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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6 – 16th June, 2019

Tensions over oil-tanker attacks in Gulf of Oman

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker.html

Contents

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

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THE ARTICLE

Tensions are rising in the Middle East over the latest attacks on oil tankers. The USA is blaming Iran for the attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The tankers are owned by Japan and Norway. They were hit by blasts while navigating waters close to the strategically important Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Around a fifth of the world's oil passes through the Strait, which is just 68km at its narrowest point. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind the "blatant assault" on the vessels. He said the U.S. would defend itself and its allies against "Iranian aggression" in the region. However, he provided no evidence that Iran was behind the attacks.

The attacks are the second such incidents carried out against tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were sabotaged in the UAE port of Fujairah last month. The U.S. says the latest tankers were hit by mines and posted a video online of supposed Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine off the hull of one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as "suspicious". He said Iran's navy was investigating them. Iran called the U.S. accusations "unfounded," "inflammatory" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said his vessel was struck by some kind of missile and not by a mine. The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to be "clearly established".

WARM-UPS

1. GULF OF OMAN CRISIS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Gulf of Oman Crisis. 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?

> tensions / Middle East / attacks / tanker / oil / assault / aggression / region / evidence
> incident / sabotage / mine / foreign minister / suspicious / Iranophobic / navy / truth

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

3. WAR: Students A **strongly** believe there will be another war in the region; Students B **strongly** believe there won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. THE PLAYERS: How can these players help de-escalate tensions over this crisis? Will they? Why (not)? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they Can Do	**Will They?**	**Why (Not)?**
The USA's leader			
Iran's leader			
Saudi's leader			
The UN's leader			
China's leader			
Russia's leader			

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

6. DE-ESCALATION: Rank these with your partner. Put the person who is most likely to de-escalate the situation at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Donald Trump
- Hassan Rouhani
- António Guterres
- Saudi's Crown Prince
- Shinzo Abe
- Dalai Lama
- the UAE leader
- Xi Jinping

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	blaming	a.	A narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two other large areas of water.
2.	blast	b.	Traveling on a desired course after planning a route.
3.	navigating	c.	An explosion or explosive firing, especially of a bomb.
4.	strategically	d.	Hostile or violent behavior or attitudes toward another; readiness to attack or confront.
5.	strait	e.	Saying someone was at fault or wrong.
6.	blatant	f.	Relating to the gaining of overall or long-term (military) advantage.
7.	aggression	g.	Done openly and unashamedly.

Paragraph 2

8.	incident	h.	The main body of a ship.
9.	sabotaged	i.	Of speech or writing arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings.
10.	mine	j.	Having or showing a distrust of someone or something.
11.	hull	k.	Deliberately destroyed, damaged, or obstructed something, especially for political or military advantage.
12.	suspicious	l.	A ship or large boat.
13.	inflammatory	m.	An event or occurrence.
14.	vessel	n.	A type of bomb placed on or just below the surface of the ground or in the water that detonates when disturbed by a person, vehicle, or ship.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

a. The attacked tankers were from Norway and Japan.   **T / F**

b. The Strait or Hormuz is 68 miles at its narrowest point.   **T / F**

c. The USA said it would defend its allies against Iran.   **T / F**

d. Mike Pompeo provided lots of evidence that Iran attacked the tankers.   **T / F**

e. Three tankers were attacked in the UAE earlier this month.   **T / F**

f. Iran said it is investigating the "suspicious" attacks.   **T / F**

g. A Japanese tanker owner said his ship hit a mine.   **T / F**

h. The United Nations said it had clearly established the facts.   **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:
Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

1.	**rising**	a.	alleged
2.	**blaming**	b.	flagrant
3.	**blasts**	c.	proof
4.	**blatant**	d.	found
5.	**evidence**	e.	accusing
6.	**carried out**	f.	provocative
7.	**supposed**	g.	conducted
8.	**suspicious**	h.	escalating
9.	**inflammatory**	i.	questionable
10.	**established**	j.	explosions

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

1.	The USA is blaming	a.	the attacks
2.	close to the strategically important	b.	mine
3.	just 68km at	c.	clearly established
4.	the U.S. would defend itself	d.	investigating them
5.	no evidence that Iran was behind	e.	Strait of Hormuz
6.	Two Saudi tankers were	f.	Iran for the attacks
7.	removing an unexploded	g.	kind of missile
8.	He said Iran's navy was	h.	and its allies
9.	his vessel was struck by some	i.	sabotaged
10.	the truth needed to be	j.	its narrowest point

