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**Level 3 – 25th August, 2019**

## **Amazon rainforest fires are an international crisis**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.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/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at an alarming rate. French President Emmanuel Macron has said the record number of fires is now an "international crisis". There has been an 85 per cent increase in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said urgent action needed to be taken. He said the fires needed to be on top of the agenda at the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's oxygen - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss this emergency in two days."

Other leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an "acute emergency". She said they were "shocking". She added that the fires didn't only threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also affected the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only heartbreaking," but "an international crisis". He added: "We stand ready to provide whatever help we can to bring them under control and help protect one of Earth's greatest wonders." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-49443389>  
<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/458399-fires-in-the-amazon-the-planet-at-risk>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-49450495>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE AMAZON FIRES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the Amazon fires. 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?

fires / rainforest / number / crisis / agenda / world leaders / serious / lungs / oxygen / leaders / emergency / prime minister / heartbreaking / under control / biodiversity

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

**3. THE WHOLE WORLD:** Students A **strongly** believe the whole world should put out fires in the Amazon; Students B **strongly** believe Brazil is responsible. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. CLIMATE CHANGE:** How serious are these problems? How can we deal with this? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Serious?	What We Can Do
Wildfires		
Droughts		
Hurricanes		
Heatwaves		
Rising sea levels		
Melting glaciers		

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

**6. GLOBAL WARMING:** Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest causes of global warming at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- wildfires
- cars
- deforestation
- use of coal
- factory farming
- use of aerosols
- overfishing
- inability to change

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1. burning  | a. Requiring immediate action or attention.              |
| 2. alarming | b. Being on fire.  |
| 3. crisis   | c. A time of great difficulty, trouble, or danger.       |
| 4. urgent   | d. The two things in your body that let you breathe air. |
| 5. agenda   | e. Make or create something.                             |
| 6. lungs    | f. Worrying or disturbing.                               |
| 7. produce  | g. A list of things to be discussed at a formal meeting. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. discuss        | h. Causing great distress; very upsetting.  |
| 9. shocking       | i. All of the different kinds of animals, plants and other life in the world or in an area. |
| 10. threaten      | j. Have enough money to pay for something.  |
| 11. heartbreaking | k. Cause someone or something to be in danger.  |
| 12. protect       | l. Keep safe from harm or injury.   |
| 13. afford        | m. Talk about something with another person or group of people.                             |
| 14. biodiversity  | n. Causing a feeling of great surprise.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

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

- a. The article said fires in the Amazon have set alarm bells ringing. **T / F**
- b. Fires in the Amazon have increased by 85% this year. **T / F**
- c. The Amazon provides 30% of the world's oxygen. **T / F**
- d. France's president wants to talk about the fires at a summit for 3 days. **T / F**
- e. Germany's leader said the fires were shocking. **T / F**
- f. Germany's leader said the fires only affected South America. **T / F**
- g. The UK leader said the fires were heartbreaking. **T / F**
- h. The UN leader said we cannot afford more damage to biodiversity. **T / F**

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

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>alarming</b>      | a. severe       |
| 2. <b>crisis</b>        | b. really       |
| 3. <b>urgent</b>        | c. talk through |
| 4. <b>literally</b>     | d. greatest     |
| 5. <b>discuss</b>       | e. worrying     |
| 6. <b>acute</b>         | f. endanger     |
| 7. <b>threaten</b>      | g. marvels      |
| 8. <b>heartbreaking</b> | h. emergency    |
| 9. <b>wonders</b>       | i. upsetting    |
| 10. <b>major</b>        | j. serious      |

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

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest | a. to be taken           |
| 2. the record number                          | b. global climate crisis |
| 3. Mr Macron said urgent action needed        | c. our planet's oxygen   |
| 4. the fires needed to be on top              | d. neighboring countries |
| 5. the lungs which produce 20% of             | e. of fires              |
| 6. Other leaders agreed that they should      | f. wonders               |
| 7. threaten Brazil and its                    | g. of the agenda         |
| 8. We stand ready to provide whatever         | h. at an alarming rate   |
| 9. protect one of Earth's greatest            | i. help we can           |
| 10. In the midst of the                       | j. discuss the fires     |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ rate. French President Emmanuel Macron has said the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ number of fires is now an "international (3) \_\_\_\_\_". There has been an 85 per cent increase in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said urgent action needed to be (4) \_\_\_\_\_. He said the fires needed to be on top of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ at the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how (6) \_\_\_\_\_ he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's (8) \_\_\_\_\_ this emergency in two days."

