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Level 5 – 2nd March 2026

Middle East in turmoil after attacks on Iran

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-middle-east-turmoil-5.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-middle-east-turmoil-5.html>

The Middle East is in turmoil after the attacks by Israel and the USA on Iran. Several Iranian cities, including the capital Tehran, were bombarded with missiles as the US attempted to obliterate Iran's nuclear capabilities. US President Trump wrote on social media: "We're going to destroy their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground." Trump called for Iranians to rise up and for government forces to surrender. He wrote: "This is the single greatest chance for the Iranian people to take back their country." The strikes on Tehran killed Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran immediately retaliated by launching missiles and drones on its neighbours. Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed they had struck Israeli and US military targets in the Middle East. They warned: "This operation will continue relentlessly until the enemy is decisively defeated." There are fears this escalation will create turmoil across the globe. Much of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travels through the Strait of Hormuz waterway, which Iran could close. This would cause sky-high oil prices and inflation. Experts warn there could be a major refugee crisis.

Sources: <https://theconversation.com/us-israeli-attack-on-iran-risks-plunging-the-world-into-turmoil-276818>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/28/multiple-gulf-arab-states-that-host-us-assets-targeted-in-iran-retaliation>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iran-us-israel-strikes-nuclear-weapons-trump-b2929402.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-middle-east-turmoil-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Several Iranian cities, | a. the Iranian people |
| 2. bombarded with | b. capabilities |
| 3. obliterate Iran's nuclear | c. missiles |
| 4. raze their missile industry | d. killed Iran's leader |
| 5. Trump called for Iranians | e. surrender |
| 6. government forces to | f. including the capital |
| 7. the single greatest chance for | g. to rise up |
| 8. The strikes on Tehran | h. to the ground |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Iran immediately | a. military targets |
| 2. launching | b. crisis |
| 3. they had struck Israeli and US | c. retaliated |
| 4. This operation will continue | d. defeated |
| 5. until the enemy is decisively | e. high oil prices |
| 6. There are fears this escalation | f. missiles and drones |
| 7. This would cause sky- | g. will create turmoil |
| 8. there could be a major refugee | h. relentlessly |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-middle-east-turmoil-5.html>

The Middle East is (1) _____ the attacks by Israel and the USA on Iran. Several Iranian cities, including the capital Tehran, (2) _____ missiles as the US (3) _____ Iran's nuclear capabilities. US President Trump wrote on social media: "We're going to destroy their missiles and (4) _____ industry to the ground." Trump called for Iranians to rise up and for government (5) _____. He wrote: "This is the single greatest chance for the Iranian people to take back their country." (6) _____ Tehran killed Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran immediately (7) _____ missiles and drones on its neighbours. Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed they had struck Israeli and US (8) _____ the Middle East. They warned: "This operation will continue relentlessly until the enemy (9) _____." There are fears this escalation will create turmoil across the globe. Much of the world's (10) _____ natural gas travels through the Strait of Hormuz waterway, which Iran could close. This would (11) _____ oil prices and inflation. Experts warn there could be a (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-middle-east-turmoil-5.html>

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THE MIDDLE EAST SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-middle-east-turmoil-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Middle East 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) _____

