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**Level 3 – 13th May, 2019**

## **Cuba starts rationing food and other products**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.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/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Cuba's government has announced that it is starting the rationing of food and other basic products. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, said beans, chicken, eggs, rice, soap and other goods would be rationed. She said Cuba is facing a serious economic crisis. There are many shortages of food and other things in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has changed how it is trading with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade embargo means it is very difficult for Cuba to buy a lot of food. However, many economists say there is a bigger reason for the shortages - the cut in fuel aid from Venezuela. The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds cut in shipments of cheap fuel to Cuba.

Cuba imports about two-thirds of its food from other countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about \$2 billion a year on importing food. The US embargo and the crisis in Venezuela means it is difficult for Cuba to import food. The shelves of many stores and supermarkets are empty. Many people have to stand in long lines when shops get a food delivery. The government has started rationing to stop people hoarding food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is less food for others. One store in the capital city Havana limited people to just four packets of powdered milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas per person. One shopper said life was "tough".

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-48237319>  
<https://www.voanews.com/a/cuba-begins-widespread-rationing-in-face-of-crisis/4913153.html>  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cuba-economy/cuba-to-ration-more-products-due-to-economic-crisis-us-sanctions-idUSKCN1SG2HA>

# WARM-UPS

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

government / rationing / products / soap / economic crisis / embargo / shortages / imports / countries / crisis / supermarkets / delivery / capital city / sausages / tough

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

**3. EMBARGO:** Students A **strongly** believe a trade embargo is a good idea; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. FOOD SHORTAGES:** How would these things help in a food shortage? How easy would it be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Would It Help?	How Easy Would It Be?
Grow your own?		
Order from Amazon		
Barter		
Cut back		
Forage		
Other _____		

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

**6. RATIONED:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst products to be rationed at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- beans
- chicken
- eggs
- soap
- powdered milk
- sausages
- peas
- rice

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. announced | a. Financial or other help given to a country or area in need.                                       |
| 2. basic     | b. Made a statement to people in a formal way.   |
| 3. crisis    | c. An official ban on trade or other business activity with a particular country.                    |
| 4. shortage  | d. Forming a starting point; fundamental.  |
| 5. embargo   | e. A situation in which people cannot get the things they need because there are not enough of them. |
| 6. fuel      | f. A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger.   |
| 7. aid       | g. Material such as coal, gas, or oil that is burned to produce heat or power.                       |

## Paragraph 2

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 8. import    | h. Bring goods or services into a country from abroad for sale.   |
| 9. shelves   | i. Able to live through hard times or pain.   |
| 10. delivery | j. Flat pieces of wood or other hard material, attached to a wall or piece of furniture, that lets you put things on. |
| 11. hoard    | k. A quantity of fish, fruit, or other foods put and sold together.   |
| 12. capital  | l. The action of bringing letters, packages, or ordered goods to a business or person.                                |
| 13. pack     | m. Keep and hide or store away things that are valuable or in short supply.   |
| 14. tough    | n. The most important city or town of a country or region, usually where the government is.                           |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

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

- a. Cuba's Commerce Minister said beef would be rationed. **T / F**
- b. Cuba's Commerce Minister blamed the USA for the shortages. **T / F**
- c. Many economists also blamed the USA for the shortages. **T / F**
- d. Venezuela has cut cheap fuel shipments to Cuba by half. **T / F**
- e. Cuba imported about \$2 billion a year importing food. **T / F**
- f. Shelves in supermarket stores in Cuba are still well stocked. **T / F**
- g. People in Cuba are hoarding food. **T / F**
- h. Havana shoppers are limited to four packets of peas each. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>basic</b>    | a. paid out    |
| 2. <b>rationed</b> | b. difficult   |
| 3. <b>crisis</b>   | c. ban         |
| 4. <b>embargo</b>  | d. bare        |
| 5. <b>fuel</b>     | e. essential   |
| 6. <b>spent</b>    | f. customer    |
| 7. <b>empty</b>    | g. gas         |
| 8. <b>hoarding</b> | h. limited     |
| 9. <b>shopper</b>  | i. stockpiling |
| 10. <b>tough</b>   | j. emergency   |