*record*

*oxygen*

*agenda*

*discuss*

*crisis*

*alarming*

*serious*

*taken*

Other leaders (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an "acute emergency". She said they were "(10) \_\_\_\_\_". She added that the fires didn't only threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only (12) \_\_\_\_\_," but "an international crisis". He added: "We stand ready to provide whatever (13) \_\_\_\_\_ we can to bring them under control and help protect one of Earth's greatest (14) \_\_\_\_\_." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."

*heartbreaking*

*midst*

*help*

*agreed*

*shocking*

*source*

*affected*

*wonders*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

- 1) Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. alarm in rate
  - b. alarming late
  - c. alarm on late
  - d. alarming rate
- 2) There has been an 85 per cent increase in fires in the Amazon \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. these year
  - b. this years
  - c. this year
  - d. these years
- 3) He said the fires needed to be on top of the agenda at \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the G7 summit
  - b. the G7 sum mitt
  - c. the G7 sum met
  - d. the G7 some mitt
- 4) Literally. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. our plan it's oxygen
  - b. our planet's oxygen
  - c. our plan net's oxygen
  - d. our plan nets oxygen
- 5) Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss this emergency \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. into days
  - b. in two days
  - c. inter days
  - d. in to days
- 6) Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - a. acute emergency
  - b. acute emergent sea
  - c. acute emerge antsy
  - d. acute emerge and see
- 7) threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also affected \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the whirl world
  - b. the while world
  - c. the hole world
  - d. the whole world
- 8) We stand ready to provide whatever help we can to bring them \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. under controls
  - b. in the controls
  - c. udder control
  - d. under control
- 9) help protect one of Earth's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. greatest wonder
  - b. greatest winders
  - c. greatest wonders
  - d. greatest wanders
- 10) we cannot afford more damage to a major \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. source of oxygen
  - b. sauce of oxygen
  - c. scarce of oxygen
  - d. soars of oxygen

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

French President Emmanuel Macron has said (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of fires is now an "international crisis". There has been an 85 per cent increase in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said urgent action needed to be taken. He said the fires needed to be on top (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Literally. The Amazon rain forest - (5) \_\_\_\_\_ produce 20% of our planet's oxygen - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss (6) \_\_\_\_\_ two days."

Other leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires (7) \_\_\_\_\_. She said they were "shocking". She added that the fires didn't only threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but (8) \_\_\_\_\_ whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only heartbreaking," but "an international crisis". He added: "We stand (9) \_\_\_\_\_ whatever help we can to bring them under control and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of Earth's greatest wonders." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon (12) \_\_\_\_\_."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

1. At what kind of rate did the article say the fires were burning?
2. What kind of increase has there been in fires this year?
3. What did the article say is happening in Biarritz this week?
4. How much of the world's oxygen does the Amazon produce?
5. How many days does Emmanuel Macron want to discuss the fires for?
6. Who said the fires were "shocking"?
7. Who did Angela Merkel say the fires threatened besides South America?
8. Who said the fires were "heartbreaking"?
9. What did the UK leader call the Amazon?
10. Who said we are in the midst of a global climate crisis?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

- 1) At what kind of rate did the article say the fires were burning?
  - a) a steady rate
  - b) an alarming rate
  - c) a crazy rate
  - d) an unstoppable rate
- 2) What kind of increase has there been in fires this year?
  - a) an 80% increase
  - b) an 81% increase
  - c) an 83% increase
  - d) an 85% increase
- 3) What did the article say is happening in Biarritz this week?
  - a) a meeting about Brazil
  - b) a climate conference
  - c) the G7 Summit
  - d) a conference on the Amazon
- 4) How much of the world's oxygen does the Amazon produce?
  - a) 22%
  - b) 25%
  - c) 28%
  - d) 31%
- 5) How many days does Emmanuel Macron want to discuss the fires for?
  - a) one
  - b) two
  - c) three
  - d) four
- 6) Who said the fires were "shocking"?
  - a) the German leader
  - b) the UK leader
  - c) the Brazilian leader
  - d) the UN Secretary-General
- 7) Who did Angela Merkel say the fires threatened besides South America?
  - a) the southern hemisphere
  - b) North America
  - c) the whole world
  - d) Australia
- 8) Who said the fires were "heartbreaking"?
  - a) the UK leader
  - b) the German leader
  - c) the UN Secretary-General
  - d) the Brazilian leader
- 9) What did the UK leader call the Amazon?
  - a) an important place
  - b) awesome
  - c) the lungs of the world
  - d) one of Earth's greatest wonders
- 10) Who said we are in the midst of a global climate crisis?
  - a) the UK leader
  - b) the Brazilian leader
  - c) the UN Secretary-General
  - d) the German leader

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

## **Role A – Wildfires**

You think wildfires are the biggest causes of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, deforestation or inability to change.

