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**Level 5** – 7th February, 2019

## Worst locust invasion in East Africa in 70 years

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200207-locust-invasion-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200207-locust-invasion-5.html>

The living of farmers in East Africa is under attack from locusts. Authorities say swarms of locusts are destroying large areas of farmland. Millions of people are at risk. The insects destroyed crops in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and other countries. The swarms are spreading and could affect neighbouring countries. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation say some swarms have been sighted as far away as Yemen and Oman in the Gulf. It is the worst locust invasion in 70 years. Some say it is nearing a Biblical scale.

The locust invasion is affecting over 12 million people. Many of these were experiencing food insecurity due to poor harvests and no rain. The locusts will only worsen the plight of people. Locusts are very voracious pests. One locust can eat its body weight in just 24 hours. A small swarm could eat enough food to feed 35,000 people for a day. A farmer in Kenya was concerned. She said: "We depend a lot on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy our harvest. We will end up remaining hungry through the rest of the year [until next year's harvest]."

Sources: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/scienceandhealth/Locust-swarms-threaten-more-countries-in-eastern-Africa-FAO/3073694-5443824-vpesa1/index.html>  
<https://news.sky.com/story/worst-locust-invasion-in-70-years-threatens-countries-in-eastern-africa-11925606>  
<https://www.ecowatch.com/locusts-somalia-national-emergency-2645027649.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200207-locust-invasion-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. The living of farmers in East Africa | a. at risk         |
| 2. swarms of locusts are destroying     | b. as Yemen        |
| 3. Millions of people are               | c. scale           |
| 4. affect neighbouring                  | d. large areas     |
| 5. some swarms have been                | e. countries       |
| 6. as far away                          | f. is under attack |
| 7. the worst locust invasion            | g. sighted         |
| 8. Some say it is nearing a Biblical    | h. in 70 years     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. experiencing food                 | a. of the year    |
| 2. worsen the plight                 | b. on this season |
| 3. Locusts are very voracious        | c. harvest        |
| 4. feed 35,000 people                | d. insecurity     |
| 5. We depend a lot                   | e. our harvest    |
| 6. the locusts will destroy          | f. for a day      |
| 7. remaining hungry through the rest | g. of people      |
| 8. until next year's                 | h. pests          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200207-locust-invasion-5.html>

The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in East Africa is under attack from locusts. Authorities say swarms of locusts are destroying (2) \_\_\_\_\_ farmland. Millions of people are at risk. The insects destroyed crops in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The swarms are spreading (4) \_\_\_\_\_ neighbouring countries. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation say some swarms have been (5) \_\_\_\_\_ away as Yemen and Oman in the Gulf. It is the worst locust invasion in 70 years. Some say it (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Biblical scale.

The locust invasion (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 12 million people. Many of these were experiencing food insecurity due to poor harvests and no rain. The locusts will only (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of people. Locusts are very voracious pests. One locust can eat (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in just 24 hours. A (10) \_\_\_\_\_ eat enough food to feed 35,000 people for a day. A farmer in Kenya was concerned. She said: "We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy our harvest. We will end up remaining hungry through the rest of the year [until (12) \_\_\_\_\_]."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200207-locust-invasion-5.html>

The living off farmers in East Africa is under attack from locusts. Authorities say swarms of locusts are destroying large areas of farmland. Millions of people are at risk. The insects destroyed crops in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and other countries. The swarms are spreading and could affect neighbouring countries. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation says some swarms have been sighted as far away as Yemen and Oman in the Gulf. It is the worst locust invasion in 70 years. Some say it is nearing a biblical scale. The locust invasion is affecting over 12 million people. Many of these were experiencing food insecurity due to poor harvests and no rain. The locusts will only worsen the plight of people. Locusts are very voracious pests. One locust can eat its body weight in just 24 hours. A small swarm could eat enough food to feed 35,000 people for a day. A farmer in Kenya was concerned. She said: "We depend a lot on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy your harvest. We will end up remaining hungry throughout the rest of the year [until next year's harvest]."

# LOCUSTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200207-locust-invasion-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about locusts 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Worst locust invasion in East Africa in 70 years – 7th February, 2019*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