GAP FILL

Tensions are rising in the Middle East over the latest attacks on oil tankers. The USA is (1) _____ Iran for the attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The tankers are owned by Japan and Norway. They were hit by (2) _____ while navigating waters close to the (3) _____ important Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Around a (4) _____ of the world's oil passes through the Strait, which is just 68km at its (5) _____ point. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind the "blatant assault" on the (6) _____. He said the U.S. would defend itself and its (7) _____ against "Iranian aggression" in the region. However, he provided no (8) _____ that Iran was behind the attacks.

allies

blaming

evidence

narrowest

strategically

vessels

blasts

fifth

The attacks are the second such (9) _____ carried out against tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were (10) _____ in the UAE port of Fujairah last month. The U.S. says the latest tankers were hit by (11) _____ and posted a video online of supposed Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine off the (12) _____ of one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as "(13) _____". He said Iran's navy was investigating them. Iran called the U.S. (14) _____ "unfounded," "inflammatory" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said his vessel was struck by (15) _____ kind of missile and not by a mine. The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to be "clearly (16) _____".

hull

established

sabotaged

suspicious

some

incidents

mines

accusations

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

1) Tensions are rising in the Middle East over the latest attacks _____
   a. annoy tankers
   b. embroil tankers
   c. inner tankers
   d. on oil tankers

2) They were hit by blasts while _____
   a. navigation waters
   b. navigate in waters
   c. navigate on waters
   d. navigating waters

3) U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind _____
   a. the play tent assault
   b. the plate ant assault
   c. the blade ant assault
   d. the blatant assault

4) He said the U.S. would defend itself _____
   a. and it sullies
   b. and its sullies
   c. and its allies
   d. and its Sallies

5) However, he provided no evidence that Iran was _____
   a. beyond the attacks
   b. behind the attacks
   c. behest the attacks
   d. beneath the attacks

6) tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were _____ UAE
   a. sabotage in the
   b. sabotaged in the
   c. subterfuge in the
   d. saber charged in the

7) supposed Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine _____
   a. off the hull
   b. off the cull
   c. off the full
   d. off the bull

8) Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks _____
   a. as suspiciously
   b. as suspicions
   c. as suspiciously
   d. as so specials

9) the tankers said his vessel was struck by some kind of missile and _____
   a. not bye a mine
   b. not buy a mine
   c. not buyer mine
   d. not by a mine

10) The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to _____
   a. been clear established
   b. be clear re-established
   c. be clearly established
   d. been clearly established

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Tensions are rising in the Middle East over the (1) _____ oil tankers. The USA is blaming Iran for the attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The tankers (2) _____ Japan and Norway. They were hit (3) _____ navigating waters close to the strategically important Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Around a fifth of the world's oil passes through the Strait, which is just 68km (4) _____ point. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind the "blatant assault" on the vessels. He said the U.S. would defend itself and (5) _____ "Iranian aggression" in the region. However, he provided (6) _____ Iran was behind the attacks.

The attacks are the (7) _____ carried out against tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were (8) _____ UAE port of Fujairah last month. The U.S. says the latest tankers were hit by mines and posted a video (9) _____ Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine off the hull of one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the (10) _____. He said Iran's navy was investigating them. Iran called the U.S. accusations "unfounded," "inflammatory" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said his (11) _____ by some kind of missile and not by a mine. The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the article say was rising in the Middle East?

2. Which countries own the two oil tankers that were attacked?

3. How much of the world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz?

4. How wide is the Strait of Hormuz at its narrowest point?

5. What did the article say Mike Pompeo did not provide evidence of?

6. How many oil tankers were attacked in the UAE?

7. What did Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as being?

8. What did Iran call the US accusations besides unfounded and inflammatory?

9. What did a tanker owner say his ship was hit by?

10. What did the United Nations say needed to be "clearly established"?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1) What did the article say was rising in the Middle East?
a) oil prices
b) tensions
c) arguments
d) sea levels

2) Which countries own the two oil tankers that were attacked?
a) India and China
b) the USA and UK
c) Saudi Arabia and the UAE
d) Japan and Norway

3) How much of the world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz?
a) a fifth
b) a quarter
c) two-thirds
d) three-quarters

4) How wide is the Strait of Hormuz at its narrowest point?
a) 58km
b) 86km
c) 68km
d) 85km

5) What did the article say Mike Pompeo did not provide evidence of?
a) missiles
b) Iran being behind the attacks
c) mines
d) the time of the attacks

6) How many oil tankers were attacked in the UAE?
a) 4
b) 3
c) 2
d) 4

7) What did Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as being?
a) wrong
b) worrying
c) baseless
d) suspicious