## **Role B – Cars**

You think cars the biggest causes of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): wildfires, deforestation or inability to change.

## **Role C – Deforestation**

You think deforestation is biggest cause of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, wildfires or inability to change.

## **Role D – Inability to Change**

You think our inability to change is biggest cause of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, deforestation or wildfires.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

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

<b>rain</b>	<b>forest</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>• rate</li><li>• increase</li><li>• top</li><li>• serious</li><li>• lungs</li><li>• two</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• called</li><li>• threaten</li><li>• whole</li><li>• ready</li><li>• greatest</li><li>• major</li></ul>
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# THE AMAZON FIRES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Amazon fires 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.

# THE AMAZON FIRES 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 'rainforest'?
3. What do you know about the Amazon fires?
4. How dangerous are the fires to the world?
5. What do you know about the Amazon rainforest?
6. What urgent action can be taken to put the fires out?
7. Do you agree with the French President?
8. How serious are the fires?
9. What are your feelings about the Amazon rainforests?
10. What advice do you have for the president of Brazil?

*Amazon rainforest fires are an international crisis – 25th August, 2019*  
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# THE AMAZON FIRES 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 'fire'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What did your country's leader say about the fires?
15. Why was there more on the news about the Notre Dame fire?
16. What will the climate be like in 50 years from now?
17. How do the Amazon fires affect the whole world?
18. What three adjectives best describe this story?
19. How much of your country's forests are left?
20. What questions would you like to ask Brazil'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/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Fires are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Amazon rainforest at an alarming (2) \_\_\_\_\_. French President Emmanuel Macron has said the record number of fires is now an "international crisis". There has been an 85 per cent (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said urgent action needed to be taken. He said the fires needed to be on (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the agenda at the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how (5) \_\_\_\_\_ he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's (6) \_\_\_\_\_ - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss this emergency in two days."

Other leaders (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an "acute emergency". She said they were "(8) \_\_\_\_\_". She added that the fires didn't only threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also affected the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only heartbreaking," but "an international crisis". He added: "We (9) \_\_\_\_\_ ready to provide whatever help we can to bring them (10) \_\_\_\_\_ control and help protect one of Earth's greatest (11) \_\_\_\_\_." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."

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

- |     |               |             |              |              |
|-----|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) burns     | (b) burning | (c) burnt    | (d) burn     |
| 2.  | (a) date      | (b) rate    | (c) late     | (d) gate     |
| 3.  | (a) risen     | (b) up      | (c) height   | (d) increase |
| 4.  | (a) side      | (b) top     | (c) bottom   | (d) middle   |
| 5.  | (a) series    | (b) serious | (c) services | (d) sears    |
| 6.  | (a) sun       | (b) iron    | (c) oxygen   | (d) blood    |
| 7.  | (a) agreement | (b) agrees  | (c) agreed   | (d) agreeing |
| 8.  | (a) shock     | (b) shocks  | (c) shocking | (d) shocker  |
| 9.  | (a) jump      | (b) kneel   | (c) sit      | (d) stand    |
| 10. | (a) under     | (b) over    | (c) around   | (d) in       |
| 11. | (a) wonders   | (b) wanders | (c) wends    | (d) winds    |
| 12. | (a) sauce     | (b) sass    | (c) source   | (d) scarce   |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. at an mirnalag rate
2. an international sricis
3. on top of the aenadg
4. Our house is burning, ytlrlaeil
5. produce 20% of our planet's nxoegy
6. let's discuss this mnegecrye

## Paragraph 2

7. Other leaders earegd
8. nhrettea Brazil and its neighboring countries
9. rpdiveo whatever help we can
10. one of Earth's greatest ersnowd
11. a major source of oxygen and dyvteioirbis
12. The Amazon must be topetcedr

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

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

- ( ) leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is
- ( ) Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also affected the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson
- ( ) be taken. He said the fires needed to be on top of the agenda at the G7 summit of world
- ( ) Other leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an
- ( ) burning. Literally. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's
- ( **1** ) Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at an alarming rate. French President Emmanuel Macron
- ( ) has said the record number of fires is now an "international crisis". There has been an
- ( ) more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."
- ( ) 85 per cent increase in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said urgent action needed to
- ( ) wonders." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford
- ( ) called the fires "not only heartbreaking," but "an international crisis". He added: "We stand ready
- ( ) oxygen - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss this emergency in two days."
- ( ) to provide whatever help we can to bring them under control and help protect one of Earth's greatest
- ( ) "acute emergency". She said they were "shocking". She added that the fires didn't only threaten

