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Level 6 – 29th May 2023

New York City sinking four millimetres a year

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Scientists say New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of all its skyscrapers. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey calculated that there are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing around 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include fixtures and fittings in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million inhabitants. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual subsidence, coupled with rising sea levels, could make New York prone to natural disasters. He warned that "every additional high-rise building could contribute to future flood risk," especially along coastal and riverfront areas.

The researchers compared what is happening to New York to the problems Venice and Jakarta are having. Venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction of a \$5.3 billion system of sea walls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from scratch because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will inhabit cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end up with subsidence." He warned that New York City was "emblematic of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a high concentration of construction." Increasing urbanisation will exacerbate problems for cities.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/23/nyregion/nyc-sinking.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230523-new-yorks-skyscrapers-are-causing-it-to-sink-what-can-be-done-about-it>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/23/world/nyc-sinking-sea-level-climate-scn/index.html>

WARM-UPS

1. NEW YORK CITY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about New York City. 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?

scientists / New York City / sinking / weight / skyscrapers / buildings / disasters / risk
Venice / floods / construction / capital city / population / migrate / urbanization / city

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

3. COUNTRYSIDE: Students A **strongly** believe people should be moving out of cities to live in the countryside; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CITY PROBLEMS: How big are these city problems? How can we deal with them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Big?	Solutions
Subsidence		
Overpopulation		
Homelessness		
High rents		
Traffic jams		
Pollution		

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

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

- New York
- Paris
- Tokyo
- Sydney
- Cairo
- Bangkok
- Rio de Janeiro
- London

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. skyscraper | a. The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for a town, city or country. |
| 2. geophysicist | b. Relating to the study of the earth's physical structure and substance. |
| 3. geological | c. Someone who studies the physics of the earth. |
| 4. fixtures and fittings | d. Likely or liable to suffer from, do, or experience something unpleasant or regrettable. |
| 5. infrastructure | e. A very tall building of many storeys. |
| 6. subsidence | f. Things that are attached to a house and equipment needed to make a house a home. |
| 7. prone | g. The gradual sinking of an area of land. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. floods | h. From the very beginning. |
| 9. from scratch | i. Of a person moving to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions. |
| 10. inhabit | j. The process of making an area into a town or city. |
| 11. emblematic | k. Of a person, animal, or group living in a place or environment. |
| 12. migrate | l. The relative amount of a particular substance contained within a solution or mixture or in a particular volume of space. |
| 13. concentration | m. Serving as a symbol of a particular quality or concept; symbolic. |
| 14. urbanisation | n. Overflows of large amounts of water beyond its normal limits, especially over what is normally dry land. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

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

1. New York City's buildings are causing the city to sink. **T / F**
2. New York City has over one million buildings. **T / F**
3. New York City's weight of 764 billion kilograms includes its inhabitants. **T / F**
4. A scientist said every new building increases the risk of floods. **T / F**
5. The cities of Venice and Jakarta are also sinking. **T / F**
6. Jakarta is being replaced by a new city that is being built. **T / F**
7. Half of the world's population will live in the countryside by 2050. **T / F**
8. Increased migration to the countryside will bring problems for cities. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. weight | a. residents |
| 2. fittings | b. from the beginning |
| 3. inhabitants | c. slow |
| 4. gradual | d. relocate |
| 5. contribute | e. mass |
| 6. from scratch | f. worsen |
| 7. forecast | g. typical |
| 8. emblematic | h. furnishings |
| 9. migrate | i. play a part in |
| 10. exacerbate | j. predict |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. under the weight of | a. to natural disasters |
| 2. weighing around | b. and riverfront areas |
| 3. fixtures and | c. from scratch |
| 4. make New York prone | d. problems for cities |
| 5. especially along coastal | e. fittings |
| 6. a \$5.3 billion system | f. all its skyscrapers |
| 7. building a new capital city | g. migrate to |
| 8. a place that people | h. of sea walls |
| 9. a high concentration | i. 764 billion kilograms |
| 10. urbanisation will exacerbate | j. of construction |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Scientists say New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year (1) _____ the weight of all its skyscrapers. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey (2) _____ that there are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing around 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include (3) _____ and fittings in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million (4) _____. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the (5) _____ subsidence, coupled with rising sea levels, could make New York (6) _____ to natural disasters. He warned that "every additional high-rise building could contribute to (7) _____ flood risk," especially along (8) _____ and riverfront areas.