8) What did Iran call the US accusations besides unfounded and inflammatory?
a) Iranophobic
b) wrong
c) worrying
d) shocking

9) What did a tanker owner say his ship was hit by?
a) some kind of missile
b) a mine
c) a bomb-filled boat
d) a rocket-propelled grenade

10) What did the United Nations say needed to be "clearly established"?
a) who did it
b) the truth
c) vision
d) mines

ROLE PLAY

Role A – Donald Trump

You think Donald Trump is the most likely to de-escalate the crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people wouldn't de-escalate the situation. Also, tell the others who is the least likely of these to do so (and why): Hassan Rouhani, Dalai Lama or Shinzo Abe.

Role B – Hassan Rouhani

You think Hassan Rouhani is the most likely to de-escalate the crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people wouldn't de-escalate the situation. Also, tell the others who is the least likely of these to do so (and why): Donald Trump, Dalai Lama or Shinzo Abe.

Role C – Dalai Lama

You think the Dalai Lama is the most likely to de-escalate the crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people wouldn't de-escalate the situation. Also, tell the others who is the least likely of these to do so (and why): Hassan Rouhani, Donald Trump or Shinzo Abe.

Role D – Shinzo Abe

You think Shinzo Abe is the most likely to de-escalate the crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people wouldn't de-escalate the situation. Also, tell the others who is the least likely of these to do so (and why): Hassan Rouhani, Dalai Lama or Donald Trump .

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'oil' and 'tanker'.

oil	tanker

- 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:

• latest	• second
• blaming	• port
• while	• video
• fifth	• hull
• secretary	• owner
• evidence	• truth

GULF OF OMAN CRISIS SURVEY

From   https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker.html

Write five GOOD questions about the Gulf of Oman Crisis 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.

GULF OF OMAN CRISIS 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 'oil'?

3. What do you know about the Oman Gulf crisis?

4. Who do you think is behind the attacks?

5. How high are tensions rising?

6. Why would Iran attack oil tankers close to its coast?

7. What might further attacks do to relations in the region?

8. Why did Mike Pompeo blame Iran without any evidence?

9. What might the USA do to defend its allies in the region?

10. How worried are you about what is going on?

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GULF OF OMAN CRISIS 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 'tanker'?

13. What do you think about what you read?

14. How likely is a third Gulf War in the Middle East?

15. Do you believe the USA or Iran?

16. Do you think U.S. leaders are 'Iranophobic'?

17. What would be the outcome of a conflict in the Gulf?

18. How do you think events will develop?

19. What can be done to reduce tensions in the Gulf region?

20. What questions would you like to ask Iran's leaders?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

Tensions are rising in the Middle East over the latest attacks on oil tankers. The USA is (1) _____ Iran for the attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The tankers are owned by Japan and Norway. They were hit by (2) _____ while navigating waters close to the (3) _____ important Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Around a fifth of the world's oil passes through the Strait, which is just 68km at its (4) _____ point. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind the "blatant assault" on the vessels. He said the U.S. would defend itself and its (5) _____ against "Iranian aggression" in the region. However, he provided (6) _____ evidence that Iran was behind the attacks.

The attacks are the second such (7) _____ carried out against tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were (8) _____ in the UAE port of Fujairah last month. The U.S. says the latest tankers were hit by mines and posted a video online of (9) _____ Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine off the (10) _____ of one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as "suspicious". He said Iran's navy was investigating them. Iran called the U.S. (11) _____ "unfounded," "inflammatory" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said his vessel was struck by some kind of (12) _____ and not by a mine. The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to be "clearly established".

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

1.	(a)	blaming	(b)	blames	(c)	blamed	(d)	blame
2.	(a)	bastes	(b)	beasts	(c)	blasts	(d)	bats
3.	(a)	strategy	(b)	strategic	(c)	strategically	(d)	strategise
4.	(a)	inadequate	(b)	confined	(c)	slenderest	(d)	narrowest
5.	(a)	relies	(b)	belies	(c)	allies	(d)	plies
6.	(a)	non	(b)	no	(c)	not	(d)	nor
7.	(a)	insidious	(b)	incidents	(c)	incitement	(d)	incidence
8.	(a)	subterfuge	(b)	sabotaged	(c)	subtlest	(d)	subtracted
9.	(a)	reposed	(b)	imposed	(c)	supposed	(d)	composed
10.	(a)	cull	(b)	dull	(c)	full	(d)	hull
11.	(a)	options	(b)	remedies	(c)	components	(d)	accusations
12.	(a)	mission	(b)	missive	(c)	fissile	(d)	missile

