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Level 1 – 16th January 2024

Los Angeles wildfires lead to sky-high rents

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-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/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-1.html>

Some landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires. Tens of thousands of people have nowhere to live. They need a house to rent. However, some landlords are increasing their rents by thousands of dollars. Some L.A. rents doubled this week. Making a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. California's governor introduced a price-gouging law last week. This was after he declared a state of emergency.

The wildfires shocked America. Large parts of some of LA's most exclusive areas have gone. Many celebrities lost their houses. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house. She wrote: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Beyonce's mother also lost her house. She wrote: "It was my favourite place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. Little rain left Los Angeles very dry. The risk of wildfires is high.

Sources: <https://www.newsweek.com/la-renters-pride-gouging-los-angeles-wildfires-2013645>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/los-angeles-wildfire-evacuees-price-gouging-predatory-businesses-landlords/>
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hundreds-of-la-landlords-hike-rents-to-capitalize-on-desperate-fire-evacuees-202317417.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Some landlords | a. this week |
| 2. profiting from the | b. of people |
| 3. Tens of thousands | c. to rent |
| 4. nowhere to | d. wildfires |
| 5. They need a house | e. their rents |
| 6. some landlords are increasing | f. emergency |
| 7. Some L.A. rents doubled | g. in Los Angeles |
| 8. he declared a state of | h. live |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The wildfires | a. climate change |
| 2. some of LA's most | b. is high |
| 3. Many celebrities lost | c. exclusive areas |
| 4. my heart has shattered into | d. place |
| 5. It was my favourite | e. their houses |
| 6. Many people are blaming | f. very dry |
| 7. Little rain left Los Angeles | g. a million pieces |
| 8. The risk of wildfires | h. shocked America |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-1.html>

Some landlords in Los Angeles (1) _____ the wildfires. Tens of thousands of people have (2) _____. They need a (3) _____. However, some landlords are increasing their rents by thousands of dollars. Some L.A. rents (4) _____. Making a profit in a (5) _____ price gouging. California's governor introduced a price-gouging law last week. This was after he declared a (6) _____.

The wildfires shocked America. Large (7) _____ of LA's most exclusive areas have gone. Many celebrities (8) _____. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house. She wrote: "It feels (9) _____ has shattered into a million pieces." Beyonce's mother also lost her house. She wrote: "It was my favourite place. Now (10) _____." Many people (11) _____ change for the fires. Little rain left Los Angeles very dry. The risk of (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-1.html>

SomelandlordsinLosAngelesareprofitingfromthewildfires.Tensofthousandsofpeoplehavenowheretolive.Theyneedahousetorent.However,somelandlordsareincreasingtheirrentsbythousandsofdollars.Somel.A.rentsdoubledthisweek.Makingaprofitinacrisisiscalledpricegouging.California'sgovernorintroducedaprice-gouginglawlastweek.Thiswasafterhedeclaredastateofemergency.ThewildfireshockedAmerica.LargepartsofsomeofLA'smostexclusiveareashavegone.Manycelebritieslosttheirhouses.ActressParisHiltonlosthherhouse.Shewrote:"Itfeelslikemyheartshatteredintoamillionpieces."Beyonce'smotheralsolostherhouse.Shewrote:"Itwasmymy favouriteplace.Nowitisgone."Manypeopleareblamingclimatechangeforthefires.LittlerainleftLosAngelesverydry.Theriskofwildfiresishigh.

RENT SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rent 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) _____