calculated
gradual
coastal
under
inhabitants
future
fixtures
prone

The researchers (9) _____ what is happening to New York to the problems Venice and Jakarta are having. Venice is experiencing more (10) _____ despite the construction of a \$5.3 billion system of sea walls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from (11) _____ because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will (12) _____ cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end up with (13) _____." He warned that New York City was "(14) _____ of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a (15) _____ concentration of construction." Increasing urbanisation will (16) _____ problems for cities.

emblematic
scratch
high
compared
exacerbate
floods
subsidence
inhabit

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

- 1) sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of _____
 - a. all its scraped skies
 - b. all its skies scrapers
 - c. all its skies capers
 - d. all its skyscrapers
- 2) A team of geophysicists from the United _____
 - a. States Geological Scurvy
 - b. States Geological Surveillance
 - c. States Geological Survey
 - d. States Geological Sir Bay
- 3) This weight does not include fixtures and _____
 - a. fitting sine buildings
 - b. fitting sin buildings
 - c. fittings sin buildings
 - d. fittings in buildings
- 4) the gradual subsidence, coupled with _____
 - a. arising sea levels
 - b. rising sea levels
 - c. arisen sea levels
 - d. raising sea levels
- 5) every additional high-rise building could contribute to _____
 - a. future blood risk
 - b. future brood risk
 - c. future flood risk
 - d. future bloat risk
- 6) what is happening to New York to the problems Venice and _____
 - a. Jakarta are having
 - b. Jakarta is having
 - c. Jakarta has having
 - d. Jakarta been having
- 7) Venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction of a \$5.3 billion system _____
 - a. off sea walls
 - b. oft sea walls
 - c. of sea walls
 - d. move sea walls
- 8) Indonesia is building a new capital _____
 - a. city from starch
 - b. city from sacks
 - c. city from such
 - d. city from scratch
- 9) The United Nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population _____
 - a. will cohabit cities
 - b. will exhibit cities
 - c. will inhabit cities
 - d. will inhibit cities
- 10) He warned that New York City was emblematic of a place that _____
 - a. people migrate too
 - b. people migrate to
 - c. people migrate two
 - d. people migrate thru

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Scientists say New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of (1) _____. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey (2) _____ are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing around 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include (3) _____ in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million inhabitants. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual subsidence, (4) _____ sea levels, could make New York (5) _____ disasters. He warned that "every additional high-rise building could contribute to future flood risk," (6) _____ and riverfront areas.

The researchers (7) _____ happening to New York to the problems Venice and Jakarta are having. Venice is experiencing more floods (8) _____ of a \$5.3 billion system of sea walls. Indonesia is building a new capital (9) _____ because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will inhabit cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end (10) _____." He warned that New York City was "emblematic of a place that people (11) _____ that obviously has a high concentration of construction." Increasing urbanisation will (12) _____ cities.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

1. What kind of scientists conducted this study?
2. How much do all the buildings in New York City weigh?
3. How many people live in New York City?
4. What did a scientist say could contribute to the flood risk?
5. Where is the risk of floods greatest in New York City?
6. What other cities does the article say are sinking?
7. What cost Venice \$5.3 billion?
8. How much of the world's population will live in cities by 2050?
9. What did a scientist say you end up with if you fill a city with people?
10. What will exacerbate problems for cities?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