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. while <u>navgigatni</u> waters

2. the <u>ctalgeyatirls</u> important Strait of Hormuz

3. 68km at its <u>sronrweat</u> point

4. the <u>lnaattb</u> assault on the vessels

5. defend itself and its <u>elsila</u>

6. he provided no <u>eevdince</u>

Paragraph 2

7. the second such <u>cstiinned</u> carried out

8. Saudi tankers were <u>ogtbasead</u>

9. removing an <u>euodenpxld</u> mine

10. described the attacks as <u>isscsuiupo</u>

11. Iran called the U.S. <u>natuaoscics</u> unfounded

12. be clearly <u>iaseeldhbts</u>

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From   https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

(   )   on the vessels. He said the U.S. would defend itself and its allies against "Iranian aggression" in

(*1*)   Tensions are rising in the Middle East over the latest attacks on oil tankers. The USA is blaming Iran

(   )   "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said his vessel was struck by some

(   )   kind of missile and not by a mine. The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to be "clearly established".

(   )   68km at its narrowest point. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind the "blatant assault"

(   )   Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Around a fifth of the world's oil passes through the Strait, which is just

(   )   the region. However, he provided no evidence that Iran was behind the attacks.

(   )   sabotaged in the UAE port of Fujairah last month. The U.S. says the latest tankers were hit by mines and posted

(   )   ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as "suspicious". He said Iran's navy was

(   )   by Japan and Norway. They were hit by blasts while navigating waters close to the strategically important Strait of Hormuz between

(   )   for the attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The tankers are owned

(   )   investigating them. Iran called the U.S. accusations "unfounded," "inflammatory" and

(   )   a video online of supposed Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine off the hull of one of the

(   )   The attacks are the second such incidents carried out against tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. the   for   Iran   USA   The   blaming   attacks   .   is

2. close   Navigating   to   important   waters   strategically   strait   .   the

3. oil   world's   the   passes   A   through   .   of   fifth

4. defend   allies   .   itself   The   and   its   U.S.   would

5. the   Iran   was   No   behind   that   attacks   .   evidence

6. against   carried   second   The   incidents   out   tankers   .   such

7. the   tankers   Two   were   in   sabotaged   port   .   Saudi

8. were   mines   .   hit   U.S.   by   tankers   The   says

9. them   .   He   Iran's   said   navy   was   investigating

10. needed   clearly   truth   to   The   be   established   .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

Tensions are *risen / rising* in the Middle East over the latest attacks on oil tankers. The USA is blaming Iran for the attacks *in / on* two tankers in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The tankers are *owned / disowned* by Japan and Norway. They were hit by *bastes / blasts* while navigating waters close to the *strategically / strategy* important Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Around a fifth of the world's oil *pass / passes* through the Strait, which is just 68km *at / of* its narrowest point. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Iran was behind the "blatant assault" on the *vassals / vessels*. He said the U.S. would defend itself and its *allies / allied* against "Iranian aggression" in the region. However, he *provided / proofed* no evidence that Iran was behind the attacks.

The attacks are the second such *incidental / incidents* carried out against tankers in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were *subterfuge / sabotaged* in the UAE port of Fujairah last month. The U.S. says the latest tankers were hit by *mines / miners* and posted a video online of *proposed / supposed* Iranian forces *removing / removal* an unexploded mine off the *bull / hull* of one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks *was / as* "suspicious". He said Iran's navy was investigating them. Iran called the U.S. *accusations / accuses* "unfounded," "inflammatory" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said his vessel was *sucked / struck* by some kind of missile and not by a mine. The United Nations cautioned that the truth needed to be "*clearly / clarity* established".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

T_n s__ n s _r_ r_s_n g _n th_ M_d d l_ E_s t _v_r t h_ l_t_s t _t t_c k s _n __ l t_n k_r s . T h_ U S A _s b l_m_n g I r_n f_r t h_ _t t_c k s _n t w_ t_n k_r s _n t h_ G_l f _f O m_n _n T h_r s d_y . T h_ t_n k_r s _r_ _w n_d b y J_p_n _n d N_r w_y . T h_y w_r_ h_t b y b l_s t s w h_l_ n_v_g_t_n g w_t_r s c l_s_ t_ t h_ s t r_t_g_c l l y _m p_r t_n t S t r__ t _f H_r m_z b_t w__ n I r_n _n d t h_ U n_t_d A r_b E m_r_t_s . A r__ n d _ f_f t h _f t h_ w_r l d ' s __ l p_s s_s t h r__ g h t h_ S t r__ t , w h_c h _s j_s t 6 8 k m _t _t s n_r r_w_s t p__ n t . U . S . S_c r_t_r y _f S t_t_ M_k_ P_m p__ s__ d I r_n w_s b_h_n d t h_ " b l_t_n t _s s__ l t " _n t h_ v_s s_l s . H_ s__ d t h_ U . S . w__ l d d_f_n d _t s_l f _n d _t s _l l__ s _g__ n s t " I r_n__ n _g g r_s s__ n " _n t h_ r_g__ n . H_w_v_r , h_ p r_v_d_d n_ _v_d_n c_ t h_t I r_n w_s b_h_n d t h_ _t t_c k s .

