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**Level 6 – 6th March 2023**

## British supermarkets ration fruit and vegetables

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

### Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to hunt around to find supplies of fruit and vegetables. Britain's major supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have cited various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves bare in green-grocery aisles. Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of certain vegetables to three per customer. Tesco attributed its shortages to adverse weather overseas. In particular, it said a drought in Morocco had led to poor yields. Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal".

Other factors are being blamed for the rationing. Britain's farmers' union said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially viable for many growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has wiped out a lot of crops across northern Europe. Industry analyst James Walton said Brexit has played a part in distribution problems. He said: "The EU accounts for much of the UK's import volume. If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are perplexed at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, laden with fresh produce.

Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/28/british-supermarkets-are-rationing-fruit-and-vegetables-amid-shortages.html>  
<https://thehill.com/homenews/ap/ap-business/ap-uk-is-grappling-with-vegetable-shortages-how-did-it-happen/>  
<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20230227-as-uk-supermarkets-ration-fruits-and-vegetables-many-blame-brexite-for-shortages>

# WARM-UPS

**1. VEGETABLES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about vegetables. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

shoppers / hunt around / fruit / vegetables / shortages / cucumbers / supermarket / rationing / energy costs / crops / Brexit / imports / exports / perplexed / war-torn

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. GROW YOUR OWN:** Students A **strongly** believe we should all grow our own vegetables; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. RATIONING:** How would life change if these things were rationed? How would you feel? What would you do? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Life changes	Feelings	What I'd Do
Tomatoes			
Gasoline			
Chocolate			
Internet time			
Water			
Electricity			

**5. TOMATO:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "tomato". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. FRUIT:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Tomatoes
- Bananas
- Kiwis
- Apples
- Lemons
- Pineapples
- Cherries
- Plums

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. rationing | a. A situation of allow each person to have only a fixed amount of something (due to shortages because of war of disasters, etc.). |
| 2. amid      | b. A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.  |
| 3. cited     | c. In an atmosphere or against a background of.  |
| 4. aisle     | d. Preventing success or development; harmful; unfavourable.   |
| 5. adverse   | e. Mentioned as an example of something.   |
| 6. drought   | f. A passage between cabinets and shelves of goods in a supermarket, or in a church or theatre, an aircraft, or train.             |
| 7. yield     | g. An amount produced of an agricultural or industrial product.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8. viable     | h. Completely baffled; very puzzled.   |
| 9. wiped out  | i. An amount or quantity of something, especially when great.  |
| 10. crops     | j. Capable of working successfully.  |
| 11. volume    | k. Of a place devastated by battles and conflict.  |
| 12. perplexed | l. Eliminated something completely.  |
| 13. war-torn  | m. Heavily loaded.   |
| 14. laden     | n. Cultivated plants that are grown on a large scale commercially, especially a cereal, fruit, or vegetable. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Shoppers in the U.K. are hunting in forests for vegetables. **T / F**
2. There is a shortage of peppers in the United Kingdom. **T / F**
3. A UK supermarket is limiting the number of veggies customers can buy. **T / F**
4. The supermarket said a drought in Morocco caused shortages. **T / F**
5. Energy companies are blaming UK farmers for vegetable shortages. **T / F**
6. U.K. farmers are making big profits despite the vegetable shortages. **T / F**
7. The EU said it would supply the UK with whatever vegetables it needs. **T / F**
8. The article says Ukraine has more vegetables in shops than the UK does. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>shoppers</b>  | a. puzzled          |
| 2. <b>rationing</b> | b. mentioned        |
| 3. <b>produce</b>   | c. held responsible |
| 4. <b>cited</b>     | d. limiting         |
| 5. <b>yields</b>    | e. full             |
| 6. <b>blamed</b>    | f. foodstuff        |
| 7. <b>viable</b>    | g. amount           |
| 8. <b>volume</b>    | h. consumers        |
| 9. <b>perplexed</b> | i. harvests         |
| 10. <b>laden</b>    | j. feasible         |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. hunt around to find                        | a. three per customer       |
| 2. limited purchases of certain vegetables to | b. back to normal           |
| 3. Tesco attributed its shortages to adverse  | c. for export to the U.K.   |
| 4. a drought in Morocco had led               | d. supplies of fruit        |
| 5. get things                                 | e. torn Ukraine             |
| 6. Other factors are being                    | f. out a lot of crops       |
| 7. it was no longer financially               | g. blamed for the rationing |
| 8. a tomato disease has wiped                 | h. to poor yields           |
| 9. This leaves less available                 | i. viable                   |
| 10. in war-                                   | j. weather overseas         |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ around to find supplies of fruit and vegetables. Britain's major supermarkets are rationing (2) \_\_\_\_\_ like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have (3) \_\_\_\_\_ various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in green-grocery aisles. Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables to three per customer. Tesco attributed its (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to adverse weather overseas. In particular, it said a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Morocco had led to poor (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal".

