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Level 6 – 20th April 2026

Japan invents new word for days of 40°C heat

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Climate change is having an unforeseen consequence on language – the creation of new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new item of vocabulary into the Japanese lexicon. The neologism is the word "*kokushobi*," which literally means "cruelly hot day" or "harshly hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or forecasting days when temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted an online poll of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire was prompted by the scorching weather experienced in Japan in recent years. Website visitors selected their most preferred word. There were 478,000 responses. The word *kokushobi* garnered nearly 203,000 votes.

There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in the past decade. The JMA reported days of 40°C or above every year since 2018. In August 2025, the town of Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, recorded the highest temperature ever observed in Japan. The mercury rose to 41.8°C. There were a further nine days when temperatures were 40°C. More records were broken in 2025. This was the hottest year since records began in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C above average. The Mainichi newspaper wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, compared with an annual average of just 4.5 days. Kyoto logged 52 days above that temperature, compared with an average of 18.5 days."

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2026/04/17/japan/japan-severely-hot-day/>
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20260417/p2a/00m/0na/008000c>
https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/press/2604/17a/20260417_40degree_name.pdf

WARM-UPS

1. HOT DAYS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about hot days. 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?

climate change / language / vocabulary / temperature / online poll / scorching / vote record breaking / heat / the past decade / 41.8°C / mercury / newspaper / 2025

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

3. SUMMER: Students A **strongly** believe summer is better than winter; Students B **strongly** believe winter is better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. NEOLOGISMS: What do these recently introduced words mean? What do you think of them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Meaning	What I Think
Doom scrolling		
Deepfake		
Cancel culture		
Quiet quitting		
Woke		
Rewilding		

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

6. HOT-WEATHER ACTIVITIES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Taking a nap
- Making smoothies
- Shopping
- Reading a book
- Visiting a beach
- Having a picnic
- Swimming
- Watching a movie

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. unforeseen | a. A new word or a new expression. |
| 2. consequence | b. Special words used in a subject or activity. |
| 3. lexicon | c. Not expected or not known before. |
| 4. neologism | d. Got or collected. |
| 5. terminology | e. Something that happens as a result of something else. |
| 6. scorching | f. All the words of a language. |
| 7. garnered | g. Very, very, very hot. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8. decade | h. What is usual or normal. |
| 9. observed | i. A period of ten years. |
| 10. mercury | j. Witnessed. |
| 11. set (verb) | k. Best or highest results. |
| 12. records (noun) | l. Made or put in place. |
| 13. logged | m. The level of heat shown on a thermometer. |
| 14. the norm | n. Recorded or wrote down. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

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

1. The article says it's clear that climate change will create new words. **T / F**
2. The agency overseeing Japanese language introduced a new word. **T / F**
3. The new Japanese word is "hardly hot day". **T / F**
4. The new word got more than 200,000 votes in an online poll. **T / F**
5. Japan's hottest-ever temperature was recorded in 2023. **T / F**
6. Japan's hottest-ever temperature was over 41°C. **T / F**
7. Japan started recording temperatures in 1898. **T / F**
8. In 2025, the city of Kyoto recorded more than 50 days above 35°C. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. unforeseen | a. survey |
| 2. lexicon | b. archives |
| 3. neologism | c. ten years |
| 4. poll | d. new word |
| 5. garnered | e. the norm |
| 6. decade | f. unexpected |
| 7. rose | g. gathered |
| 8. records | h. registered |
| 9. logged | i. dictionary |
| 10. average | j. increased |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. having an unforeseen | a. rose to 41.8°C |
| 2. the Japanese | b. weather |
| 3. The JMA conducted | c. nearly 203,000 votes |
| 4. scorching | d. of just 4.5 days |
| 5. The word <i>kokushobi</i> garnered | e. observed in Japan |
| 6. There has been record- | f. consequence on language |
| 7. the highest temperature ever | g. above average |
| 8. The mercury | h. an online poll |
| 9. Temperatures were 2.36°C | i. breaking heat in Japan |
| 10. compared with an annual average | j. lexicon |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Climate change is having an (1) _____ consequence on language – the (2) _____ of new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new (3) _____ of vocabulary into the Japanese lexicon. The neologism is the word "kokushobi," which literally means "(4) _____ hot day" or "harshly hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or (5) _____ days when temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted an online (6) _____ of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire was prompted by the scorching weather experienced in Japan in recent years. Website visitors (7) _____ their most preferred word. There were 478,000 responses. The word *kokushobi* (8) _____ nearly 203,000 votes.

