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**Level 6 – 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.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

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

The National Drought Group (NDG), an environmental organization in the UK, has warned that data centres are putting a strain on the country's water supplies. This is also a concern in many other countries. The group did not indicate to what degree these facilities are contributing to drought conditions in many parts of the UK. It is estimated that the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to cool their giant facilities. One water company reported that a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 households. Despite concerns from environmentalists, the UK is pushing ahead to build many more data centres. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were essential for economic growth.

The NDG has urged Britons to take measures to cut back on their water consumption. One such measure is to trash unwanted emails and large images. The group claims this will lessen the demand for water. A government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures "as data centres require vast amounts of water to cool their systems". NDG chairperson Helen Wakeham said a simple everyday action such as tidying up one's inbox and spam and trash folders will "really help the collective effort to reduce demand and help preserve the health of our rivers and wildlife". However, it is likely that the water saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is merely a drop in the ocean.

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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. DATA CENTRES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about data centres. 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?

drought / environmental / data centres / water supplies / water company / growth / measures / water consumption / unwanted emails / inbox / rivers / wildlife / ocean

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

**3. EMAIL LIMIT:** Students A **strongly** believe there should be a limit to our email storage; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WATER SHORTAGES:** To what extent are these things causing water shortages? What are some solutions to these problems? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Extent	Solutions
Data centres		
Gold courses		
Car washing		
Leaky taps		
Watering gardens		
Long showers/baths		

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

**6. STORAGE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to store online at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Emails
- Photos
- Social media data
- Backups
- Documents
- Music
- Movies
- Blogs

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. drought         | a. Continuing to do something, even if it is difficult.            |
| 2. strain (noun)   | b. Very important; needed.   |
| 3. indicate (show) | c. A long time with no rain.                                       |
| 4. facility        | d. Something that puts pressure or stress on someone or something. |
| 5. pushing ahead   | e. A special building or place for a purpose.                      |
| 6. deputy          | f. A person who helps a leader or takes their place.               |
| 7. essential       | g. Point out; show.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8. urged                | h. Only; just.                                     |
| 9. measures (noun)      | i. Keep something safe and in good condition.      |
| 10. vast                | j. Done by many people together.                   |
| 11. collective          | k. Strongly asked someone to do something.         |
| 12. preserve            | l. Something so small it makes no real difference. |
| 13. merely              | m. Actions people take to solve a problem.         |
| 14. a drop in the ocean | n. Very, very big.                                 |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. A U.K. group that studies draughts warned of a strain on water supplies. **T / F**
2. Every data centre uses about 10 billion litres of water a year. **T / F**
3. The UK has shelved plans to build more data centres. **T / F**
4. The UK prime minister said the data centres were essential for growth. **T / F**
5. An environmental group suggested people delete mails to save water. **T / F**
6. Data centres need a huge amount of water to keep their windows clean. **T / F**
7. The environmental group said deleting mails could help wildlife. **T / F**
8. The group said deleting mails will be a huge help to save water. **T / F**

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

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>strain</b>               | a. actions       |
| 2. <b>facilities</b>           | b. collaborative |
| 3. <b>cool</b>                 | c. worries       |
| 4. <b>concerns</b>             | d. enormous      |
| 5. <b>essential</b>            | e. chill         |
| 6. <b>measures</b>             | f. crucial       |
| 7. <b>lessen</b>               | g. burden        |
| 8. <b>vast</b>                 | h. trivial       |
| 9. <b>collective</b>           | i. reduce        |
| 10. <b>a drop in the ocean</b> | j. centres       |

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

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. The group did not indicate to what     | a. amounts of water            |
| 2. 10 billion litres of water per year to | b. build many more             |
| 3. use as much water as                   | c. the demand for water        |
| 4. the UK is pushing ahead to             | d. measures to cut back        |
| 5. they were essential                    | e. 50,000 households           |
| 6. The NDG has urged Britons to take      | f. in the ocean                |
| 7. The group claims this will lessen      | g. degree                      |
| 8. data centres require vast              | h. for economic growth         |
| 9. help preserve the                      | i. cool their giant facilities |
| 10. merely a drop                         | j. health of our rivers        |

# GAP FILL

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

The National Drought Group (NDG), an environmental organization in the UK, has warned that data centres are putting a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on the country's water supplies. This is also a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in many other countries. The group did not indicate to what degree these facilities are contributing to drought (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in many parts of the UK. It is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their giant facilities. One water company reported that a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Despite concerns from environmentalists, the UK is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ ahead to build many more data centres. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for economic growth.

