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**Level 2** – 14th May 2026

## African continent splitting into two parts

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-2.html>

There are signs that a big part of East Africa is breaking away from the African continent. Scientists studied a deep crack that runs along a large part of Zambia. The crack is called a rift. It is a fault in the rock under Earth's surface. A geologist from Oxford University is studying it. He believes it shows that a giant piece of land is breaking away. He wrote: "There is evidence that the fault... is active and therefore the Southwest African Rift Zone is too." He warned that this may be an early sign of the break-up of sub-Saharan Africa.

The land on Earth is always moving. Three hundred million years ago, there was one supercontinent, called Pangea. Over millions of years, Pangea broke up. Giant areas of land slowly moved across the oceans to become the continents we know today. Rifts are one reason why land masses split apart. The rift in Zambia is part of a 2,500-kilometre-long crack. The rift is moving at a rate of about 4.7 mm per year. At this rate, it will take millions of years for Africa to split in two. Scientists believe that in 200 million years, there could be just one supercontinent again.

Sources: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2526136-a-new-tectonic-plate-boundary-could-be-forming-in-southern-africa/>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/first-signatures-of-a-future-tectonic-split-are-bubbling-up-in-zambia>  
<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/science/earth-science/a-new-ocean-could-be-forming-as-africa-splits-apart>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. breaking away from the     | a. early sign             |
| 2. deep crack that runs       | b. under Earth's surface  |
| 3. It is a fault in the rock  | c. sub-Saharan Africa     |
| 4. A geologist                | d. African continent      |
| 5. a giant piece of land is   | e. fault is active        |
| 6. There is evidence that the | f. from Oxford University |
| 7. this may be an             | g. along a large part     |
| 8. the break-up of            | h. breaking away          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. The land on Earth is always               | a. today             |
| 2. there was one supercontinent,             | b. 4.7 mm per year   |
| 3. Over millions of years,                   | c. called Pangea     |
| 4. Giant areas of land slowly moved          | d. Pangea broke up   |
| 5. become the continents we know             | e. moving            |
| 6. one reason why land masses split          | f. to split in two   |
| 7. The rift is moving at a rate of about     | g. apart             |
| 8. it will take millions of years for Africa | h. across the oceans |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-2.html>

There are signs that a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ East Africa is breaking away from the African continent. Scientists studied a deep crack that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ large part of Zambia. The crack is called a rift. It is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the rock under Earth's surface. A geologist from Oxford University is studying it. He believes (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a giant piece of land is breaking away. He wrote: "There is evidence that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ active and therefore the Southwest African Rift Zone is too." He warned that this may be an (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the break-up of sub-Saharan Africa.

The land on Earth (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Three hundred million years ago, there was one supercontinent, called Pangea. Over (8) \_\_\_\_\_, Pangea broke up. Giant areas of land slowly moved (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to become the continents we know today. Rifts are one reason why land masses split apart. The rift in Zambia is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 2,500-kilometre-long crack. The rift is moving at a rate of about 4.7 mm per year. (11) \_\_\_\_\_, it will take millions of years for Africa to (12) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists believe that in 200 million years, there could be just one supercontinent again.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-2.html>

There are signs that a big part of East Africa is breaking away from the African continent. Scientists studied a deep crack that runs along a large part of Zambia. The crack is called a rift. It is a fault in the rock under Earth's surface. A geologist from Oxford University is studying it. He believes it shows that a giant piece of land is breaking away. He wrote: "There is evidence that the fault... is active and therefore the Southwest African Rift Zone is too. "He warned that this may be a nearly sign of the break-up of sub-Saharan Africa. The land on Earth is always moving. Three hundred million years ago, there was one supercontinent, called Pangea. Over millions of years, Pangea broke up. Giant areas of land slowly moved across the ocean to become the continents we know today. Rifts are one reason why land masses split apart. The rift in Zambia is part of a 2,500-kilometre-long crack. The rift is moving at a rate of about 4.7 mm per year. At this rate, it will take millions of years for Africa to split in two. Scientists believe that in 200 million years, there could be just one supercontinent again.

# AFRICA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Africa 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