Other (9) \_\_\_\_\_ are being blamed for the rationing. Britain's farmers' union said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for many growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has (11) \_\_\_\_\_ out a lot of crops across northern Europe. Industry analyst James Walton said Brexit has played a part in (12) \_\_\_\_\_ problems. He said: "The EU accounts for much of the UK's import (13) \_\_\_\_\_. If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes (14) \_\_\_\_\_ for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are (15) \_\_\_\_\_ at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, (16) \_\_\_\_\_ with fresh produce.

*shortages*

*bare*

*produce*

*yields*

*hunt*

*drought*

*certain*

*cited*

*wiped*

*laden*

*sense*

*distribution*

*perplexed*

*factors*

*viable*

*volume*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

- 1) Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to hunt around \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to fund supplies
  - b. to found supplies
  - c. to find supplies
  - d. to fend supplies
- 2) supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers, peppers and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tomatoes and shortages
  - b. tomatoes armed shortages
  - c. tomatoes aim mid-shortages
  - d. tomatoes amid shortages
- 3) various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves bare \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in green-grocery aisles
  - b. in green-grocery ails
  - c. in green-grocery ills
  - d. in green-grocery eels
- 4) In particular, it said a drought in Morocco had led \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. too poor yields
  - b. to poor yields
  - c. to pour wields
  - d. to pour fields
- 5) Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. back too norm all
  - b. back tomb mall
  - c. back to nor mall
  - d. back to normal
- 6) Other factors are being blamed \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for the ration in
  - b. for the rationing
  - c. for the rasher in
  - d. for the rash shunning
- 7) Britain's farmers' union said higher energy costs meant it was no \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lengthen financially viable
  - b. longing financially viable
  - c. longer financially viable
  - d. larger financially viable
- 8) He said: "The EU accounts for much of the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. UK's import valium
  - b. UK's in-port volume
  - c. UK's imp-port volume
  - d. UK's import volume
- 9) it makes sense for EU producers to serve their \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. local demand first
  - b. locals demand first
  - c. locally demand first
  - d. locale demand first
- 10) photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in war-tarn Ukraine
  - b. in war-tern Ukraine
  - c. in war-turn Ukraine
  - d. in war-torn Ukraine

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ around to find supplies of fruit and vegetables. Britain's major supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes (2) \_\_\_\_\_ suppliers. The big chains have cited various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in green-grocery aisles. Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, has limited (4) \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables to three per customer. Tesco attributed its (5) \_\_\_\_\_ weather overseas. In particular, it said a drought in Morocco had led (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal".

Other factors are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the rationing. Britain's farmers' union said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially (8) \_\_\_\_\_ growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has wiped out a lot (9) \_\_\_\_\_ northern Europe. Industry analyst James Walton said Brexit has played a part in distribution problems. He said: "The EU (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of the UK's import volume. If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This (11) \_\_\_\_\_ for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are perplexed at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ Ukraine, laden with fresh produce.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

1. What three fruit and vegetables are in short supply in the UK?
2. What does the article say has been left bare?
3. How many vegetables has a supermarket limited customers to?
4. What happened in Morocco that affected supplies?
5. When is a supermarket working to get things back to normal?
6. Who mentioned higher energy costs?
7. What wiped out crops across northern Europe?
8. What is James Waltons' job?
9. What accounts for a lot of the UK's imports of fruit and vegetables?
10. Where, besides Europe, are there shelves laden with fresh produce?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