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

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the rationing of food and other  | a. and other things    |
| 2. soap and other goods would       | b. of cheap fuel       |
| 3. There are many shortages of food | c. hoarding food       |
| 4. there is a bigger reason         | d. life was "tough"    |
| 5. a two-thirds cut in shipments    | e. capital city Havana |
| 6. The shelves                      | f. for the shortages   |
| 7. when shops get a food            | g. basic products      |
| 8. stop people                      | h. delivery            |
| 9. One store in the                 | i. of many stores      |
| 10. One shopper said                | j. be rationed         |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Cuba's government has announced that it is starting the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of food and other basic products. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, said beans, chicken, eggs, rice, soap and other (2) \_\_\_\_\_ would be rationed. She said Cuba is facing a serious economic (3) \_\_\_\_\_. There are many shortages of food and other things in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has (4) \_\_\_\_\_ how it is trading with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade embargo means it is very (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for Cuba to buy a lot of food. However, many (6) \_\_\_\_\_ say there is a bigger reason for the shortages - the cut in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ aid from Venezuela. The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in shipments of cheap fuel to Cuba.

*rationing*

*difficult*

*cut*

*changed*

*fuel*

*goods*

*crisis*

*economists*

Cuba (9) \_\_\_\_\_ about two-thirds of its food from other countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about \$2 billion a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on importing food. The US embargo and the crisis in Venezuela (11) \_\_\_\_\_ it is difficult for Cuba to import food. The shelves of many stores and supermarkets are (12) \_\_\_\_\_. Many people have to stand in long lines when shops get a food delivery. The government has started rationing to stop people (13) \_\_\_\_\_ food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is less food for others. One store in the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ city Havana limited people to just four packets of (15) \_\_\_\_\_ milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas per person. One (16) \_\_\_\_\_ said life was "tough".

*empty*

*imports*

*hoarding*

*powdered*

*means*

*shopper*

*year*

*capital*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

- 1) Cuba's government has announced that it is starting the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. ration in of food
  - b. rationing off food
  - c. rationing of food
  - d. ration in off food
- 2) chicken, eggs, rice, soap and other goods \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. would being rationed
  - b. would be rationed
  - c. would been rationed
  - d. would've be rationed
- 3) She said Cuba is facing a serious \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. economic crisis
  - b. economic crises
  - c. economic critics
  - d. economic cries
- 4) However, many economists say there is a bigger reason \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for the shortage is
  - b. for the short ages
  - c. for the shorten ages
  - d. for the shortages
- 5) The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds cut in shipments \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of cheap fuels
  - b. of cheap fuelled
  - c. of cheap fuelling
  - d. of cheap fuel
- 6) A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about \$2 billion a \_\_\_\_\_ food
  - a. year on import in
  - b. year on importing
  - c. year on important
  - d. year on importance
- 7) The shelves of many stores and supermarkets \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are emptied
  - b. are empties
  - c. are empathy
  - d. are empty
- 8) Many people have to stand in long lines when shops get \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a food delivers
  - b. a food delivery
  - c. afford delivery
  - d. afford deliveries
- 9) If people buy too much of one thing and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. then board it
  - b. then heard it
  - c. then gored it
  - d. then hoard it
- 10) four packets of powdered milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. par person
  - b. per person
  - c. for person
  - d. pre person

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Cuba's government has announced (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the rationing of food and other basic products. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, eggs, rice, soap and other goods would be rationed. She said Cuba is facing a (3) \_\_\_\_\_. There are many shortages of food and other things in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has changed how (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade embargo means it is very difficult for Cuba to buy a lot of food. However, many economists say there is a bigger reason (5) \_\_\_\_\_ - the cut in fuel aid from Venezuela. The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of cheap fuel to Cuba.

Cuba imports (7) \_\_\_\_\_ its food from other countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about \$2 billion a year on importing food. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and the crisis in Venezuela means it is difficult for Cuba to import food. The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ stores and supermarkets are empty. Many people have to stand in long lines when shops get (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The government has started rationing to stop people hoarding food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is less food for others. One store (11) \_\_\_\_\_ city Havana limited people to just four packets of powdered milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of (12) \_\_\_\_\_. One shopper said life was "tough".



