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Level 5 – 10th March, 2019

Panic buying sparks toilet paper shortages

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-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/2003/200310-panic-buying-5.html>

Shoppers are going on panic buying sprees over fears of the coronavirus. People in England, Japan, Singapore and Australia are emptying supermarket shelves of toilet paper, face masks, hand sanitiser and dried food. Governments have told people there is no need to "panic buy". They added that panic buying would reduce the supply of products needed by medical staff, which could exacerbate the problems the COVID-19 virus is causing. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over the last pack of toilet roll in a supermarket have gone viral across social media.

A psychologist said panic buying is an "irrational" behaviour. It is part of a condition called FOMO - the fear of missing out. A "herd mentality" sets in during disasters that makes people copy each other. People see items being bought in bulk and immediately rush to the stores to do the same. People are overestimating the risk of dying from the coronavirus. A doctor said "far more" people die in car accidents but we don't panic about this when we go to work. Singapore's prime minister reassured Singaporeans that: "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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. panic buying | a. of toilet roll |
| 2. hand | b. to panic buy |
| 3. there is no need | c. is causing |
| 4. panic buying would | d. sanitiser |
| 5. products needed | e. across social media |
| 6. problems the COVID-19 virus | f. reduce the supply |
| 7. the last pack | g. sprees |
| 8. gone viral | h. by medical staff |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. panic buying is an irrational" | a. of dying |
| 2. a herd | b. to stock up |
| 3. People see items being bought | c. die in car accidents |
| 4. overestimating the risk | d. mentality |
| 5. far more people | e. supplies |
| 6. when we go | f. in bulk |
| 7. We have ample | g. behaviour |
| 8. There's no need | h. to work |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200310-panic-buying-5.html>

Shoppers are (1) _____ buying sprees over fears of the coronavirus. People in England, Japan, Singapore and Australia are emptying (2) _____ toilet paper, face masks, hand sanitiser and dried food. Governments have told people there (3) _____ to "panic buy". They (4) _____ buying would reduce the supply of products needed by medical staff, which could exacerbate the problems the COVID-19 (5) _____. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over the last pack of toilet roll in a supermarket have gone (6) _____ media.

A psychologist said panic buying (7) _____ behaviour. It is part of a condition called FOMO - the fear (8) _____. A "herd mentality" sets in during disasters that (9) _____ each other. People see items being bought in bulk and immediately (10) _____ stores to do the same. People are overestimating the (11) _____ from the coronavirus. A doctor said "far more" people die in car accidents but we don't panic about this when we go to work. Singapore's prime minister reassured Singaporeans that: "We have ample supplies. There's no (12) _____ up."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2020/20200310-panic-buying-5.html>

Shoppers are going on panic buying spree over fears of the coronavirus. People in England, Japan, Singapore and Australia are emptying supermarket shelves of toilet paper, facemasks, hand sanitiser and dried food. Governments have told people there is no need to "panic buy". They added that panic buying would reduce the supply of products needed by medical staff, which could exacerbate the problems the COVID-19 virus is causing. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over the last pack of toilet roll in a supermarket have gone viral across social media. A psychologist said panic buying is an "irrational" behaviour. It is part of a condition called FOMO - the fear of missing out. A "herd mentality" sets in during disasters that makes people copy each other. People see items being bought in bulk and immediately rush to the store to do the same. People are overestimating the risk of dying from the coronavirus. A doctor said "far more" people die in car accidents but we don't panic about this when we go to work. Singapore's prime minister reassured Singaporeans that: "We have ample supplies. There's no need to 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) _____