- 1) What three fruit and vegetables are in short supply in the UK?
  - a) tomatoes, lettuce and cabbage
  - b) broccoli, beans and peppers
  - c) cucumbers, cress and courgettes
  - d) tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers
- 2) What does the article say has been left bare?
  - a) food cupboards
  - b) supermarket shelves
  - c) fridges
  - d) farm fields
- 3) How many vegetables has a supermarket limited customers to?
  - a) six
  - b) two
  - c) three
  - d) four
- 4) What happened in Morocco that affected supplies?
  - a) a drought
  - b) a storm
  - c) an oil shortage
  - d) a seed shortage
- 5) When is a supermarket working to get things back to normal?
  - a) 24/7
  - b) weekends
  - c) day and night
  - d) 9 to 5
- 6) Who mentioned higher energy costs?
  - a) a power company
  - b) a farmers' union
  - c) a journalist
  - d) a supermarket boss
- 7) What wiped out crops across northern Europe?
  - a) a pest
  - b) bad weather
  - c) frost
  - d) a tomato disease
- 8) What is James Waltons' job?
  - a) an industry analyst
  - b) a farmer
  - c) an energy company CEO
  - d) a journalist
- 9) What accounts for a lot of the UK's imports of fruit and vegetables?
  - a) Australia
  - b) Morocco
  - c) the EU
  - d) Ireland
- 10) Where, besides Europe, are there shelves laden with fresh produce?
  - a) Mongolia
  - b) war-torn Ukraine
  - c) Argentina
  - d) Vanuatu

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

## **Role A – Tomatoes**

You think tomatoes are the best fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): apples, bananas or lemons.

## **Role B – Apples**

You think apples are the best fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tomatoes, bananas or lemons.

## **Role C – Bananas**

You think bananas are the best fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): apples, tomatoes or lemons.

## **Role D – Lemons**

You think lemons are the best fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): apples, bananas or tomatoes.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'supermarket' and 'ration'.

supermarket	ration

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hunt</li><li>• amid</li><li>• cited</li><li>• certain</li><li>• poor</li><li>• night</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• energy</li><li>• wiped</li><li>• part</li><li>• sense</li><li>• less</li><li>• fresh</li></ul>
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# VEGETABLES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vegetables 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.

# VEGETABLES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'supermarket'?
3. What do you think of supermarkets?
4. What do you think of the quality of supermarket vegetables?
5. Have you ever experienced food rationing?
6. What do you think of the rationing in the UK?
7. How would you feel if supermarket shelves were bare?
8. What do you like about your favourite supermarket?
9. What challenges do farmers face?
10. What advice do you have for shoppers in the UK?

*British supermarkets ration fruit and vegetables – 6th March 2023*  
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# VEGETABLES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'ration'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Would you like to be a farmer?
15. Should we all grow our own vegetables?
16. What are your favourite fruit and vegetables?
17. Do you think the UK's Brexit was a good idea?
18. When was the last time you were perplexed?
19. Why does war-torn Ukraine have vegetables but Britain doesn't?
20. What questions would you like to ask the supermarket bosses?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to hunt (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to find supplies of fruit and vegetables. Britain's major supermarkets are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ produce like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have (3) \_\_\_\_\_ various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves bare in green-grocery (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of certain vegetables to three (5) \_\_\_\_\_ customer. Tesco attributed its shortages to adverse weather overseas. In particular, it said a drought in Morocco had led to poor (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal".

Other factors are being blamed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the rationing. Britain's farmers' union said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for many growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has wiped out a lot of crops across northern Europe. Industry analyst James Walton said Brexit has played a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in distribution problems. He said: "The EU accounts for much of the UK's import volume. If there are shortfalls (10) \_\_\_\_\_ production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves (11) \_\_\_\_\_ available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are perplexed at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and in war-(12) \_\_\_\_\_ Ukraine, laden with fresh produce.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |              |               |             |              |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) through  | (b) around    | (c) over    | (d) about    |
| 2.  | (a) rational | (b) rationing | (c) rations | (d) rationed |
| 3.  | (a) slighted | (b) sighted   | (c) sated   | (d) cited    |
| 4.  | (a) ills     | (b) aisles    | (c) axles   | (d) ails     |
| 5.  | (a) each     | (b) of        | (c) for     | (d) per      |
| 6.  | (a) crop     | (b) harvest   | (c) yields  | (d) seed     |
| 7.  | (a) for      | (b) of        | (c) from    | (d) at       |
| 8.  | (a) viewable | (b) foible    | (c) viable  | (d) fallible |
| 9.  | (a) player   | (b) blinder   | (c) bit     | (d) part     |
| 10. | (a) in       | (b) on        | (c) up      | (d) of       |
| 11. | (a) less     | (b) lots      | (c) least   | (d) lest     |
| 12. | (a) torn     | (b) tear      | (c) tearing | (d) tore     |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. hunt around to find upsilpes
2. amid rosthgaes from suppliers
3. shelves bare in green-grocery eaalssi
4. veseadr weather overseas
5. a uhtdogr in Morocco had led to poor yields
6. Tesco resudas customers it was working

## Paragraph 2

7. it was no longer financially bveila
8. Industry anylsta
9. iustridiotbn problems
10. there are shtrafslllo in production
11. Many shoppers are eplrexpded
12. war-torn Ukraine endla with fresh produce