cruelly
poll
unforeseen
garnered
item
selected
creation
forecasting

There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in the (9) _____ decade. The JMA (10) _____ days of 40°C or above every year since 2018. In August 2025, the town of Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, recorded the highest temperature (11) _____ observed in Japan. The (12) _____ rose to 41.8°C. There were a (13) _____ nine days when temperatures were 40°C. More records were broken in 2025. This was the hottest year since (14) _____ began in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C above average. The Mainichi newspaper wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, (15) _____ with an annual average of just 4.5 days. Kyoto (16) _____ 52 days above that temperature, compared with an average of 18.5 days."

records
past
logged
ever
further
compared
reported
mercury

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

- 1) Climate change is having an unforeseen _____
 - a. consequence of language
 - b. consequence off language
 - c. consequence on language
 - d. consequence at language
- 2) has introduced a new item of vocabulary into _____
 - a. the Japanese rubicon
 - b. the Japanese lexicon
 - c. the Japanese rub icon
 - d. the Japanese text icon
- 3) The JMA conducted an online poll of _____
 - a. weather-biased terminology
 - b. weather-based terminology
 - c. weather-basted terminology
 - d. weather-baste terminology
- 4) The questionnaire was prompted by _____
 - a. the scorch in weather
 - b. the score ching weather
 - c. the screeching weather
 - d. the scorching weather
- 5) Website visitors selected their _____
 - a. most preferred word
 - b. most preference word
 - c. must preferred word
 - d. most prefer word
- 6) There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in _____
 - a. the past decade
 - b. the past decadent
 - c. the passed decade
 - d. a past decade
- 7) The JMA reported days of 40°C or above every _____
 - a. year sins 2018
 - b. years since 2018
 - c. year since 2018
 - d. year for 2018
- 8) Gunma Prefecture recorded the highest temperature ever _____
 - a. observed on Japan
 - b. observed in Japan
 - c. observe din Japan
 - d. observing Japan
- 9) Temperatures were _____
 - a. 2.36°C above averaged
 - b. 2.36°C above avarice
 - c. 2.36°C above a verge
 - d. 2.36°C above average
- 10) compared with an annual average of just 4.5 days. Kyoto _____
 - a. lugged 52 days
 - b. lagged 52 days
 - c. logged 52 days
 - d. lugged 52 days

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Climate change is (1) _____ consequence on language – the creation of new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new item of vocabulary into (2) _____. The (3) _____ word "*kokushobi*," which literally means "cruelly hot day" or "harshly hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or (4) _____ temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted an online poll of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire (5) _____ the scorching weather experienced in Japan in recent years. Website visitors selected their (6) _____. There were 478,000 responses. The word *kokushobi* garnered nearly 203,000 votes.

There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in (7) _____. The JMA reported days of 40°C or above every year since 2018. In August 2025, the town of Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, (8) _____ temperature ever observed in Japan. The mercury rose to 41.8°C. There (9) _____ nine days when temperatures were 40°C. More records were broken in 2025. This was the hottest year (10) _____ in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C above average. The Mainichi newspaper wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, (11) _____ annual average of just 4.5 days. Kyoto logged 52 days above that temperature, (12) _____ average of 18.5 days."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

1. What does the article say climate change has had a consequence on?
2. What organization introduced a new word into the Japanese lexicon?
3. When will the new word be used?
4. What was there an online poll of?
5. How many people voted for the word *kokushobi*?
6. Since when have there been annual temperatures of 40°C in Japan?
7. What is Japan's highest ever temperature?
8. When did Japan start recording temperatures?
9. What was the yearly average of days over 35°C in Tokyo before 2025?
10. How many days over 35°C did Kyoto have in 2025?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