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

1. What is Cuba going to ration besides food?
2. Who is Betsy Diaz Velazquez?
3. What did Ms Velazquez say Cuba is facing?
4. Who said there was a bigger reason for Cuba's difficulties?
5. By how much has Venezuela cut cheap fuel shipments to Cuba?
6. How much a year did Cuba spend on food imports?
7. What did the article say was empty?
8. What does the government want people to stop doing to food?
9. How many packs of peas are shoppers limited to?
10. What did a shopper say life was like?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

- 1) What is Cuba going to ration besides food?
  - a) medicine
  - b) gasoline
  - c) basic products
  - d) cigars
- 2) Who is Betsy Diaz Velazquez?
  - a) Cuba's Commerce Minister
  - b) Cuba's Agriculture Minister
  - c) Cuba's Foreign Minister
  - d) Cuba's Police Minister
- 3) What did Ms Velazquez say Cuba is facing?
  - a) hard times
  - b) the abyss
  - c) a tough opponent
  - d) a serious economic crisis
- 4) Who said there was a bigger reason for Cuba's difficulties?
  - a) Cuba's Commerce Minister
  - b) economists
  - c) Cuba's leader
  - d) Donald Trump
- 5) By how much has Venezuela cut cheap fuel shipments to Cuba?
  - a) about three-quarters
  - b) about a half
  - c) about two-thirds
  - d) about two-fifths
- 6) How much a year did Cuba spend on food imports?
  - a) about \$2 million
  - b) about \$2 billion
  - c) about \$2 trillion
  - d) about \$2 quadrillion
- 7) What did the article say was empty?
  - a) the country's finances
  - b) people's fridges
  - c) farm fields
  - d) supermarket shelves
- 8) What does the government want people to stop doing to food?
  - a) eating it
  - b) hoarding it
  - c) throwing it away
  - d) trading it
- 9) How many packets of peas are shoppers limited to?
  - a) 5
  - b) 2
  - c) 6
  - d) 1
- 10) What did a shopper say life was like?
  - a) endurable
  - b) OK
  - c) impossible
  - d) tough

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

## **Role A – Beans**

You think beans are the worst thing to be rationed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why rationing their things isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these is OK to ration (and why): chicken, rice or soap.

## **Role B – Chicken**

You think chicken is the worst thing to be rationed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why rationing their things isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these is OK to ration (and why): beans, rice or soap.

## **Role C – Rice**

You think rice is the worst thing to be rationed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why rationing their things isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these is OK to ration (and why): chicken, beans or soap.

## **Role D – Soap**

You think soap is the worst thing to be rationed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why rationing their things isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these is OK to ration (and why): chicken, rice or beans.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

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

<b>Cuba</b>	<b>food</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>• started</li><li>• goods</li><li>• changed</li><li>• very</li><li>• reason</li><li>• led</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• other</li><li>• year</li><li>• shelves</li><li>• buy</li><li>• capital</li><li>• tough</li></ul>
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# CUBA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Cuba 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.

# CUBA 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 'Cuba'?
3. What do you know about Cuba?
4. What would food rationing be like?
5. What food could you not live without?
6. Has your country ever faced an economic crisis?
7. What would you do if there was a food shortage?
8. What is a trade embargo?
9. What do you know about the crisis in Venezuela?
10. What advice do you have for Cubans?

*Cuba starts rationing food and other products – 13th May, 2019*  
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# CUBA 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 'ration'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about Cuba-USA relations?
15. Where does food in your country come from?
16. Should countries grow all their own food?
17. Would you ever grow your own food?
18. Have you ever waited in line for food?
19. When has your life been tough?
20. What questions would you like to ask Cuba's president?

## **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/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Cuba's government has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that it is starting the rationing of food and other basic products. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, said beans, chicken, eggs, rice, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and other goods would be rationed. She said Cuba is facing a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ economic crisis. There are many (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of food and other things in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has changed how it is trading with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade (5) \_\_\_\_\_ means it is very difficult for Cuba to buy a lot of food. However, many economists say there is a bigger reason for the shortages - the cut in fuel aid from Venezuela. The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds cut (6) \_\_\_\_\_ shipments of cheap fuel to Cuba.

