

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5 – 18th August 2025

Data centres putting strain on water supplies

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-5.html>

The National Drought Group (NDG) in the UK has warned that data centres are putting a strain on the water supply. This is also a worry in many countries. The group did not say to what degree these facilities are causing drought conditions in parts of the UK. The centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to cool their facilities. One water company said a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 households. Despite environmental concerns, the UK is pushing ahead to build many more data centres. The UK said the centres were essential for economic growth.

The NDG has asked people to cut back on the water they use. One measure is to delete unwanted emails and large images. This could cut the demand for water as data centres require huge amounts of water to cool their systems. The NDG chairperson said a simple everyday action such as deleting email will "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 files stored in the cloud is merely a drop in the ocean and may not help with water shortages.

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/science/758275/drought-delete-files-email-data-center-water-uk>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-drought-group-meets-to-address-nationally-significant-water-shortfall>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyr9nx0jrzo>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. putting a strain | a. conditions |
| 2. This is also a worry in | b. were essential |
| 3. The group did not say to what | c. concerns |
| 4. causing drought | d. growth |
| 5. use as much water as | e. degree |
| 6. Despite environmental | f. 50,000 households |
| 7. The UK said the centres | g. on the water supply |
| 8. economic | h. many countries |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. cut back | a. the demand for water |
| 2. One measure is to | b. in the ocean |
| 3. This could cut | c. everyday action |
| 4. huge amounts of water to | d. shortages |
| 5. a simple | e. of our rivers |
| 6. help preserve the health | f. on the water they use |
| 7. a drop | g. cool their systems |
| 8. water | h. delete unwanted emails |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-5.html>

The National Drought Group (NDG) in the UK has (1) _____ centres are putting a strain on the water supply. This is also (2) _____ many countries. The group did not say (3) _____ these facilities are causing drought conditions in parts of the UK. The centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to (4) _____. One water company said a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 households. Despite environmental concerns, the UK is (5) _____ build many more data centres. The UK said the centres (6) _____ economic growth.

The NDG has asked people to (7) _____ the water they use. One (8) _____ delete unwanted emails and large images. This could cut the demand for water as data centres (9) _____ of water to cool their systems. The NDG chairperson said a simple everyday action such as deleting email will "really help the collective effort to reduce demand and (10) _____ health of our rivers and wildlife". However, experts say the water saved from deleting files stored in the cloud is (11) _____ in the ocean and may not help (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-5.html>

The National Drought Group (NDG) in the UK has warned that data centres are putting a strain on the water supply. This is also a worry in many countries. The group did not say to what degree these facilities are causing drought conditions in parts of the UK. The centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to cool their facilities. One water company said a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 households. Despite environmental concerns, the UK is pushing ahead to build many more data centres. The UK said the centres were essential for economic growth. The NDG has asked people to cut back on the water they use. One measure is to delete unwanted emails and large images. This could cut the demand for water as data centres require huge amounts of water to cool their systems. The NDG chairperson said a simple everyday action such as deleting email will "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 files stored in the cloud is merely a drop in the ocean and may not help with water shortages.

DATA CENTRES SURVEY

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

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) _____

Data centres putting strain on water supplies – 18th August 2025
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250818-data-centres-water-5.html>

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

[illegible]