar-vortex-hitting-the-midwest>
<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/75-below-zero-polar-vortex-yields-deadly-cold-as-thousands-endure-power-cuts-travel-issues-mount-in-midwest/70007291>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. It is colder | a. emergency in Wisconsin |
| 2. freezing air and wind | b. to go outside |
| 3. This hasn't happened | c. have closed |
| 4. There is a state of | d. from the Arctic |
| 5. schools and businesses | e. icy air |
| 6. People were told | f. for decades |
| 7. They were told not | g. not to travel |
| 8. breathe the | h. than in Antarctica |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The temperature in a part | a. careful of snow |
| 2. The weather is | b. on the skin |
| 3. go outside only | c. of Minnesota |
| 4. Letting freezing air get | d. from the roof |
| 5. It could lead to breathing | e. be dangerous |
| 6. Shoveling snow can | f. responsible |
| 7. People should also be | g. problems |
| 8. ice falling | h. if necessary |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-1.html>

It (1) _____ in a lot of America, from the north to the south. It is (2) _____ Antarctica. The cold is because of a polar vortex - freezing (3) _____ from the Arctic. This hasn't happened for decades. There is a (4) _____ in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have (5) _____ the cold. People were told not to travel. They were told not to go outside or (6) _____ air.

The temperature (7) _____ of Minnesota fell to -60° Celsius. Parts of the Chicago River, Lake Michigan and Niagara Falls (8) _____. The weather is responsible (9) _____ of eight people. Health officials told people to go (10) _____ necessary. Letting freezing air get on the skin can be dangerous. It could (11) _____ problems. Shoveling snow can be dangerous. People should also (12) _____ snow and ice falling from the roof.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-1.html>

It is freezing cold in a lot of America, from the north to the south. It is colder than in Antarctica. The cold is because of a polar vortex - freezing air and wind from the Arctic. This hasn't happened for decades. There is a state of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have closed because of the cold. People were told not to travel. They were told not to go outside or breathe the icy air. The temperature in a part of Minnesota fell to -60°Celsius. Parts of the Chicago River, Lake Michigan and Niagara Falls turned to ice. The weather is responsible for the death of eight people. Health officials told people to go outside only if necessary. Letting freezing air get on the skin can be dangerous. It could lead to breathing problems. Shovelings snow can be dangerous. People should also be careful of snow and ice falling from the roof.

FREEZING WEATHER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about freezing weather 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) _____

