

People in Tokyo asked to turn off lights in heat wave

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Japan is experiencing record heat. Last week, the temperature in eastern Japan reached 40°C for the first time in June. Isesaki City in Gunma prefecture, north of Tokyo, recorded a temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius on Saturday. The hotter than

usual weather means people are using their air conditioners more. This is making it difficult for power companies to keep up with demand. To help these companies, Japan's government has asked people to use less electricity. Spokesman Yoshihiko Isozaki said: "We ask the public to reduce energy consumption during the early evening hours." He wants people to turn off unnecessary lights from 3 pm to 6 pm and use air conditioners less.

Japan's heat wave is set to continue. The weather agency said that the country's rainy season finished at its earliest since records began in 1951. This means a longer and hotter summer. The government said: "We are struck by unusual heat for the season. Please cooperate and save as much power as possible." The Tokyo Electric Power Company warned there was a risk of power shortages and blackouts if people did not use less energy. There is also a risk of people getting heatstroke. More than 250 people were taken to hospital in Tokyo over the weekend after suffering from heatstroke. The government is advising people to drink more water and not to exercise outside in the heat.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [mainichi.jp](https://www.mainichi.jp) / [kyodonews.net](https://www.kyodonews.net)

Writing

We all need to use much less electricity every day. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Japan / heat / temperature / weather / air conditioners / power / the public / energy / heat wave / rainy season / summer / shortages / blackouts / risk / heatstroke / water

True / False

- 1) The whole of Japan is experiencing record temperatures. T / F
- 2) The temperature in Tokyo reached 40.2° Celsius. T / F
- 3) Power companies are finding it difficult to produce enough electricity. T / F
- 4) The government asked people to not use lights between 3 am and 6 am. T / F
- 5) Japan's rainy season is set to finish in two weeks from now. T / F
- 6) Japan's government said the heat was unusual. T / F
- 7) A power company warned of power shortages. T / F
- 8) Over 250 people in Tokyo were hospitalized because of heatstroke. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. experiencing | a. cautioned |
| 2. reached | b. cut |
| 3. help | c. hit |
| 4. reduce | d. facing |
| 5. unnecessary | e. go on |
| 6. continue | f. chance |
| 7. struck | g. unneeded |
| 8. warned | h. instructing |
| 9. risk | i. assist |
| 10. advising | j. got up to |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What's your favourite kind of weather?
- c) Do you prefer the heat or the cold?
- d) What do you like to do in summer?
- e) Have you ever experienced power shortages?
- f) What do you know about heatstroke?
- g) What other dangers are there of very hot weather?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a weather expert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. the temperature in eastern Japan | a. usual weather |
| 2. for the | b. power as possible |
| 3. The hotter than | c. less |
| 4. difficult for power companies to keep | d. wave is set to continue |
| 5. use air conditioners | e. season finished |
| 6. Japan's heat | f. reached 40°C |
| 7. the country's rainy | g. from heatstroke |
| 8. This means a longer | h. first time |
| 9. save as much | i. and hotter summer |
| 10. suffering | j. up with demand |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of hot weather?
- What do you think of 40-degree temperatures?
- What's the best way to survive in the heat?
- What do you think of air conditioners?
- How can people use less energy in the summer months?
- Have you ever experienced a heat wave?
- What is causing record temperatures?
- What advice do you have for people in Tokyo?

Spelling

- Japan is cienenxierpg record heat
- the mrrautetpee in eastern Japan reached 40°C
- people are using their air trnoseiicdon
- keep up with madend
- reduce energy uiopcntnmos
- turn off yseunsencar lights
- the country's rainy esnaso finished
- roptecaeo and save as much power as possible
- a risk of power htaosesgr and blackouts
- suffering from reetstkhaio
- ngsivadi people to drink more water
- not to xericsee outside in the heat

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. j	3. i	4. b	5. g
6. e	7. c	8. a	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Air Conditioner

You think an air conditioner is the thing we could use less to save electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): smartphone, car or fridge.

Role B – Smartphone

You think a smartphone is the thing we could use less to save electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): air conditioner, car or fridge.

Role C – Car

You think a car is the thing we could use less to save electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): smartphone, air conditioner or fridge.

Role D – Fridge

You think a fridge is the thing we could use less to save electricity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): smartphone, car or air conditioner.

Speaking – Use less

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you could not use less of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| • air conditioner | • car |
| • smartphone | • lights |
| • electric kettle | • fridge |
| • water cooler | • TV |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.