- 1) What kind of scientists conducted this study?
 - a) clever ones
 - b) geophysicists
 - c) town planners
 - d) seismologists
- 2) How much do all the buildings in New York City weigh?
 - a) 674 billion kilograms
 - b) 746 billion kilograms
 - c) 467 billion kilograms
 - d) 764 billion kilograms
- 3) How many people live in New York City?
 - a) 8.3 million people
 - b) 8.4 million people
 - c) 8.5 million people
 - d) 8.6 million people
- 4) What did a scientist say could contribute to the flood risk?
 - a) additional high-rise buildings
 - b) climate change
 - c) dams
 - d) disasters
- 5) Where is the risk of floods greatest in New York City?
 - a) Fifth Avenue
 - b) along coastal and riverfront areas
 - c) Lower Manhattan
 - d) the Bronx
- 6) What other cities does the article say are sinking?
 - a) Venice and Jakarta
 - b) London and New Orleans
 - c) Cairo and Dhaka
 - d) Lagos and Amsterdam
- 7) What cost Venice \$5.3 billion?
 - a) a network of highways
 - b) tourism
 - c) a system of sea walls
 - d) church restorations
- 8) How much of the world's population will live in cities by 2050?
 - a) 70%
 - b) 60%
 - c) 50%
 - d) 40%
- 9) What did a scientist say you end up with if you fill a city with people?
 - a) pollution
 - b) traffic jams
 - c) homelessness
 - d) subsidence
- 10) What will exacerbate problems for cities?
 - a) increasing tourism
 - b) climate change
 - c) increasing urbanisation
 - d) emblems

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Role A – New York

You think New York is the world's best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Tokyo, Cairo or Sydney.

Role B – Tokyo

You think Tokyo is the world's best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): New York, Cairo or Sydney.

Role C – Cairo

You think Cairo is the world's best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Tokyo, New York or Sydney.

Role D – Sydney

You think Sydney is the world's best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Tokyo, Cairo or New York.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

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

city	sink

- 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">• under• calculated• include• lead• prone• contribute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• compared• despite• new• build• place• high
--	---

NEW YORK CITY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Write five GOOD questions about New York City 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.

NEW YORK CITY 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 'city'?
3. What do you know about New York City?
4. What problems might a sinking city experience?
5. What do you think of the New York City skyline?
6. What are the good and bad things about skyscrapers?
7. Are cities becoming too big?
8. Why do you think New York is nicknamed 'the Big Apple'?
9. Is New York the world's greatest city?
10. What makes cities in your country prone to natural disasters?

New York City sinking four millimetres a year – 29th May 2023
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NEW YORK CITY 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 'sink'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Should New Yorkers be worried about their city sinking?
15. How do you feel about Venice sinking?
16. Should people move from cities into the countryside?
17. Why are cities so attractive for people from the countryside?
18. Would you like to live in New York City?
19. How can city planners and engineers stop New York sinking?
20. What questions would you like to ask the geophysicists?

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/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Scientists say New York City is sinking (1) _____ up to four millimetres a year under the weight of all its (2) _____. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey calculated that there are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing around 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include fixtures and (3) _____ in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million (4) _____. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual subsidence, coupled with (5) _____ sea levels, could make New York (6) _____ to natural disasters. He warned that "every additional high-rise building could contribute to future flood risk," especially along coastal and riverfront areas.

The researchers compared what is happening to New York to the problems Venice and Jakarta are (7) _____. Venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction of a \$5.3 billion (8) _____ of sea walls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from (9) _____ because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will (10) _____ cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end up with subsidence." He warned that New York City was "(11) _____ of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a high concentration of construction." Increasing urbanisation will (12) _____ problems for cities.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) as |
| 2. | (a) skywalks | (b) skylights | (c) skyscrapers | (d) skylines |
| 3. | (a) footings | (b) fattens | (c) fittings | (d) fastens |
| 4. | (a) inhibitors | (b) inhibitions | (c) inheritances | (d) inhabitants |
| 5. | (a) rising | (b) arising | (c) raising | (d) arisen |
| 6. | (a) prune | (b) prone | (c) prime | (d) prong |
| 7. | (a) doing | (b) experiencing | (c) being | (d) having |
| 8. | (a) cistern | (b) system | (c) citing | (d) concrete |
| 9. | (a) splash | (b) stash | (c) scratch | (d) smash |
| 10. | (a) inhibit | (b) cohabit | (c) habitual | (d) inhabit |
| 11. | (a) symbol | (b) represent | (c) model | (d) emblematic |
| 12. | (a) excavate | (b) exacerbate | (c) exaggerate | (d) exact |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Paragraph 1

1. A team of sypeighsicsot
2. the United States oglilecGao Survey
3. This weight does not include irfxuets and fittings
4. the transport natirrursctufe
5. the city's 8.5 million inahbnttisa
6. especially along acoltas and riverfront areas

