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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 4 – 18th August 2025

Data centres putting strain on water supplies

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-4.html

Contents

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

THE READING

The UK's National Drought Group has said data centres are causing water shortages. The group did not say to what degree these facilities are causing drought conditions. Data centres in the UK use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to cool their facilities. A large centre can use as much water as 50,000 houses. Despite environmental concerns, the UK is building more centres. The UK said the centres would drive economic growth.

The NDG asked people to cut back on water usage. People should delete unwanted emails. This could cut the demand for the huge amounts of water data centres need to cool their systems. The NDG said deleting email could "really help the collective effort to reduce demand and help preserve the health of our rivers and wildlife". However, experts say the water saved from deleting emails is a drop in the ocean and may not help with water shortages.

PHRASE MATCHING

From

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. data centres are causing	a. 50,000 houses
2. The group did	b. degree
3. to what	c. growth
4. causing drought	d. facilities
5. cool their	e. concerns
6. use as much water as	f. water shortages
7. environmental	g. conditions
8. drive economic	h. not say

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. asked people to cut	a. systems
2. People should delete	b. demand
3. This could cut the	c. in the ocean
4. the huge amounts of water	d. health of our rivers
5. cool their	e. data centres need
6. help preserve the	f. back on water usage
7. a drop	g. shortages
8. help with water	h. unwanted emails

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-4.html

The UK's National Drought Group has said data centres (1) _____ shortages. The group did not say (2) _____ these facilities are causing drought conditions. Data centres in the UK use up (3) _____ litres of water per year to (4) _____. A large centre can use as much water (5) _____. Despite environmental concerns, the UK is building more centres. The UK said the centres would (6) _____.

The NDG asked people to cut back (7) _____. People should delete unwanted emails. This could cut the demand for the (8) _____ water data centres need to cool their systems. The NDG said deleting email could "really help (9) _____ to reduce demand and help preserve the health of our (10) _____". However, experts say the water (11) _____ emails is a drop in the ocean and may not help (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

TheUK'sNationalDroughtGrouphassaiddatacentresarecausingwater

shortages.Thegroupdidnotsaytowhatdegreethesefacilitiesarecausi

ngdroughtconditions.DatacentresintheUKuseupto10billionlitresofw

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ntresneedtocooltheirsystems.TheNDGsaiddeletingemailcould"reall

yhelpthecollectiveefforttoreducedemandandhelppreservethehealth

ofourriversandwildlife".However,expertssaythewatersavedfromdel

etingemailsisadropintheoceanandmaynothelpwithwatershortages.

DATA CENTRES SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about data centres 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) _____

WRITING

Write about **data centres** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

_____

_____

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