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**Level 1** – 21st February, 2021

## Most of world's rivers damaged by humans

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-1.html>

Humans have damaged 86 per cent of the world's rivers. Researchers looked at data on over 2,500 rivers, but none in the Arctic and Antarctica or in deserts. The scientists looked at biodiversity changes over the past 200 years. Humans have seriously damaged biodiversity in over half of rivers. There are many reasons for this. One reason is new species of fish that are in rivers. Other reasons include pollution, dams and climate change.

The worst-hit rivers are in the big cities of Europe and America. The lead researcher said rivers which have the most economic development near them, like the Mississippi river or River Thames, are the most strongly impacted. The least-impacted are in Africa and Australia. This is because of fewer factories in Africa and smaller populations around rivers in Australia. He said rivers in rich nations are totally different to how they were 200 years ago.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/18/very-few-of-worlds-rivers-undamaged-by-humanity-study-finds>  
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2268348-humans-have-severely-affected-fish-biodiversity-in-half-of-all-rivers>  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-18/human-caused-climate-change-threatens-a-quarter-of-freshwater-fish>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Researchers looked                | a. 200 years    |
| 2. scientists looked at biodiversity | b. in rivers    |
| 3. changes over the past             | c. of rivers    |
| 4. Humans have seriously damaged     | d. change       |
| 5. in over half                      | e. at data      |
| 6. There are many reasons            | f. biodiversity |
| 7. fish that are                     | g. changes      |
| 8. climate                           | h. for this     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The worst-hit rivers are   | a. 200 years ago         |
| 2. the lead                   | b. development           |
| 3. the most economic          | c. factories in Africa   |
| 4. the most strongly          | d. are totally different |
| 5. This is because of fewer   | e. rivers                |
| 6. smaller populations around | f. in the big cities     |
| 7. rivers in rich nations     | g. researcher            |
| 8. how they were              | h. impacted              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-1.html>

Humans (1) \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of the world's rivers.

Researchers looked (2) \_\_\_\_\_ over 2,500 rivers,

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ the Arctic and Antarctica or in deserts.

The scientists looked at biodiversity changes

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ 200 years. Humans have seriously

damaged biodiversity in over half of rivers. There are many

(5) \_\_\_\_\_. One reason is new species of fish that

are in rivers. Other reasons include pollution,

(6) \_\_\_\_\_ change.

The worst-hit rivers are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ cities of

Europe and America. The lead researcher said rivers

(8) \_\_\_\_\_ most economic development near

them, like the Mississippi river or River Thames,

(9) \_\_\_\_\_ strongly impacted. The least-impacted

are in Africa and Australia. This is (10) \_\_\_\_\_

factories in Africa and smaller populations

(11) \_\_\_\_\_ Australia. He said rivers in rich

nations are totally different (12) \_\_\_\_\_ were 200

years ago.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-1.html>

Humans have damaged 86 percent of the world's rivers. Researchers looked at data on over 2,500 rivers, but none in the Arctic and Antarctic or in deserts. The scientists looked at biodiversity changes over the past 200 years. Humans have seriously damaged biodiversity in over half of rivers. There are many reasons for this. One reason is new species of fish that are in rivers. Other reasons include pollution, dams and climate change. The worst-hit rivers are in the big cities of Europe and America. The lead researchers said rivers which have the most economic development near them, like the Mississippi river or River Thames, are the most strongly impacted. The least-impacted are in Africa and Australia. This is because of few factories in Africa and smaller populations around rivers in Australia. He said rivers in rich nations are totally different to how they were 200 years ago.

# RIVERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210221-rivers-4.html>

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