- 1) What does the article say climate change has had a consequence on?
 - a) weather
 - b) hot days
 - c) language
 - d) meteorology
- 2) What organization introduced a new word into the Japanese lexicon?
 - a) the Japan Meteorological Agency
 - b) the Oxford English Dictionary
 - c) a top university
 - d) the UN
- 3) When will the new word be used?
 - a) on Mondays
 - b) When temperatures are 40°C or above.
 - c) from 2030
 - d) during cherry blossom season
- 4) What was there an online poll of?
 - a) the best words
 - b) heat and cold
 - c) dictionaries
 - d) weather-based terminology
- 5) How many people voted for the word *kokushobi*?
 - a) over 748,000
 - b) nearly 478,000
 - c) nearly 203,000
 - d) over 302,000
- 6) Since when have there been annual temperatures of 40°C in Japan?
 - a) since 2010
 - b) since 2015
 - c) since 2018
 - d) since 2025
- 7) What is Japan's highest ever temperature?
 - a) 41.5°C
 - b) 41.6°C
 - c) 41.7°C
 - d) 41.8°C
- 8) When did Japan start recording temperatures?
 - a) 1888
 - b) 1898
 - c) 1899
 - d) 1889
- 9) What was the yearly average of days over 35°C in Tokyo before 2025?
 - a) 4.4 days
 - b) 4.5 days
 - c) 4.6 days
 - d) 4.7 days
- 10) How many days over 35°C did Kyoto have in 2025?
 - a) 52 days
 - b) 18.5 days
 - c) 25 days
 - d) 4.5 days

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Role A – Taking a Nap

You think taking a nap is the best hot-weather activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): making smoothies, visiting a beach or watching a movie.

Role B – Making Smoothies

You think making smoothies is the best hot-weather activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): taking a nap, visiting a beach or watching a movie.

Role C – Visiting a Beach

You think visiting a beach is the best hot-weather activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): making smoothies, taking a nap or watching a movie.

Role D – Watching a Movie

You think watching a movie is the best hot-weather activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): making smoothies, visiting a beach or taking a nap.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

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

word	heat

- 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">• consequence• item• use• poll• prompted• votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• decade• since• observed• mercury• annual• logged
--	---

HOT DAYS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hot days 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.

HOT DAYS 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 'word'?
3. What do you think of climate change?
4. What consequences of climate change do you know of?
5. What new words has climate change brought about?
6. Does your language have words to describe extreme heat?
7. What do you think of 'cruelly hot days'?
8. What weather is perfect for you?
9. What new words have entered your language?
10. What advice do you have to deal with extreme heat?

Japan invents new word for days of 40°C heat – 20th April 2026
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HOT DAYS 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 'heat'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Has your country experienced record-breaking temperatures?
15. What are the good things about extremely hot days?
16. Do you prefer scorching hot days or freezing cold days?
17. What can we do about climate change?
18. What do you think the climate will be like in 50 years?
19. What do you think of today's weather?
20. What questions would you like to ask meteorologists?

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/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Climate change is having an unforeseen consequence (1) ____ language – the creation of new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new (2) ____ of vocabulary into the Japanese (3) _____. The neologism is the word "kokushobi," which literally means "cruelly hot day" or "harshly hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or forecasting days when temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted an online (4) ____ of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire was prompted (5) ____ the scorching weather experienced in Japan in recent years. Website visitors selected their most preferred word. There were 478,000 responses. The word *kokushobi* (6) ____ nearly 203,000 votes.

There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in the (7) ____ decade. The JMA reported days of 40°C or above every year since 2018. In August 2025, the town (8) ____ Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, recorded the highest temperature ever observed in Japan. The mercury rose to 41.8°C. There were a (9) ____ nine days when temperatures were 40°C. More records were (10) ____ in 2025. This was the hottest year since records began in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C above average. The Mainichi newspaper wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, compared with an (11) ____ average of just 4.5 days. Kyoto (12) ____ 52 days above that temperature, compared with an average of 18.5 days."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) of | (d) at |
| 2. | (a) product | (b) item | (c) module | (d) thing |
| 3. | (a) lexicologist | (b) luxury | (c) lexeme | (d) lexicon |
| 4. | (a) pole | (b) poll | (c) polar | (d) polemic |
| 5. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) as |
| 6. | (a) garner | (b) garners | (c) garnered | (d) garnering |
| 7. | (a) parsed | (b) passed | (c) past | (d) psst |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) of | (d) as |
| 9. | (a) future | (b) farther | (c) furrier | (d) further |
| 10. | (a) fractured | (b) destroyed | (c) punctured | (d) broken |
| 11. | (a) annual | (b) annul | (c) annular | (d) annuity |
| 12. | (a) legged | (b) lagged | (c) logged | (d) lugged |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Paragraph 1

1. having an unforeseen unnecseqoce
2. the Japanese eincxol
3. The nmoegoisl is the word "kokushobi"
4. rlylceu hot day
5. describing or fsrgnotaeci days
6. weather-based gietoothnrm