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

1. are Amazon the burning Fires rainforest . in
2. increase There fires . an has been in 85%
3. needed said action taken . to urgent be Macron
4. our planet's oxygen . Lungs of 20% produce which
5. days . two emergency in discuss this Let's
6. the they that fires . discuss agreed Leaders should
7. emergency . Merkel the an has called fires acute
8. help to we provide can . ready Stand whatever
9. protect wonders . greatest of one Help Earth's
10. biodiversity . A of and oxygen source major

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Fires are *burning* / *burnt* in the Amazon rainforest at an alarming rate. French President Emmanuel Macron has said the *record* / *recording* number of fires is now an "international *crises* / *crisis*". There has been an 85 per cent increase in *fire* / *fires* in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said *urgency* / *urgent* action needed to be taken. He said the fires *necessary* / *needed* to be on top of the agenda at the *G7 summit* / *apex* of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is burning. *Literally* / *Literary*. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's oxygen - is *in* / *on* fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's *discussion* / *discuss* this emergency in two days."

Other leaders *agreed* / *agreement* that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has *called* / *calls* the fires an "acute emergency". She said they were "shocking". She added that the fires didn't only *threat* / *threaten* Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also *effected* / *affected* the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only *heartbreaking* / *heartbroken*," but "an international crisis". He added: "We stand ready to *provide* / *provides* whatever help we can to bring them *over* / *under* control and help protect one of Earth's greatest *wonderful* / *wonders*." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford *more* / *most* damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be *protection* / *protected*."

**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/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

F\_r\_s \_r\_ b\_r n\_n g \_n th\_ A m\_z\_n r\_\_ n f\_r\_s t \_t  
\_n \_l\_r m\_n g r\_t\_. F\_r n\_c h P\_r\_s\_d\_n t E m\_m\_n\_\_ l  
M\_c r\_n h\_s s\_\_ d th\_ r\_c\_r d n\_m b\_r \_f f\_r\_s \_s  
n\_w \_n " \_n t\_r n\_t\_\_ n\_l c\_r\_s\_s ". Th\_r\_ h\_s b\_\_ n  
\_n 8 5 p\_r c\_n t \_n c\_r\_\_ s\_ \_n f\_r\_s \_n th\_ A  
m\_z\_n th\_s y\_\_ r. M\_r M\_c r\_n s\_\_ d \_r g\_n t \_c  
t\_\_ n n\_\_ d\_d t\_ b\_ t\_k\_n. H\_ s\_\_ d th\_ f\_r\_s  
n\_\_ d\_d t\_ b\_ \_n t\_p \_f th\_ \_g\_n d\_\_ t th\_ G 7  
s\_m m\_t \_f w\_r l\_d l\_\_ d\_r s \_n B\_\_ r\_r\_t z. M\_c r\_n  
t\_w\_\_ t\_d \_b\_\_ t h\_w s\_r\_\_s h\_ th\_\_ g\_h t th\_  
f\_r\_s w\_r\_. H\_ w\_r\_t: " O\_r h\_\_ s\_\_ s b\_r n\_n g.  
L\_t\_r\_l\_l y. Th\_ A m\_z\_n r\_\_ n f\_r\_s t - th\_ l\_n g  
s w h\_c h p\_r\_d\_c\_ 2 0 % \_f \_\_ r p\_l\_n\_t 's \_x\_y\_g\_n  
- \_s \_n f\_r\_. It \_s \_n \_n t\_r n\_t\_\_ n\_l c\_r\_s\_s .  
M\_m b\_r s \_f th\_ G 7 S\_m m\_t, l\_t 's d\_s c\_s s t  
h\_s \_m\_r g\_n c\_y \_n t\_w\_ d\_y s. "

