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Level 5

Fast-growing weed covering Australian town

20th February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-5.html>

A weed is causing havoc in a small Australian town. It kind of looks like a horror movie. The weed is called "hairy panic". It is clogging up homes and buildings in the small Australian town of Wangaratta, Victoria. Hairy panic is a grass that is found everywhere in Australia. It has long hairs along the edges of its stalks. The dead grass gathers in large bundles, which are blown across the land. It is a big problem in Wangaratta because there is a lot of it in the town. It has reached roof level in some areas. Residents cannot reach their garages because it is piled so high.

Many residents have left town until the weed has gone. They are fed up with spending several hours a day clearing piles of dead grass from their gardens. For some, it is a battle to fight through the wall of weeds to get into their home. Pam Twitchett told Australia's ABC news agency that the weed was "mentally draining". Another resident, Jason Perna, said: "It makes it difficult to get the car out in the morning - if you can find it." He also said the problem wasn't so big, saying: "It's a first-world problem. We don't put it on the scale of any of the famine or poverty going on in the world."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-35600546>
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-18/giant-tumbleweeds-invade-wangaratta/7181600>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/australia/12162443/Australian-town-Wangaratta-in-Victoria-blanketed-by-hairy-panic-tumbleweed.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A weed is causing | a. garages |
| 2. It kind of looks | b. up homes |
| 3. It is clogging | c. havoc |
| 4. It has long hairs along the | d. high |
| 5. blown | e. like a horror movie |
| 6. It has reached roof level | f. across the land |
| 7. Residents cannot reach their | g. in some areas |
| 8. it is piled so | h. edges of its stalks |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Many residents have | a. car out in the morning |
| 2. They are fed | b. world problem |
| 3. spending several hours a day clearing | c. the wall of weeds |
| 4. it is a battle to fight through | d. on in the world |
| 5. mentally | e. piles of dead grass |
| 6. It makes it difficult to get the | f. draining |
| 7. It's a first- | g. left town |
| 8. the famine or poverty going | h. up |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-5.html>

A weed is (1) _____ a small Australian town. It kind of looks like a horror movie. The weed is called "hairy panic". It (2) _____ homes and buildings in the small Australian town of Wangaratta, Victoria. Hairy panic is a grass (3) _____ everywhere in Australia. It has long hairs (4) _____ of its stalks. The dead grass gathers in large bundles, which are (5) _____ land. It is a big problem in Wangaratta because there is a lot of it in the town. It has reached roof level in some areas. Residents cannot reach their garages because (6) _____.

Many residents have left town until (7) _____. They are fed up with spending several hours a day (8) _____ dead grass from their gardens. For some, it is a battle to fight through the wall of weeds to (9) _____ home. Pam Twitchett told Australia's ABC news agency that the weed was "(10) _____". Another resident, Jason Perna, said: "It makes it difficult to (11) _____ in the morning - if you can find it." He also said the problem wasn't so big, saying: "It's a first-world problem. We don't (12) _____ scale of any of the famine or poverty going on in the world."

PANIC SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about panic 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-5.html>

Write about **panic** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