Paragraph 2

7. in the past cededa
8. the highest ttmeareuper ever
9. The ryerucm rose to 41.8°C
10. redevsob in Japan
11. compared with an uananl
12. 2.36°C above grevaea

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () an online poll of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire was prompted by the scorching weather
- (**1**) Climate change is having an unforeseen consequence on language – the creation
- () experienced in Japan in recent years. Website visitors selected their most
- () hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or forecasting days when temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted
- () lexicon. The neologism is the word "*kokushobi*," which literally means "cruelly hot day" or "harshly
- () observed in Japan. The mercury rose to 41.8°C. There were a further nine days when
- () of just 4.5 days. Kyoto logged 52 days above that temperature, compared with an average of 18.5 days."
- () of new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new item of vocabulary into the Japanese
- () preferred word. There were 478,000 responses. The word *kokushobi* garnered nearly 203,000 votes.
- () records began in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C above average. The Mainichi newspaper
- () since 2018. In August 2025, the town of Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, recorded the highest temperature ever
- () temperatures were 40°C. More records were broken in 2025. This was the hottest year since
- () There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in the past decade. The JMA reported days of 40°C or above every year
- () wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, compared with an annual average

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

1. an change Climate consequence having is unforeseen .
2. are days Describing forecasting or temperatures when 40°C .
3. by prompted questionnaire scorching The the was weather .
4. most preferred selected their visitors Website word .
5. 203,000 garnered *kokushobi* nearly The votes word .
6. been has heat in Japan record-breaking There .
7. ever highest It observed recorded temperature the .
8. 40°C A days further nine temperatures were when .
9. began hottest records since the This was year .
10. 52 above days Kyoto logged temperature that .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Climate change is having an unforeseen *consequential / consequence* on language – the creation *of / on* new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new item of vocabulary into the Japanese *rubicon / lexicon*. The neologism is the word "kokushobi," which *literally / laterally* means "cruelly hot day" or "harshly hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or forecasting days *as / when* temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted *the / an* online poll of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire was *promoted / prompted* by the *scorching / scorched* weather experienced in Japan in *recent / recently* years. Website visitors selected their most preferred word. There were 478,000 responses. The word *kokushobi* garnered *near / nearly* 203,000 votes.

There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in the *passed / past* decade. The JMA reported days *of / at* 40°C or above every year since 2018. In August 2025, the town *at / of* Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, recorded the highest temperature *ever / never* observed in Japan. The mercury *arose / rose* to 41.8°C. There were a *further / future* nine days when temperatures were 40°C. More records were broken in 2025. This was the hottest *year / yearly* since records began in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C *over / above* average. The Mainichi newspaper wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, compared with an annual average *on / of* just 4.5 days. Kyoto logged 52 days above *that / their* temperature, compared with an average of 18.5 days."

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/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Cl_m_t_ ch_ng_ _s h_v_ng _n _nf_r_s__n c_ns_q__nc_ _n l_ng__g_ - th_ cr__t__n _f n_w w_rds. Th_ J_p_n M_t__r_l_g_c_l _g_ncy (JM_) h_s _ntr_d_c_d _ n_w _t_m _f v_c_b_l_ry _nt_ th_ J_p_n_s_ l_x_c_n. Th_ n__l_g_sm _s th_ w_rd "k_k_sh_b_," wh_ch l_t_r_lly m__ns "cr__lly h_t d_y" _r "h_rshly h_t d_y". Th_ JM_ w_ll _s_ _t wh_n d_scr_b_ng _r f_r_c_st_ng d_ys wh_n t_mp_r_t_r_s _r_ 40°C _r _b_v_. Th_ JM_ c_nd_ct_d _n _nl_n_ p_ll _f w__th_r-b_s_d t_rm_n_l_gy. Th_ q__st__nn__r_ w_s pr_mpt_d by th_ sc_rch_ng w__th_r _xp_r__nc_d _n J_p_n _n r_c_nt y__rs. W_bs_t_ v_s_t_rs s_l_ct_d th__r m_st pr_f_rr_d w_rd. Th_r_ w_r_ 478,000 r_sp_ns_s. Th_ w_rd k_k_sh_b_ g_rn_r_d n__rly 203,000 v_t_s.

