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Level 2 – 23rd December, 2020

World blocks UK over new mutant virus strain

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-2.html>

Forty countries have blocked travel to and from the United Kingdom. European countries, Canada, Iran, Russia and India are among them. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19. The new coronavirus is a mutant - it has changed from the original virus that started spreading earlier this year. Some nations blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.

The UK government says the new virus is 70% more infectious than the original coronavirus. It is so fast-spreading that it is "out of control". Many parts of the UK are now in lockdown. The government issued new rules about mixing with other people. Most people can only spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see other family members or friends. A politician said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled." The UK leader told people that there would be enough food.

Sources: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/coronavirus-latest-britain-cut-off-by-30-countries-as-mutant-covid-strain-out-of-control-1.1098247>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55391289>
<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-britain/rapup-1-world-closes-borders-to-britain-as-new-coronavirus-strain-breeds-panic-idUSL1N2J10IW>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Forty countries have blocked | a. least two weeks |
| 2. Russia and India are | b. a new strain |
| 3. The reason is because of | c. the original virus |
| 4. The new coronavirus is | d. ban |
| 5. it has changed from | e. travel |
| 6. started spreading earlier | f. a mutant |
| 7. for at | g. among them |
| 8. caused by a travel | h. this year |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the new virus is 70% | a. spreading |
| 2. the original | b. enough food |
| 3. It is so fast- | c. rules about mixing |
| 4. out | d. disturbing |
| 5. The government issued new | e. has nearly doubled |
| 6. deeply | f. coronavirus |
| 7. The number of coronavirus cases | g. more infectious |
| 8. there would be | h. of control |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-2.html>

Forty countries have (1) _____ and from the United Kingdom. European countries, Canada, Iran, Russia and India are among them. The (2) _____ of a new strain of COVID-19. The new coronavirus (3) _____ - it has changed from the original virus that started spreading earlier this year. (4) _____ transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at (5) _____. Many countries are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's (6) _____ the English Channel from France.

The UK government says the new virus is 70% (7) _____ the original coronavirus. It is so fast-spreading that it is "(8) _____. Many parts of the UK are now in lockdown. The government (9) _____ about mixing with other people. Most people can only spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to (10) _____ members or friends. A politician said: "The news over (11) _____ hours has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled." The UK leader told people that there (12) _____ food.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-2.html>

Forty countries have blocked travel to and from the United Kingdom. European countries, Canada, Iran, Russia and India are among them. There is a reason because of a new strain of COVID-19. The new coronavirus is a mutant - it has changed from the original virus that started spreading earlier this year. Some nations blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France. The UK government says the new virus is 70% more infectious than the original coronavirus. It is so fast-spreading that it is "out of control". Many parts of the UK are now in lockdown. The government issued new rules about mixing with other people. Most people can only spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see other family members or friends. A politician said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled." The UK leader told people that there would be enough food.

THE MUTANT VIRUS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the mutant virus 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) _____