Cuba imports about two-thirds of its food from (7) \_\_\_\_\_ countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about \$2 billion a year on importing food. The US embargo and the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in Venezuela means it is difficult for Cuba to import food. The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of many stores and supermarkets are empty. Many people have to stand in long lines when shops get a food delivery. The government has started rationing to stop people (10) \_\_\_\_\_ food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ food for others. One store in the capital city Havana limited people to just four packets of powdered milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas (12) \_\_\_\_\_ person. One shopper said life was "tough".

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

- |     |                  |               |              |               |
|-----|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) announcement | (b) announced | (c) announce | (d) announces |
| 2.  | (a) soaped       | (b) soap      | (c) soapy    | (d) soapbox   |
| 3.  | (a) seriousness  | (b) seriously | (c) series   | (d) serious   |
| 4.  | (a) shortage     | (b) shortages | (c) short    | (d) shorts    |
| 5.  | (a) lumbago      | (b) embargo   | (c) cargo    | (d) ergo      |
| 6.  | (a) on           | (b) at        | (c) in       | (d) so        |
| 7.  | (a) another      | (b) others    | (c) other    | (d) bother    |
| 8.  | (a) critics      | (b) critical  | (c) crisis   | (d) critique  |
| 9.  | (a) tills        | (b) ceilings  | (c) roofs    | (d) shelves   |
| 10. | (a) hoarding     | (b) boarding  | (c) goading  | (d) wording   |
| 11. | (a) less         | (b) fewer     | (c) smaller  | (d) none      |
| 12. | (a) par          | (b) pore      | (c) per      | (d) pure      |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. other bisca products
2. other goods would be adoernti
3. the U.S. trade eagorbm
4. many isosmoetnc say
5. a bigger reason for the rgstshaoe
6. a two-thirds cut in shipments of cheap ufel

## Paragraph 2

7. the srisic in Venezuela
8. The hslesev of many stores
9. to stop people orahdngi food
10. One store in the itlcaap city
11. four packets of wrdedeop milk
12. One shopper said life was outgh

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

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

- ( ) products. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, said beans, chicken, eggs, rice, soap and other goods would
- ( ) embargo means it is very difficult for Cuba to buy a lot of food. However, many economists
- ( ) \$2 billion a year on importing food. The US embargo and the crisis in Venezuela means it is difficult
- ( **1** ) Cuba's government has announced that it is starting the rationing of food and other basic
- ( ) hoarding food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is less
- ( ) milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas per person. One shopper said life was "tough".
- ( ) crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds cut in shipments of cheap fuel to Cuba.
- ( ) Cuba imports about two-thirds of its food from other countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about
- ( ) be rationed. She said Cuba is facing a serious economic crisis. There are many shortages of food and other things
- ( ) say there is a bigger reason for the shortages - the cut in fuel aid from Venezuela. The
- ( ) in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has changed how it is trading with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade
- ( ) lines when shops get a food delivery. The government has started rationing to stop people
- ( ) food for others. One store in the capital city Havana limited people to just four packets of powdered
- ( ) for Cuba to import food. The shelves of many stores and supermarkets are empty. Many people have to stand in long

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

1. It the food . is rationing of starting
2. economic crisis . serious Cuba facing is a
3. changed it trading . has how USA is The
4. of for Cuba to buy Difficult lots food .
5. in of fuel . A cheap two-thirds shipments cut
6. about imports Cuba two-thirds its food . of
7. spent Cuba billion \$2 food . importing about on
8. Many in to have stand long people lines .
9. If too of thing . much buy one people
10. powdered packets of milk . people Limited to four

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Cuba's government has announced *that / what* it is starting the rationing of food and other basic *products / product*. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, said beans, chicken, eggs, rice, *soapy / soap* and other goods would be *ration / rationed*. She said Cuba is facing a serious economic crisis. There are many *shortages / shortage* of food and other things in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has *changes / changed* how it is *trading / traded* with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade embargo means it is very difficult for Cuba to buy a *lot / loads* of food. However, many economists say there is *a / the* bigger reason for the shortages - the cut in fuel aid from Venezuela. The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-thirds cut in *ship / shipments* of cheap fuel to Cuba.