*estimated*  
*strain*  
*essential*  
*cool*  
*pushing*  
*conditions*  
*concern*  
*households*

The NDG has urged Britons to take (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to cut back on their water consumption. One such measure is to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ unwanted emails and large images. The group claims this will (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the demand for water. A government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures "as data centres require (12) \_\_\_\_\_ amounts of water to cool their systems". NDG chairperson Helen Wakeham said a simple everyday action such as (13) \_\_\_\_\_ up one's inbox and spam and trash folders will "really help the collective (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce demand and help (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the health of our rivers and wildlife". However, it is likely that the water saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is merely a (16) \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean.

*lessen*  
*effort*  
*vast*  
*drop*  
*trash*  
*preserve*  
*measures*  
*tidying*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) data centres are putting a strain on the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. country's watery supplies
  - b. country's water supplies
  - c. country's waters supplies
  - d. country's watered supplies
- 2) The group did not indicate \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to what decree
  - b. to what degree
  - c. to what kedgere
  - d. to what dig greed
- 3) use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to cool \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their gaunt facilities
  - b. their giant facilities
  - c. their giants facilities
  - d. their giants' facilities
- 4) Despite concerns from environmentalists, the UK \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. is pushing ahead
  - b. is pushing affront
  - c. is pushing ahoy
  - d. is pushing heady
- 5) Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were essential \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for economic growths
  - b. for economic growing
  - c. for economic grown
  - d. for economic growth
- 6) The NDG has urged Britons to take measures to cut back on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their water consumptive
  - b. their watery consumption
  - c. their waters consumption
  - d. their watered consumption
- 7) The group claims this will \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lesser the demand
  - b. less on the demand
  - c. lest on the demand
  - d. lessen the demand
- 8) data centres require vast amounts of water to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. freeze their systems
  - b. cold their systems
  - c. cool their systems
  - d. chill their systems
- 9) tidying up one's inbox and spam and trash folders will really help \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the corrective effort
  - b. the collective effort
  - c. the collection effort
  - d. the collaborative effort
- 10) the water saved from people deleting files stored \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in the crowd
  - b. in the cloud
  - c. in the cloudy
  - d. in the clod

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The National Drought Group (NDG), an environmental organization in the UK, has warned that data centres are putting (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the country's water supplies. This is also a concern in many other countries. The group did (2) \_\_\_\_\_ what degree these facilities are contributing to drought conditions in many parts of the UK. It (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ facilities. One water company reported that a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 households. Despite concerns from environmentalists, the UK (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to build many more data centres. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were (6) \_\_\_\_\_ growth.

