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Level 2 – 30th July 2026

France wildfires: City of Bordeaux faces evacuation

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-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/2607/260730-france-wildfires-2.html>

Extreme heat and wildfires are becoming more common. Europe is experiencing record-breaking temperatures and heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are burning out of control. The biggest and most serious of these is near the French city of Bordeaux. The huge fire is just 8 km from the city's outer limits. More than 2,500 firefighters are trying to fight the fire. On Monday, 17,000 residents were evacuated from the city. Tens of thousands more might have to leave. A news site said the city looked worryingly like "the darkest days of the Covid-19 pandemic" with people wearing masks.

A French firefighting boss said the kind of wildfire outside of Bordeaux has never been seen in France before. He said the intense heat has created "fire clouds". NASA called these the "fire-breathing dragon of clouds". They make their own winds, which make the fires suddenly spread. The firefighters' boss said the fire-cloud wildfire was almost impossible to put out. He said: "It is shifting non-stop. We cannot fight it directly." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation. Bordeaux locals are now worrying about the future of their city.

Sources: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20260726-french-firefighters-face-pyrocumulonimbus-for-first-time>
<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20260727-i-spent-the-night-coughing-wildfire-smoke-leaves-bordeaux-residents-struggling-to-breathe>
<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/07/26/pedro-sanchez-the-scale-of-the-disaster-we-are-living-through-is-very-hard-to-accept>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Extreme heat and wildfires are | a. might have to leave |
| 2. across | b. of control |
| 3. wildfires are currently burning out | c. under control |
| 4. just 8 km from the city's | d. the globe |
| 5. battling to keep the fires | e. Covid-19 pandemic |
| 6. 17,000 residents were evacuated | f. becoming common |
| 7. tens of thousands more | g. outer limits |
| 8. the darkest days of the | h. from the city |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. the intense heat has created | a. winds |
| 2. NASA called these the fire-breathing | b. situation |
| 3. They make their own | c. stop |
| 4. almost impossible to put | d. "fire clouds" |
| 5. It is shifting non- | e. of their city |
| 6. We cannot fight it | f. dragon of clouds |
| 7. in a David-versus-Goliath | g. out |
| 8. worrying about the future | h. directly |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-2.html>

(1) _____ wildfires are becoming more common. Europe is experiencing record-breaking temperatures and heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are burning (2) _____. The biggest and most serious of these is near the French city of Bordeaux. The huge fire is just 8 km from the (3) _____. More than 2,500 firefighters are trying to (4) _____. On Monday, 17,000 residents (5) _____ the city. Tens of thousands more might have to leave. A news site said the city looked worryingly like "the (6) _____ the Covid-19 pandemic" with people wearing masks.

A French firefighting boss said the (7) _____ outside of Bordeaux has (8) _____ in France before. He said the intense heat has created "fire clouds". NASA called these the "fire-breathing (9) _____". They make their own winds, which make the (10) _____. The firefighters' boss said the fire-cloud wildfire was almost impossible to put out. He said: "It is shifting non-stop. We cannot (11) _____." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation. Bordeaux locals are now worrying (12) _____ of their city.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-2.html>

Extreme heat and wildfires are becoming more common. Europe is experiencing record-breaking temperatures and heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are burning out of control. The biggest and most serious of these is near the French city of Bordeaux. The huge fire is just 8 km from the city's southern limits. More than 2,500 firefighters are trying to fight the fire. On Monday, 17,000 residents were evacuated from the city. Tens of thousands more might have to leave. A news site said the city looked worryingly like "the darkest days of the Covid-19 pandemic" with people wearing masks. A French firefighting boss said the kind of wild fire outside of Bordeaux has never been seen in France before. He said the intense heat has created "fire clouds". NASA called these the "fire-breathing dragon of clouds". They make their own winds, which make the fires suddenly spread. The firefighters' boss said the fire-cloud wild fire was almost impossible to put out. He said: "It is shifting non-stop. We cannot fight it directly." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation. Bordeaux locals are now worrying about the future of their city.

WILDFIRES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wildfires 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-2.html>

Write about **wildfires** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]