Th_r_ h_s b__n r_c_rd-br__k_ng h__t _n J_p_n _n th_ p_st d_c_d_. Th_ JM_ r_p_rt_d d_ys _f 40°C _r _b_v_ _v_ry y__r s_nc_ 2018. _n __g_st 2025, th_ t_wn _f _s_s_k_, G_nm_ Pr_f_ct_r_, r_c_rd_d th_ h_gh_st t_mp_r_t_r_ _v_r _bs_rv_d _n J_p_n. Th_ m_rc_ry r_s_ t_ 41.8°C. Th_r_ w_r_ _ f_rth_r n_n_ d_ys wh_n t_mp_r_t_r_s w_r_ 40°C. M_r_ r_c_rds w_r_ br_k_n _n 2025. Th_s w_s th_ h_tt_st y__r s_nc_ r_c_rds b_g_n _n 1898. T_mp_r_t_r_s w_r_ 2.36°C _b_v_ _v_r_g_. Th_ M__n_ch_ n_wsp_p_r wr_t_: "T_ky_ r_c_rd_d 25 d_ys _v_r 35°C, c_mpr_d w_th _n _nn__l _v_r_g_ _f j_st 4.5 d_ys. Ky_t_ l_gg_d 52 d_ys _b_v_ th_t t_mp_r_t_r_, c_mpr_d w_th _n _v_r_g_ _f 18.5 d_ys."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

climate change is having an unforeseen consequence on language the creation of new words the japan meteorological agency jma has introduced a new item of vocabulary into the japanese lexicon the neologism is the word *kokushobi* which literally means cruelly hot day or harshly hot day the jma will use it when describing or forecasting days when temperatures are 40°C or above the jma conducted an online poll of weatherbased terminology the questionnaire was prompted by the scorching weather experienced in japan in recent years website visitors selected their most preferred word there were 478000 responses the word *kokushobi* garnered nearly 203000 votes there has been recordbreaking heat in japan in the past decade the jma reported days of 40°C or above every year since 2018 in august 2025 the town of isesaki gunma prefecture recorded the highest temperature ever observed in japan the mercury rose to 41.8°C there were a further nine days when temperatures were 40°C more records were broken in 2025 this was the hottest year since records began in 1898 temperatures were 2.36°C above average the mainichi newspaper wrote tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C compared with an annual average of just 45 days kyoto logged 52 days above that temperature compared with an average of 185 days

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260420-harshly-hot-days.html>

Climate change is having an unforeseen consequence on language – the creation of new words. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has introduced a new item of vocabulary into the Japanese lexicon. The neologism is the word "kokushobi," which literally means "cruelly hot day" or "harshly hot day". The JMA will use it when describing or forecasting days when temperatures are 40°C or above. The JMA conducted an online poll of weather-based terminology. The questionnaire was prompted by the scorching weather experienced in Japan in recent years. Website visitors selected their most preferred word. There were 478,000 responses. The word kokushobi garnered nearly 203,000 votes. There has been record-breaking heat in Japan in the past decade. The JMA reported days of 40°C or above every year since 2018. In August 2025, the town of Isesaki, Gunma Prefecture, recorded the highest temperature ever observed in Japan. The mercury rose to 41.8°C. There were a further nine days when temperatures were 40°C. More records were broken in 2025. This was the hottest year since records began in 1898. Temperatures were 2.36°C above average. The Mainichi newspaper wrote: "Tokyo recorded 25 days over 35°C, compared with an annual average of just 4.5 days. Kyoto logged 52 days above that temperature, compared with an average of 18.5 days."

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. HOT DAYS: Make a poster about hot days. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TOO LATE: Write a magazine article about it being too late to reverse climate change. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this and with those who don't.

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 hot days. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what to do on hot days. 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. e 3. f 4. a 5. b 6. g 7. d
8. i 9. j 10. m 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Language
2. The Japan Meteorological Agency
3. When temperatures are 40°C or above.
4. Weather-based terminology
5. Nearly 203,000
6. Since 2018
7. 41.8°C
8. In 1898
9. 4.5 days
10. 52 days

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Climate change is having an unforeseen consequence.
2. Describing or forecasting days when temperatures are 40°C.
3. The questionnaire was prompted by the scorching weather.
4. Website visitors selected their most preferred word.
5. The word *kokushobi* garnered nearly 203,000 votes.
6. There has been record-breaking heat in Japan.
7. It recorded the highest temperature ever observed.
8. A further nine days when temperatures were 40°C.
9. This was the hottest year since records began.
10. Kyoto logged 52 days above that temperature.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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