The NDG has urged Britons to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ cut back on their water consumption. One such measure is to trash unwanted emails and large images. The group claims this will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for water. A government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures "as data centres (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of water to cool their systems". NDG chairperson Helen Wakeham said a simple everyday action such as (10) \_\_\_\_\_ inbox and spam and trash folders will "really help the collective effort to reduce demand and help (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of our rivers and wildlife". However, it is likely that the water saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is the name of the environmental group mentioned in the article?
2. Where else are data centres putting a strain on water supplies?
3. How much water might a large data centre use in a year?
4. What is the UK pushing ahead with?
5. Why did the UK's deputy prime minister say data centres were needed?
6. What does the NDG want people to cut back on?
7. Why do data centres need enormous amounts of water?
8. What position does Helen Wakeham hold in the NDG?
9. What might deleting emails help to preserve?
10. What did the article suggest deleting files in the cloud might be?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What is the name of the environmental group mentioned in the article?
  - a) National Draught Group
  - b) National Drought Group
  - c) National Draft Group
  - d) National Draughts Group
- 2) Where else are data centres putting a strain on water supplies?
  - a) in the desert
  - b) coastal areas
  - c) in many countries
  - d) in mountainous areas
- 3) How much water might a large data centre use in a year?
  - a) up to 10 gazillion litres
  - b) up to 10 million litres
  - c) up to 10 trillion litres
  - d) up to 10 billion litres
- 4) What is the UK pushing ahead with?
  - a) creating reservoirs
  - b) building more data centres
  - c) deleting government emails
  - d) cutting data in government departments
- 5) Why did the UK's deputy prime minister say data centres were needed?
  - a) for economic growth
  - b) for the Internet
  - c) for cybersecurity
  - d) for jobs
- 6) What does the NDG want people to cut back on?
  - a) water consumption
  - b) using the Internet
  - c) using AI
  - d) sending emails
- 7) Why do data centres need enormous amounts of water?
  - a) for fire prevention purposes
  - b) to clean the many huge windows
  - c) for their staff
  - d) to cool their systems
- 8) What position does Helen Wakeham hold in the NDG?
  - a) She's the water monitor.
  - b) She's the IT chief.
  - c) She's the chairperson.
  - d) She's the environmental officer.
- 9) What might deleting emails help to preserve?
  - a) people's sanity
  - b) inboxes
  - c) the status quo
  - d) rivers and wildlife
- 10) What did the article suggest deleting files in the cloud might be?
  - a) cathartic
  - b) a drop in the ocean
  - c) like a fish out of water
  - d) a whale of a time

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Emails**

You think emails are the most important things to store online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least important of these (and why): photos, songs or documents.

## **Role B – Photos**

You think photos are the most important things to store online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least important of these (and why): emails, songs or documents.

## **Role C – Songs**

You think songs are the most important things to store online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least important of these (and why): photos, emails or documents.

## **Role D – Documents**

You think documents are the most important things to store online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least important of these (and why): photos, songs or emails.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'data' and 'water'.

data	water

- 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>• environmental</li><li>• concern</li><li>• degree</li><li>• cool</li><li>• 50,000</li><li>• essential</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• such</li><li>• lessen</li><li>• vast</li><li>• action</li><li>• preserve</li><li>• drop</li></ul>
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# DATA CENTRES SURVEY

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

# DATA CENTRES 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 'data centre'?
3. What do you know about data centres?
4. How important are data centres?
5. What effect will AI have on data centres?
6. How should data centres be more responsible with water usage?
7. What would you do if your area experienced a drought?
8. Should data centres be required to pay more for water?
9. How essential are data centers for growth?
10. What will our data needs be like in 20 years from now?

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# DATA CENTRES 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 'water'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How bad are data centres for the environment?
15. What can we do to reduce the amount of data we have in the cloud?
16. How important is online storage to you?
17. How important is AI to you?
18. Would you pay a water fee to help cool data centres?
19. Should we all greatly reduce the amount of stuff we store online?
20. What questions would you like to ask a data centre owner?

## 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/2508/250818-data-centres-water.html>

The National Drought Group (NDG), an environmental organization in the UK, has warned that data centres are putting a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on the country's water supplies. This is also a concern in many other countries. The group did not indicate (2) \_\_\_\_\_ what degree these facilities are contributing (3) \_\_\_\_\_ drought conditions in many parts of the UK. It is estimated that the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their giant facilities. One water company reported that a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Despite concerns from environmentalists, the UK is pushing (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to build many more data centres. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were essential for economic growth.

The NDG has urged Britons to take measures to cut back (7) \_\_\_\_\_ their water consumption. One such measure is to trash unwanted emails and large images. The group claims this will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the demand for water. A government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures "as data centres require (9) \_\_\_\_\_ amounts of water to cool their systems". NDG chairperson Helen Wakeham said a simple everyday action such (10) \_\_\_\_\_ tidying up one's inbox and spam and trash folders will "really help the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ effort to reduce demand and help preserve the health of our rivers and wildlife". However, it is likely that the water saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is merely a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean.