Cuba imports about two-thirds of its food from *another / other* countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba *spending / spent* about \$2 billion a year *on / in* importing food. The US embargo and the crisis in Venezuela means it is *difficulty / difficult* for Cuba to import food. The shelves of many stores and supermarkets are *emptied / empty*. Many people have to stand in *long / straight* lines when shops get a food delivery. The government has started rationing to stop people *hoarding / affording* food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is *more / less* food for others. One store in the capital city Havana *limited / stopped* people to just four packets of powdered milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas per person. One *shopping / shopper* said life was "tough".

**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/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

C\_b\_'s g\_v\_r n m\_n t h\_s \_n n\_\_ n c\_d t h\_t \_t \_s s  
t\_r t\_n g t h\_ r\_t\_\_ n\_n g \_f f\_\_ d \_n d \_t h\_r b\_s c  
p\_r d\_c t\_s . C\_b\_'s C\_m m\_r c\_ M\_n s\_t\_r , B\_t s\_y  
D\_\_ z V\_l\_z q\_\_ z , s\_\_ d b\_\_ n\_s , c h\_c k\_n , \_g g\_s  
, r\_c\_, s\_\_ p \_n d \_t h\_r g\_\_ d\_s w\_\_ l\_d b\_ r\_t\_\_  
n\_d . S h\_ s\_\_ d C\_b\_ s f\_c\_n g \_ s\_r\_\_ s  
\_c\_n m\_c c\_r s\_s . T h\_r\_ \_r\_ m\_n y s h\_r t\_g\_s \_f  
f\_\_ d \_n d \_t h\_r t h\_n g\_s \_n C\_b\_. M\_s V\_l\_z q\_\_ z  
s\_\_ d t h\_s w\_s b\_c\_\_ s\_ t h\_ U S A h\_s c h\_n g\_d  
h\_w \_t \_s t\_r d\_n g w\_t h C\_b\_. V\_l\_z q\_\_ z s\_\_ d  
t h\_ U . S . t\_r d\_ \_m b\_r g\_ m\_\_ n\_s \_t \_s v\_r y d\_f  
f\_c\_l t f\_r C\_b\_ t\_ b\_y \_ l\_t \_f f\_\_ d . H\_w\_v\_r ,  
m\_n y \_c\_n m\_s t\_s s\_y t h\_r\_ s \_ b\_g g\_r r\_\_ s\_n  
f\_r t h\_ s h\_r t\_g\_s - t h\_ c\_t \_n f\_\_ l \_\_ d f\_r m  
V\_n\_z\_\_ l\_ . T h\_ c\_r s\_s \_n V\_n\_z\_\_ l\_ h\_s l\_d t\_ \_  
t\_w\_- t h\_r d\_s c\_t \_n s h\_p m\_n t\_s \_f c h\_\_ p f\_\_ l  
t\_ C\_b\_ .

C\_b\_ \_m p\_r t\_s \_b\_\_ t t\_w\_- t h\_r d\_s \_f \_t\_s f\_\_ d f  
r\_m \_t h\_r c\_\_ n t\_r\_\_ s . A l\_t \_f t h\_s \_s\_d t\_  
c\_m\_ f\_r m\_ t h\_ U S A . C\_b\_ s\_p\_n t \_b\_\_ t \$2 b\_l  
l\_\_ n \_ y\_\_ r \_n \_m p\_r t\_n g f\_\_ d . T h\_ U S \_m  
b\_r g\_ \_n d t h\_ c\_r s\_s \_n V\_n\_z\_\_ l\_ m\_\_ n\_s \_t \_s  
d\_f f\_c\_l t f\_r C\_b\_ t\_ \_m p\_r t f\_\_ d . T h\_ s h\_l\_v\_s  
\_f m\_n y s\_t\_r\_s \_n d s\_p\_r m\_r k\_t\_s \_r \_m p\_t\_y .  
M\_n y p\_\_ p\_l\_ h\_v\_ t\_ s\_t\_n d \_n l\_n g l\_n\_s w\_h\_n  
s h\_p\_s g\_t \_f\_\_ d d\_l\_v\_r y . T h\_ g\_v\_r n m\_n t  
h\_s s\_t\_r t\_d r\_t\_\_ n\_n g t\_ s\_t\_p p\_\_ p\_l\_ h\_\_ r\_d\_n  
g f\_\_ d . I\_f p\_\_ p\_l\_ b\_y t\_\_ m\_c h \_f \_n\_ t h\_n g  
\_n d t h\_n h\_\_ r\_d \_t , t h\_r\_ \_s l\_s s f\_\_ d f\_r t  
h\_r s . O\_n\_ s\_t\_r\_ \_n t h\_ c\_p\_t\_l c\_t\_y H\_v\_n\_  
l\_m\_t\_d p\_\_ p\_l\_ t\_ j\_s t f\_\_ r p\_c k\_t\_s \_f p\_w  
d\_r\_d m\_l\_k , f\_\_ r p\_c k\_s \_f s\_\_ s\_g\_s \_n d f\_v\_  
p\_c k\_t\_s \_f p\_\_ s p\_r p\_r s\_n . O\_n\_ s h\_p p\_r s\_\_  
d l\_f\_ w\_s " t\_\_ g h " .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