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) costs meant it was no longer financially viable for many growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has wiped
- ( ) to adverse weather overseas. In particular, it said a drought in Morocco had led to poor
- ( ) chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of certain vegetables to three per customer. Tesco attributed its shortages
- ( ) of fruit and vegetables. Britain's major supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers,
- ( ) Other factors are being blamed for the rationing. Britain's farmers' union said higher energy
- ( ) volume. If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local
- ( ) for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves bare in green-grocery aisles. Britain's biggest supermarket
- ( ) peppers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have cited various reasons
- ( ) in distribution problems. He said: "The EU accounts for much of the UK's import
- ( **1** ) Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to hunt around to find supplies
- ( ) out a lot of crops across northern Europe. Industry analyst James Walton said Brexit has played a part
- ( ) yields. Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal".
- ( ) on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, laden with fresh produce.
- ( ) demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are perplexed at seeing photos

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

1. produce supermarkets cucumbers . major are rationing like Britain's
2. that left in bare . shelves supply shortfall The
3. weather its attributed shortages Tesco adverse overseas . to
4. Morocco led drought poor to yields . A in
5. day to and get Working night things back .
6. blamed rationing . Other factors are for the being
7. no many for It's financially longer viable growers .
8. disease A lot . out tomato wiped has a
9. for leaves available This Britain . to export less
10. fresh war-torn laden produce . Shelves in Ukraine with

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to *hurt / hunt* around to find supplies of fruit and vegetables. Britain's *major / majorly* supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes *middle / amid* shortages from suppliers. The big chains have *sighted / cited* various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has *let / left* shelves bare in green-grocery *aisles / ails*. Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, has limited purchases *on / of* certain vegetables to three *for / per* customer. Tesco attributed its shortages to adverse weather overseas. In particular, it said a *drought / draught* in Morocco had led to poor yields. Tesco *assured / assumed* customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal".

Other factors are being blamed *for / of* the rationing. Britain's farmers' union said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially *fallible / viable* for many growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has wiped *in / out* a lot of crops across northern Europe. Industry *analysis / analyst* James Walton said Brexit has *played / done* a part in distribution problems. He said: "The EU accounts for much of the UK's import *noise / volume*. If there are shortfalls *in / at* production in the EU, then it makes *sense / sensible* for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are *perplexed / perplexing* at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, laden *to / with* fresh produce.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shopp\_ers \_n th\_ \_n\_t\_d K\_ngd\_m (.K.) \_r\_ h\_v\_ng t\_ h\_nt \_r\_\_nd t\_ f\_nd s\_ppl\_\_s \_f fr\_\_t \_nd v\_g\_t\_bl\_s. Br\_t\_\_n's m\_j\_r s\_p\_rm\_rk\_ts \_r\_ r\_t\_\_nng pr\_d\_c\_l\_k\_ c\_c\_mb\_rs, p\_pp\_rs \_nd t\_m\_t\_\_s \_m\_d sh\_rt\_g\_s fr\_m s\_ppl\_\_rs. Th\_ b\_g ch\_\_ns h\_v\_ c\_t\_d v\_r\_\_s r\_\_s\_ns f\_r th\_ sh\_rtf\_ll \_n s\_pply th\_t h\_s l\_ft sh\_lv\_s b\_r\_ \_n gr\_\_n-gr\_c\_ry \_\_sl\_s. Br\_t\_\_n's b\_gg\_st s\_p\_rm\_rk\_t ch\_\_n, T\_sc\_, h\_s l\_m\_t\_d p\_rch\_s\_s \_f c\_rt\_\_n v\_g\_t\_bl\_s t\_ thr\_\_ p\_r c\_st\_m\_r. T\_sc\_ \_ttr\_b\_t\_d \_ts sh\_rt\_g\_s t\_ \_dv\_rs\_ w\_\_th\_r \_v\_rs\_\_s. \_n p\_rt\_c\_l\_r, \_t s\_\_d \_ dr\_\_ght \_n M\_r\_cc\_ h\_d l\_d t\_ p\_\_r y\_\_lds. T\_sc\_ \_ss\_r\_d c\_st\_m\_rs \_t w\_s w\_rk\_ng d\_y \_nd n\_gh\_t t\_ "g\_t th\_ngs b\_ck t\_ n\_rm\_l".