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

- |     |                |                |                |                |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) stamp      | (b) slain      | (c) stain      | (d) strain     |
| 2.  | (a) by         | (b) at         | (c) for        | (d) to         |
| 3.  | (a) at         | (b) to         | (c) in         | (d) by         |
| 4.  | (a) freeze     | (b) cold       | (c) cool       | (d) damp       |
| 5.  | (a) households | (b) housing    | (c) housed     | (d) homing     |
| 6.  | (a) ahead      | (b) affront    | (c) heading    | (d) fronting   |
| 7.  | (a) by         | (b) at         | (c) in         | (d) on         |
| 8.  | (a) lessen     | (b) lesser     | (c) lest       | (d) loosen     |
| 9.  | (a) waste      | (b) vast       | (c) vessel     | (d) fast       |
| 10. | (a) has        | (b) is         | (c) as         | (d) was        |
| 11. | (a) collection | (b) corrective | (c) collective | (d) correction |
| 12. | (a) drip       | (b) drop       | (c) drape      | (d) drab       |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. putting a astnir on the country's water supplies
2. indicate to what edreeg
3. these cfsatiilie are contributing to drought conditions
4. use as much water as 50,000 eouslhhdso
5. pdyetu prime minister
6. they were eelsnasti for economic growth

## Paragraph 2

7. cut back on their water pcunonitmso
8. One such uemeasr is to trash unwanted emails
9. require avts amounts of water
10. help the eoelctlcvi effort
11. preevres the health of our rivers and wildlife
12. eeylrm a drop in the ocean

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) action such as tidying up one's inbox and spam and trash folders will "really help the collective
- ( ) amounts of water to cool their systems". NDG chairperson Helen Wakeham said a simple everyday
- ( ) are putting a strain on the country's water supplies. This is also a concern in many other countries. The group did not
- ( ) consumption. One such measure is to trash unwanted emails and large images. The group claims this will lessen
- ( ) cool their giant facilities. One water company reported that a large data centre can use as much water as 50,000
- ( ) effort to reduce demand and help preserve the health of our rivers and wildlife". However, it is likely that the water
- ( ) households. Despite concerns from environmentalists, the UK is pushing ahead to build many more data centres. Deputy
- ( ) indicate to what degree these facilities are contributing to drought conditions in many
- ( ) parts of the UK. It is estimated that the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to
- ( ) Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were essential for economic growth.
- ( ) saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is merely a drop in the ocean.
- ( ) the demand for water. A government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures "as data centres require vast
- ( **1** ) The National Drought Group (NDG), an environmental organization in the UK, has warned that data centres
- ( ) The NDG has urged Britons to take measures to cut back on their water

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. Putting water the country's supplies strain a on .
2. This in concern is countries also other a .
3. Indicate degree these facilities what are contributing to .
4. Centres 10 billion water of litres up to use .
5. Pushing centres build ahead more data to many .
6. Measures their on cut back water to consumption .
7. One to unwanted emails trash such measure is .
8. Vast water cool amounts their to systems of .
9. Really collective demand the effort reduce help to .
10. The files water deleting saved people from .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The National Drought Group (NDG), an *environmental* / *environment* organization in the UK, has warned that data centres are putting a *stain* / *strain* on the country's water supplies. This is also a *concertina* / *concern* in many other countries. The group did not indicate to what *degree* / *degrees* these facilities are contributing to *drought* / *draught* conditions in many parts of the UK. It is estimated *that* / *what* the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to *cool* / *cooling* their giant facilities. One water company reported that *the* / *a* large data centre can use as much water as 50,000 households. *Spite of* / *Despite* concerns from environmentalists, the UK is pushing ahead to build many more data centres. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said they were essential *for* / *by* economic growth.