Paragraph 2

7. Venice is experiencing more flosod
8. The United Nations has artefsoc that 70 per cent
9. you end up with sbncuiseed
10. alebtiemmc of a place that people migrate to
11. a high tearicocnntno of construction
12. Increasing urbanisation will aetxbaceer problems

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () its skyscrapers. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey calculated that there
- () of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a high concentration
- (**1**) Scientists say New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of all
- () and fittings in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million
- () walls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from scratch because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has
- () and Jakarta are having. Venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction of a \$5.3 billion system of sea
- () of construction." Increasing urbanisation will exacerbate problems for cities.
- () are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing around 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include fixtures
- () a city and it gets full of people, you end up with subsidence." He warned that New York City was "emblematic
- () forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will inhabit cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build
- () levels, could make New York prone to natural disasters. He warned that "every additional high-
- () inhabitants. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual subsidence, coupled with rising sea
- () The researchers compared what is happening to New York to the problems Venice
- () rise building could contribute to future flood risk," especially along coastal and riverfront areas.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

1. under of the Sinking skyscrapers . all its weight
2. does include and not This fittings . weight fixtures
3. 8.5 million The the inhabitants . weight city's of
4. natural disasters . to prone It could New York make
5. future building risk . to could contribute High-rise flood
6. experiencing the more construction . Venice is despite floods
7. new from It's a city scratch . capital building
8. gets and a build full . You city it
9. people Emblematic migrate to . of that a place
10. for cities . urbanisation problems Increasing will exacerbate

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Scientists say New York City is sinking by *up / down* to four millimetres a year under the *weights / weight* of all its skyscrapers. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey *calculations / calculated* that there are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing *abound / around* 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include fixtures and *fittings / footings* in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million *inhibitors / inhabitants*. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the *gradual / gradually* subsidence, *coupled / tripled* with rising sea levels, could make New York *prone / prune* to natural disasters. He warned that "every additional high-rise building could contribute to future flood risk," especially *along / under* coastal and riverfront areas.

The researchers compared what is *happening / experiencing* to New York to the problems Venice and Jakarta are having. Venice is *experienced / experiencing* more floods *despite / in spite* the construction of a \$5.3 billion system of sea walls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from *snatch / scratch* because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the world's population will *inhabit / inhibit* cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets *filled / full* of people, you end up with *subsidence / subsistence*." He warned that New York City was "*emblematic / emphatic* of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a *high / height* concentration of construction." Increasing urbanisation will *exacerbate / exterminate* problems for cities.

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/2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Sc__nt_sts s_y N_w Y_rk C_ty _s s_nk_ng by _p t_
f__r m_ll_m_tr_s _ y__r _nd_r th_ w__ght _f _ll _ts
skyscr_p_rs. _ t__m _f g__phys_c_sts fr_m th_ _n_t_d
St_t_s G__l_g_c_l S_rv_y c_lcl_t_d th_t th_r_ _r_
1,084,954 b__ld_ngs _n th_ c_ty, w__gh_ng _r__nd 764
b_ll__n k_l_gr_ms. Th_s w__ght d__s n_t _ncl_d_
f_xt_r_s _nd f_tt_ngs _n b__ld_ngs, th_ tr_nsp_rt
_nfr_str_ct_r_, _r th_ w__ght _f th_ c_ty's 8.5 m_ll__n
_nh_b_t_nts. L__d r_s__rch_r Dr T_m P_rs_ns s__d th_
gr_d__l s_bs_d_nc_, c__pl_d w_th r_s_ng s__ l_v_ls,
c__ld m_k_ N_w Y_rk pr_n_ t_ n_t_r_l d_s_st_rs. H_
w_rn_d th_t "_v_ry _dd_t__n_l h_gh-r_s_ b__ld_ng
c__ld c_ntr_b_t_ t_ f_t_r_ fl__d r_sk," _sp_c__lly _l_ng
c__st_l _nd r_v_rfr_nt _r__s.

