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Level 4 – 10th March, 2020

Panic buying sparks toilet paper shortages

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

Shoppers are panic buying over fears of the coronavirus. People worldwide are emptying supermarket shelves of toilet paper, masks, sanitiser and food. Governments told people there is no need to "panic buy". Panic buying reduces the supply of products needed by medical staff. This could worsen the problems caused by COVID-19. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over a pack of toilet roll in a supermarket have gone viral across social media.

Panic buying is an "irrational" behaviour. It is part of the FOMO condition - the fear of missing out. There is a "herd mentality" that makes people copy each other. They rush to the stores to do the same as others. People are overestimating the risk of dying from COVID-19. More people die in car accidents but we don't panic about this when we go to work. Singapore's prime minister said: "We have ample supplies. There's no need to stock up."

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-why-are-people-panic-buying-and-why-toilet-paper-11952397>
<https://www.snopes.com/news/2020/03/06/coronavirus-why-people-are-panic-buying-toilet-paper/>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/australians-scrap-toilet-rolls-coronavirus-panic-buying-200308014116516.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shoppers are | a. pack of toilet roll |
| 2. emptying supermarket | b. of products |
| 3. there is no need | c. across social media |
| 4. Panic buying reduces the supply | d. panic buying |
| 5. medical | e. the problems |
| 6. This could worsen | f. to "panic buy" |
| 7. fighting over a | g. staff |
| 8. gone viral | h. shelves |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. the fear | a. to work |
| 2. There is a herd | b. of dying |
| 3. They rush to | c. stock up |
| 4. People are overestimating the risk | d. mentality |
| 5. More people die in | e. the stores |
| 6. when we go | f. supplies |
| 7. We have ample | g. car accidents |
| 8. There's no need to | h. of missing out |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

Shoppers are panic buying (1) _____ the coronavirus.

People worldwide are emptying supermarket (2) _____

paper, masks, sanitiser and food. Governments told (3) _____

no need to "panic buy". Panic buying (4) _____ of products

needed by medical staff. This (5) _____ problems caused by

COVID-19. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over a pack of toilet roll

in a supermarket have (6) _____ social media.

Panic buying (7) _____ behaviour. It is part of the FOMO

condition - the fear of missing out. There is (8) _____ that

makes people copy each other. They rush to (9) _____ do

the same as others. People are overestimating the (10) _____

from COVID-19. More people die in car accidents but we

(11) _____ this when we go to work. Singapore's prime

minister said: "We have ample supplies. There's no need

(12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

Shoppers are panic buying over fears of the coronavirus. People worldwide are emptying supermarket shelves of toilet paper, masks, sanitiser and food. Governments told people there is no need to "panic buy". Panic buying reduces the supply of products needed by medical staff. This could worsen the problems caused by COVID-19. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over a pack of toilet rolls in a supermarket have gone viral across social media. Panic buying is an "irrational" behaviour. It is part of the FOMO condition - the fear of missing out. There is a "herd mentality" that makes people copy each other. They rush to the store to do the same as others. People are overestimating the risk of dying from COVID-19. More people die in car accidents but we don't panic about this when we go to work. Singapore's prime minister said: "We have ample supplies. There is no need to hoard stock up."

PANIC BUYING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about panic buying 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-4.html>

Write about **panic buying** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
