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**Level 4 – 30th March 2026**

## War in Middle East creating fertilizer shortages

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260330-fertilizer-shortages-4.html>

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

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260330-fertilizer-shortages-4.html>

The war in Iran has increased fertilizer prices. Ships cannot pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has pretty much shut down the Strait. The Persian Gulf region is a key supplier of fertilizer ingredients. Gulf nations are the world's top exporters. The war has disrupted around 35 per cent of the world's fertilizer trade. Farmers now have to pay up to 35 per cent more for fertilizer. This will lead to smaller harvests and higher food prices.

The U.N. said the crisis will cause a global food shortage. It said that in the worst case, there will be "lower yields and crop failures next season". It added that in the best case, food prices will be higher next year. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said: "It is a systemic shock affecting agrifood systems globally." It added: "Farmers are facing a dual cost shock. They have more expensive fertilizers alongside rising fuel costs."

Sources: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/03/1167205>  
<https://www.npr.org/2026/03/26/g-s1-115240/iran-war-strait-hormuz-fertilizer-exports-farmers-planting-season>  
<https://apnews.com/article/iran-war-fertilizer-exports-farming-3b7c92d58dba0817c3aa8f1db47464b7>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260330-fertilizer-shortages-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ships cannot pass through    | a. to 35 per cent more |
| 2. Iran has pretty much shut    | b. the Strait          |
| 3. a key supplier of fertilizer | c. top exporters       |
| 4. Gulf nations are the world's | d. food prices         |
| 5. The war has disrupted around | e. down the Strait     |
| 6. Farmers now have to pay up   | f. harvests            |
| 7. This will lead to smaller    | g. ingredients         |
| 8. higher                       | h. 35 per cent         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the crisis will cause a    | a. higher next year     |
| 2. in the worst               | b. cost shock           |
| 3. lower yields and crop      | c. case                 |
| 4. food prices will be        | d. globally             |
| 5. It is a systemic           | e. costs                |
| 6. affecting agrifood systems | f. global food shortage |
| 7. Farmers are facing a dual  | g. shock                |
| 8. rising fuel                | h. failures             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260330-fertilizer-shortages-4.html>

The war in Iran (1) \_\_\_\_\_ prices. Ships cannot pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ down the Strait. The Persian Gulf region is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of fertilizer ingredients. Gulf nations are the world's top exporters. The war (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 35 per cent of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Farmers now have to pay up to 35 per cent more for fertilizer. This will lead (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and higher food prices.

The U.N. said the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a global food shortage. It said that in (8) \_\_\_\_\_, there will be (9) \_\_\_\_\_ crop failures next season". It added that in the best case, food prices will be higher next year. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said: "It (10) \_\_\_\_\_ shock affecting (11) \_\_\_\_\_." It added: "Farmers are facing a dual cost shock. They have more expensive fertilizers alongside (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260330-fertilizer-shortages-4.html>

The war in Iran has increased fertilizer prices. Ships cannot pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has pretty much shut down the Strait. The Persian Gulf region is a key supplier of fertilizer ingredients. Gulf nations are the world's top exporters. The war has disrupted around 35 percent of the world's fertilizer trade. Farmers now have to pay up to 35 percent more for fertilizer. This will lead to smaller harvests and higher food prices. The U.N. said the crisis will cause a global food shortage. It said that in the worst case, there will be "low yields and crop failures next season". It added that in the best case, food prices will be higher next year. The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization said: "It is a systemic shock affecting a global food system globally." It added: "Farmers are facing a dual cost shock. They have more expensive fertilizers along with rising fuel costs."

# FERTILIZER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260330-fertilizer-shortages-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about fertilizer 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) \_\_\_\_\_