The NDG has *purged* / *urged* Britons to take *measures* / *measurements* to cut back on their water consumption. One such measure is to *thrash* / *trash* unwanted emails and large images. The group claims this will *lesser* / *lessen* the demand *to* / *for* water. A government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures "*as* / *has* data centres require vast amounts of water to cool their systems". NDG chairperson Helen Wakeham said a simple everyday action such as tidying *down* / *up* one's inbox and spam and trash folders will "really help the *corrective* / *collective* effort to reduce demand and help preserve the health *to* / *of* our rivers and wildlife". However, it is likely that the water saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is merely *the* / *a* drop in the ocean.

**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/2508/250818-data-centres-water.html>

Th\_ N\_t\_\_n\_l Dr\_\_ght Gr\_\_p (NDG), \_n \_nv\_r\_nm\_nt\_l  
\_rg\_n\_z\_t\_\_n \_n th\_ \_K, h\_s w\_rn\_d th\_t d\_t\_ c\_ntr\_s  
\_r\_ p\_tt\_ng \_ str\_\_n \_n th\_ c\_\_ntry's w\_t\_r s\_ppl\_\_s.  
Th\_s \_s \_ls\_ \_ c\_nc\_rn \_n m\_ny \_th\_r c\_\_ntr\_\_s. Th\_  
gr\_\_p d\_d n\_t \_nd\_c\_t\_ t\_ wh\_t d\_gr\_\_ th\_s\_  
f\_c\_l\_t\_\_s \_r\_ c\_ntr\_b\_tng t\_ dr\_\_ght c\_nd\_t\_\_ns \_n  
m\_ny p\_rts \_f th\_ \_K. \_t \_s \_st\_m\_t\_d th\_t th\_  
c\_ntr\_s \_s\_ \_p t\_ 10 b\_ll\_\_n l\_tr\_s \_f w\_t\_r p\_r y\_\_r  
t\_ c\_\_l th\_\_r g\_\_nt f\_c\_l\_t\_\_s. \_n\_ w\_t\_r c\_mp\_ny  
r\_p\_r\_t\_d th\_t \_ l\_rg\_ d\_t\_ c\_ntr\_ c\_n \_s\_ \_s m\_ch  
w\_t\_r \_s 50,000 h\_\_s\_h\_lds. D\_sp\_t\_ c\_nc\_rns fr\_m  
\_nv\_r\_nm\_nt\_l\_sts, th\_ \_K \_s p\_sh\_ng \_h\_\_d t\_ b\_\_ld  
m\_ny m\_r\_ d\_t\_ c\_ntr\_s. D\_p\_ty Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r  
\_ng\_l\_ R\_yn\_r s\_\_d th\_y w\_r\_ \_ss\_nt\_\_l f\_r \_c\_n\_m\_c  
gr\_wth.

Th\_ NDG h\_s \_rg\_d Br\_tns t\_ t\_k\_ m\_\_s\_r\_s t\_ c\_t  
b\_ck \_n th\_\_r w\_t\_r c\_ns\_mpt\_\_n. \_n\_ s\_ch m\_\_s\_r\_  
\_s t\_ tr\_sh \_nw\_nt\_d \_m\_\_ls \_nd l\_rg\_ \_m\_g\_s. Th\_  
gr\_\_p cl\_\_ms th\_s w\_ll l\_ss\_n th\_ d\_m\_nd f\_r w\_t\_r.  
\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt w\_bs\_t\_ s\_gg\_st\_d d\_l\_tng \_ld \_m\_\_ls  
\_nd p\_ct\_r\_s "s d\_t\_ c\_ntr\_s r\_q\_\_r\_ v\_st \_m\_\_nts \_f  
w\_t\_r t\_ c\_\_l th\_\_r syst\_ms". NDG ch\_\_rp\_rs\_n H\_l\_n  
W\_k\_h\_m s\_\_d \_ s\_mpl\_ \_v\_ryd\_y \_ct\_\_n s\_ch \_s  
t\_dy\_ng \_p \_n\_'s \_nb\_x \_nd sp\_m \_nd tr\_sh f\_ld\_rs  
w\_ll "r\_\_lly h\_lp th\_ c\_ll\_ct\_v\_ \_ff\_rt t\_ r\_d\_c\_  
d\_m\_nd \_nd h\_lp pr\_s\_rv\_ th\_ h\_\_lth \_f \_\_r r\_v\_rs  
\_nd w\_ldl\_f". H\_w\_v\_r, \_t \_s l\_k\_ly th\_t th\_ w\_t\_r  
s\_v\_d fr\_m p\_\_pl\_ d\_l\_tng f\_l\_s st\_r\_d \_n th\_ cl\_\_d  
\_s m\_r\_ly \_ dr\_p \_n th\_ \_c\_\_n.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the national drought group ndg an environmental organization in the uk has warned that data centres are putting a strain on the countrys water supplies this is also a concern in many other countries the group did not indicate to what degree these facilities are contributing to drought conditions in many parts of the uk it is estimated that the centres use up to 10 billion litres of water per year to cool their giant facilities one water company reported that a large data centre can use as much water as 50000 households despite concerns from environmentalists the uk is pushing ahead to build many more data centres deputy prime minister angela rayner said they were essential for economic growth