O t\_h\_r l\_\_ d\_r s \_g\_r\_\_ d th\_t th\_y s\_h\_\_ l\_d d\_s  
c\_s s th\_ f\_r\_s. G\_r m\_n C\_h\_n c\_l\_l\_r A\_n g\_l\_ M\_r  
k\_l h\_s c\_l\_l\_d th\_ f\_r\_s \_n " \_c\_t\_ \_m\_r g\_n c\_y ".  
S\_h\_ s\_\_ d th\_y w\_r\_ " s\_h\_c k\_n g ". S\_h\_ \_d\_d\_d t  
h\_t th\_ f\_r\_s d\_d n 't \_n\_l y th\_r\_\_ t\_n B\_r\_z\_l \_n  
d \_t\_s n\_\_ g\_h b\_r\_n g c\_\_ n\_t\_r\_\_ s, b\_t \_l\_s\_ \_f\_f\_c  
t\_d th\_ w\_h\_l\_ w\_r\_l\_d. Th\_ U\_K P\_r\_m\_ M\_n\_s\_t\_r  
B\_r\_s J\_h\_n\_s\_n c\_l\_l\_d th\_ f\_r\_s " n\_t \_n\_l y h\_\_ r  
t\_b\_r\_\_ k\_n g, " b\_t " \_n \_n t\_r n\_t\_\_ n\_l c\_r\_s\_s ".  
H\_ \_d\_d\_d: " W\_ s\_t\_n d r\_\_ d\_y t\_ p\_r\_v\_d\_ w  
h\_t\_v\_r h\_l\_p w\_ c\_n t\_ b\_r\_n g th\_m \_n\_d\_r c\_n t  
r\_l \_n\_d h\_l\_p p\_r\_t\_c\_t \_n\_ \_f E\_r\_t\_h 's g\_r\_\_ t\_s t  
w\_n d\_r s. " U\_N S\_c\_r\_t\_r\_y - G\_n\_r\_l A\_n t\_n\_\_  
G\_t\_r\_r\_s s\_\_ d: " I\_n th\_ m\_d\_s\_t \_f th\_ g\_l\_b\_l  
c\_l\_m\_t\_ c\_r\_s\_s, w\_ c\_n n\_t \_f\_f\_r\_d m\_r\_ d\_m\_g\_ t\_  
\_ m\_j\_r s\_\_ r\_c\_ \_f \_x\_y\_g\_n \_n\_d b\_\_ d\_v\_r\_s\_t\_y. T  
h\_ A m\_z\_n m\_s t b\_ p\_r\_t\_c\_t\_d. "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

fires are burning in the amazon rainforest at an alarming rate french president emmanuel macron has said the record number of fires is now an international crisis there has been an 85 per cent increase in fires in the amazon this year mr macron said urgent action needed to be taken he said the fires needed to be on top of the agenda at the g7 summit of world leaders in biarritz macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were he wrote our house is burning literally the amazon rain forest the lungs which produce 20 of our planets oxygen is on fire it is an international crisis members of the g7 summit lets discuss this emergency in two days other leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires german chancellor angela merkel has called the fires an acute emergency she said they were shocking she added that the fires didnt only threaten brazil and its neighboring countries but also affected the whole world the uk prime minister boris johnson called the fires not only heartbreaking but an international crisis he added we stand ready to provide whatever help we can to bring them under control and help protect one of earths greatest wonders un secretarygeneral antonio guterres said in the midst of the global climate crisis we cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity the amazon must be protected

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190825-amazon-fires.html>

Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at an alarming rate. French President Emmanuel Macron has said the record number of fires is now an "international crisis". There has been an 85 percent increase in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron said urgent action needed to be taken. He said the fires needed to be on top of the agenda at the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rainforest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's oxygen - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss this emergency in two days." Other leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an "acute emergency". She said they were "shocking". She added that the fires didn't only threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also affected the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only heartbreaking, "but" an international crisis". He added: "We stand ready to provide whatever help we can to bring them under control and help protect one of Earth's greatest wonders." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."







# 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. THE AMAZON FIRES:** Make a poster about the Amazon fires. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. INTERNATIONAL HELP:** Write a magazine article about all countries helping to fight the Amazon fires. 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 the Amazon fires. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on the Amazon. 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. f    3. c    4. a    5. g    6. d    7. e  
8. m    9. n    10. k    11. h    12. l    13. j    14. i

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. alarming      | a. worrying     |
| 2. crisis        | b. emergency    |
| 3. urgent        | c. serious      |
| 4. literally     | d. really       |
| 5. discuss       | e. talk through |
| 6. acute         | f. severe       |
| 7. threaten      | g. endanger     |
| 8. heartbreaking | h. upsetting    |
| 9. wonders       | i. marvels      |
| 10. major        | j. greatest     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. An alarming rate
2. An 85% increase
3. The G7 Summit
4. Twenty per cent
5. Two
6. German Chancellor Angela Merkel
7. The whole world
8. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson
9. One of Earth's greatest wonders
10. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

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

1. Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest.
2. There has been an 85% increase in fires.
3. Macron said urgent action needed to be taken.
4. Lungs which produce 20% of our planet's oxygen.
5. Let's discuss this emergency in two days.
6. Leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires.
7. Merkel has called the fires an acute emergency.
8. Stand ready to provide whatever help we can.
9. Help protect one of Earth's greatest wonders.
10. A major source of oxygen and biodiversity.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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 ;-)