Th_ r_s__rch_rs c_mp_r_d wh_t _s h_pp_n_ng t_ N_w
Y_rk t_ th_ pr_bl_ms V_n_c_ _nd J_k_rt_ _r_ h_v_ng.
V_n_c_ _s _xp_r__nc_ng m_r_ fl__ds d_sp_t_ th_
c_nstr_ct__n _f _ \$5.3 b_ll__n syst_m _f s__ w_lls.
_nd_n_s__ _s b__ld_ng _ n_w c_p_t_l c_ty fr_m
scr_tch b_c__s_ J_k_rt_ _s s_nk_ng. Th_ _n_t_d
N_t__ns h_s f_r_c_st th_t 70 p_r c_nt _f th_ w_rld's
p_p_l_t__n w_ll _nh_b_t c_t__s by 2050. P_rs_ns s__d:
"Wh_n y__ b__ld _ c_ty _nd _t g_ts f_ll _f p__pl_,
y__ _nd _p w_th s_bs_d_nc_." H_ w_rn_d th_t N_w
Y_rk C_ty w_s "_mbl_m_t_c _f _ pl_c_ th_t p__pl_
m_gr_t_ t_ _nd th_t _bv__sly h_s _ h_gh
c_nc_ntr_t__n _f c_nstr_ct__n." _ncr__s_ng _rb_n_s_t__n
w_ll _x_c_rb_t_ pr_bl_ms f_r c_t__s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

scientists say new york city is sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of all its skyscrapers a team of geophysicists from the united states geological survey calculated that there are 1084954 buildings in the city weighing around 764 billion kilograms this weight does not include fixtures and fittings in buildings the transport infrastructure or the weight of the citys 85 million inhabitants lead researcher dr tom parsons said the gradual subsidence coupled with rising sea levels could make new york prone to natural disasters he warned that every additional highrise building could contribute to future flood risk especially along coastal and riverfront areas

the researchers compared what is happening to new york to the problems venice and jakarta are having venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction of a 53 billion system of sea walls indonesia is building a new capital city from scratch because jakarta is sinking the united nations has forecast that 70 per cent of the worlds population will inhabit cities by 2050 parsons said when you build a city and it gets full of people you end up with subsidence he warned that new york city was emblematic of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a high concentration of construction increasing urbanisation will exacerbate problems for cities

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2305/230529-new-york-is-sinking.html>

Scientists say New York City is sinking by up to four millimetres a year under the weight of all its skyscrapers. A team of geophysicists from the United States Geological Survey calculated that there are 1,084,954 buildings in the city, weighing around 764 billion kilograms. This weight does not include fixtures and fittings in buildings, the transport infrastructure, or the weight of the city's 8.5 million inhabitants. Lead researcher Dr Tom Parsons said the gradual subsidence, coupled with rising sea levels, could make New York prone to natural disasters. He warned that "every addition of a high-rise building could contribute to future flood risk," especially along coastal and riverfront areas. The researchers compared what is happening to New York to the problems Venice and Jakarta are having. Venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction of a \$5.3 billion system of seawalls. Indonesia is building a new capital city from scratch because Jakarta is sinking. The United Nations has forecast that 70 percent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. Parsons said: "When you build a city and it gets full of people, you end up with subsidence." He warned that New York City was "emblematic of a place that people migrate to and that obviously has a high concentration of construction." Increasing urbanisation will exacerbate problems for cities.

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. NEW YORK CITY: Make a poster about New York City. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CITIES: Write a magazine article about encouraging people to move out of cities. 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 New York City. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on New York. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Geophysicists
2. 764 billion kilograms
3. 8.5 million people
4. Additional high-rise buildings
5. Along coastal and riverfront areas
6. Venice and Jakarta
7. A system of sea walls
8. 70%
9. Subsidence
10. Increasing urbanisation

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Sinking under the weight of all its skyscrapers.
2. This weight does not include fixtures and fittings.
3. The weight of the city's 8.5 million inhabitants.
4. It could make New York prone to natural disasters.
5. High-rise building could contribute to future flood risk.
6. Venice is experiencing more floods despite the construction.
7. It's building a new capital city from scratch.
8. You build a city and it gets full.
9. Emblematic of a place that people migrate to.
10. Increasing urbanisation will exacerbate problems for cities.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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