the ndg has urged britons to take measures to cut back on their water consumption one such measure is to trash unwanted emails and large images the group claims this will lessen the demand for water a government website suggested deleting old emails and pictures as data centres require vast amounts of water to cool their systems ndg chairperson helen wakeham said a simple everyday action such as tidying up ones inbox and spam and trash folders will really help the collective effort to reduce demand and help preserve the health of our rivers and wildlife however it is likely that the water saved from people deleting files stored in the cloud is merely a drop in the ocean

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

TheNationalDroughtGroup(NDG),anenvironmentalorganizationinth  
eUK,haswarnedthatdatacentresareputtingastrainonthecountry'swa  
tersupplies.Thisisalsoaconcerninmanyothercountries.Thegroupdid  
notindicatetowhatdegreethesefacilitiesarecontributingtodroughtco  
nditionsinmanypartsoftheUK.Itisestimatedthatthecentresuseupto1  
0billionlitresofwaterperyeartocooltheirgiantfacilities.Onewatercom  
panyreportedthatalargedatacentrecanuseasmuchwateras50,000ho  
useholds.Despiteconcernsfromenvironmentalists,theUKispushinga  
headtobuildmanymoredatacentres.DeputyPrimeMinisterAngelaRay  
nersaidtheywereessentialforeconomicgrowth.TheNDGhasurgedBrit  
onstotakemeasurestocutbackontheirwaterconsumption.Onesuchm  
easureistotrashunwantedemailsandlargeimages.Thegroupclaimsth  
iswilllessenthe demandforwater.Agovernmentwebsitesuggesteddel  
etingoldemailsandpictures"asdatacentresrequirevastamountsofwat  
ertocooltheirsystems".NDGchairpersonHelenWakehamsaidasimple  
everydayactionsuchastidyingupone'sinboxandspamandtrashfolder  
swill"reallyhelpthecollectiveefforttoreducedemandandhelppreserve  
thehealthofourriversandwildlife".However,it islikelythatthewatersav  
edfrompeopledeletingfilesstoredinthecloudismere ly adropintheoce  
an.

## FREE WRITING

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

Write about **data centres** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# ACADEMIC WRITING

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

There should be a limit on how long emails can be stored. Discuss.

[illegible]

# 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. DATA CENTRES:** Make a poster about data centres. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. EMAIL LIMIT:** Write a magazine article about there being a limit on how many emails we can keep. 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 data centres. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how data centres can save water. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. National Drought Group
2. In many countries
3. Up to 10 billion litres
4. Building more data centres
5. For economic growth
6. Water consumption
7. To cool their systems
8. She's the chairperson.
9. Rivers and wildlife
10. A drop in the ocean

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

1. Putting a strain on the country's water supplies.
2. This is also a concern in other countries.
3. Indicate to what degree these facilities are contributing.
4. Centres use up to 10 billion litres of water.
5. Pushing ahead to build many more data centres.
6. Measures to cut back on their water consumption.
7. One such measure is to trash unwanted emails.
8. Vast amounts of water to cool their systems.
9. Really help the collective effort to reduce demand.
10. The water saved from people deleting files.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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