cubas government has announced that it is starting the rationing of food and other basic products cubas commerce minister betsy diaz velazquez said beans chicken eggs rice soap and other goods would be rationed she said cuba is facing a serious economic crisis there are many shortages of food and other things in cuba ms velazquez said this was because the usa has changed how it is trading with cuba velazquez said the us trade embargo means it is very difficult for cuba to buy a lot of food however many economists say there is a bigger reason for the shortages the cut in fuel aid from venezuela the crisis in venezuela has led to a twothirds cut in shipments of cheap fuel to cuba

cuba imports about twothirds of its food from other countries a lot of this used to come from the usa cuba spent about 2 billion a year on importing food the us embargo and the crisis in venezuela means it is difficult for cuba to import food the shelves of many stores and supermarkets are empty many people have to stand in long lines when shops get a food delivery the government has started rationing to stop people hoarding food if people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it there is less food for others one store in the capital city havana limited people to just four packets of powdered milk four packs of sausages and five packets of peas per person one shopper said life was tough

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Cuba's government has announced that it is starting the rationing of food and other basic products. Cuba's Commerce Minister, Betsy Diaz Velazquez, said beans, chicken, eggs, rice, soap and other goods would be rationed. She said Cuba is facing a serious economic crisis. There are many shortages of food and other things in Cuba. Ms Velazquez said this was because the USA has changed how it is trading with Cuba. Velazquez said the U.S. trade embargo means it is very difficult for Cuba to buy a lot of food. However, many economists say there is a bigger reason for the shortages - the cut in fuel from Venezuela. The crisis in Venezuela has led to a two-third cut in shipments of cheap fuel to Cuba. Cuba imports about two-thirds of its food from other countries. A lot of this used to come from the USA. Cuba spent about \$2 billion a year on importing food. The US embargo and the crisis in Venezuela means it is difficult for Cuba to import food. The shelves of many stores and supermarkets are empty. Many people have to stand in long lines when shops get a food delivery. The government has started rationing to stop people hoarding food. If people buy too much of one thing and then hoard it, there is less food for others. One store in the capital city Havana limited people to just four packets of powdered milk, four packs of sausages and five packets of peas per person. One shopper said life was "tough".

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190513-rationing-in-cuba.html>

Write about **Cuba** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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

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

**4. TRADE EMBARGO:** Write a magazine article about the trade embargo on Cuba. 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 Cuba. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on Cuba. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. basic    | a. essential   |
| 2. rationed | b. limited     |
| 3. crisis   | c. emergency   |
| 4. embargo  | d. ban         |
| 5. fuel     | e. gas         |
| 6. spent    | f. paid out    |
| 7. empty    | g. bare        |
| 8. hoarding | h. stockpiling |
| 9. shopper  | i. customer    |
| 10. tough   | j. difficult   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Basic products
2. Cuba's Commerce Minister
3. A serious economic crisis
4. Economists
5. Two-thirds
6. About \$2 billion
7. Supermarket shelves
8. Hoarding it
9. Four
10. Tough

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

1. It is starting the rationing of food.
2. Cuba is facing a serious economic crisis.
3. The USA has changed how it is trading.
4. Difficult for Cuba to buy lots of food.
5. A two-thirds cut in shipments of cheap fuel.
6. Cuba imports about two-thirds of its food.
7. Cuba spent about \$2 billion on importing food.
8. Many people have to stand in long lines.
9. If people buy too much of one thing.
10. Limited people to four packets of powdered milk.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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