\_th\_r f\_ct\_rs \_r\_ b\_\_ng bl\_m\_d f\_r th\_ r\_t\_\_nng. Br\_t\_\_n's f\_rm\_rs' \_n\_\_n s\_\_d h\_gh\_r \_nrgy c\_sts m\_\_nt \_t w\_s n\_ l\_ng\_r f\_n\_nc\_\_lly v\_\_bl\_ f\_r m\_ny gr\_w\_rs t\_ \_p\_r\_t\_. \_t \_ls\_ s\_\_d \_ t\_m\_t\_ d\_s\_\_s\_ h\_s w\_p\_d \_\_t \_ l\_t \_f cr\_ps \_cr\_ss n\_rth\_rn \_\_r\_p\_. \_nd\_stry \_n\_lyst J\_m\_s W\_lt\_n s\_\_d Br\_x\_t h\_s pl\_y\_d \_ p\_rt \_n d\_str\_b\_t\_\_n pr\_bl\_ms. H\_ s\_\_d: "Th\_ \_\_ \_cc\_\_nts f\_r m\_ch \_f th\_ \_K's \_mp\_rt v\_l\_m\_. \_f th\_r\_ \_r\_ sh\_rtf\_lls \_n pr\_d\_ct\_\_n \_n th\_ \_\_, th\_n \_t m\_k\_s s\_ns\_ f\_r \_\_ pr\_d\_c\_rs t\_ s\_rv\_ th\_\_r l\_c\_l d\_m\_nd f\_rst. Th\_s l\_\_v\_s l\_ss \_v\_\_l\_bl\_ f\_r \_xp\_rt t\_ th\_ \_K." M\_ny sh\_pp\_rs \_r\_ p\_rpl\_x\_d \_t s\_\_ng ph\_t\_s \_n s\_c\_\_l m\_d\_\_ \_f s\_p\_rm\_rk\_t sh\_lv\_s \_cr\_ss \_\_r\_p\_, \_nd \_n w\_r-t\_rn \_kr\_\_n\_, l\_d\_n w\_th fr\_sh pr\_d\_c\_.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

shoppers in the united kingdom uk are having to hunt around to find supplies of fruit and vegetables britains major supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers peppers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers the big chains have cited various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves bare in greengrocery aisles britains biggest supermarket chain tesco has limited purchases of certain vegetables to three per customer tesco attributed its shortages to adverse weather overseas in particular it said a drought in morocco had led to poor yields tesco assured customers it was working day and night to get things back to normal

other factors are being blamed for the rationing britains farmers union said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially viable for many growers to operate it also said a tomato disease has wiped out a lot of crops across northern europe industry analyst james walton said brexit has played a part in distribution problems he said the eu accounts for much of the uks import volume if there are shortfalls in production in the eu then it makes sense for eu producers to serve their local demand first this leaves less available for export to the uk many shoppers are perplexed at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across europe and in wartorn ukraine laden with fresh produce

## PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing.html>

Shoppers in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are having to hunt around to find supplies of fruit and vegetables. Britain's major supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have cited various reasons for the shortfall in supply that has left shelves bare in green-grocery aisles. Britain's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of certain vegetables to three per customer. Tesco attributed its shortages to adverse weather overseas. In particular, it said a drought in Morocco had led to poor yields. Tesco assured customers it was working day and night to "get things back to normal". Other factors are being blamed for the rationing. Britain's farmers' unions said higher energy costs meant it was no longer financially viable for many growers to operate. It also said a tomato disease has wiped out a lot of crops across northern Europe. Industry analyst James Walton said Brexit has played a part in distribution problems. He said: "The EU accounts for much of the UK's import volume. If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are perplexed at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves across Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, laden with fresh produce.







# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. VEGETABLES:** Make a poster about vegetables. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. GROWING YOUR OWN:** Write a magazine article about all of us growing our own vegetables to be more self-sufficient. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on vegetables. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions of vegetables. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. a    2. c    3. e    4. f    5. d    6. b    7. g  
8. j    9. l    10. n    11. i    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers
2. Supermarket shelves
3. Three
4. A drought
5. Day and night
6. Britain's farmers' union
7. A tomato disease
8. An industry analyst
9. The EU
10. War-torn Ukraine

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Britain's major supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers.
2. The shortfall in supply that left shelves bare.
3. Tesco attributed its shortages to adverse weather overseas.
4. A drought in Morocco led to poor yields.
5. Working day and night to get things back.
6. Other factors are being blamed for the rationing.
7. It's no longer financially viable for many growers.
8. A tomato disease has wiped out a lot.
9. This leaves less available for export to Britain.
10. Shelves in war-torn Ukraine laden with fresh produce.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. a    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)