T h_ _t t_c k s _r_ t h_ s_c_n d s_c h _n c_d_n t s c_r r__ d __ t _g__ n s t t_n k_r s _n t h_ p_s t m_n t h . T w_ S__ d_ t_n k_r s w_r_ s_b_t_g_d _n t h_ U A E p_r t _f F_j__ r_h l_s t m_n t h . T h_ U . S . s_y s t h_ t_n k_r s w_r_ h_t b y m_n_s _n d p_s t_d _ v_d__ _n l_n_ _f s_p p_s_d I r_n__ n f_r c_s r_m_v_n g _n _n_x p l_d_d m_n_ _f f t h_ h_l l _f _n_ _f t h_ s h_p s . I r_n ' s F_r__ g n M_n_s t_r d_s c r_b_d t h_ _t t_c k s _s " s_s p_c___ s " . H_ s__ d I r_n ' s n_v y w_s _n v_s t_g_t_n g t h_m . I r_n c_l l_d t h_ U . S . _c c_s_t__ n s "_n f__ n d_d , " "_n f l_m m_t_r y " _n d " I r_n_p h_b_c " . T h_ J_p_n_s_ _w n_r _f _n_ _f t h_ t_n k_r s s__ d h_s v_s s_l w_s s t r_c k b y s_m_ k_n d _f m_s s_l_ _n d n_t b y _ m_n_ . T h_ U n_t_d N_t__ n s c__ t__ n_d t h_t t h_ t r_t h n__ d_d t_ b_ " c l__ r l y _s t_b l_s h_d " .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

tensions are rising in the middle east over the latest attacks on oil tankers the usa is blaming iran for the attacks on two tankers in the gulf of oman on thursday the tankers are owned by japan and norway they were hit by blasts while navigating waters close to the strategically important strait of hormuz between iran and the united arab emirates around a fifth of the worlds oil passes through the strait which is just 68km at its narrowest point us secretary of state mike pompeo said iran was behind the blatant assault on the vessels he said the us would defend itself and its allies against iranian aggression in the region however he provided no evidence that iran was behind the attacks

the attacks are the second such incidents carried out against tankers in the past month two saudi tankers were sabotaged in the uae port of fujairah last month the us says the latest tankers were hit by mines and posted a video online of supposed iranian forces removing an unexploded mine off the hull of one of the ships irans foreign minister described the attacks as suspicious he said irans navy was investigating them iran called the us accusations unfounded inflammatory and iranophobic the japanese owner of one of the tankers said his vessel was struck by some kind of missile and not by a mine the united nations cautioned that the truth needed to be clearly established

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

TensionsarerisingintheMiddleEastoverthelatestattacksonoiltankers.TheUSAisblamingIranfortheattacksontwotankersintheGulfofOmanonThursday.ThetankersareownedbyJapanandNorway.TheywerehitbyblastswhilenavigatingwatersclosetothestrategicallyimportantStraitofHormuzbetweenIranandtheUnitedArabEmirates.Aroundafifthoftheworld'soilpassesthroughtheStrait,whichisjust68kmatitsnarrowestpoint.U.S.SecretaryofStateMikePompeosaidIranwasbehindthe"blatantassault"onthevessels.HesaidtheU.S.woulddefenditselfanditsalliesagainst"Iranianaggression"intheregion.However,heprovidednoevidencethatIranwasbehindtheattacks.Theattacksarethesecondsuchincidentscarriedoutagainsttankersinthepastmonth.TwoSauditankersweresabotagedintheUAEportofFujairahlastmonth.TheU.S.saysthelatesttankerswerehitbyminesandpostedavideoonlineofsupposedIranianforcesremovinganunexplodedmineoffthehullofoneoftheships.Iran'sForeignMinisterdescribedtheattacksas"suspicious".HesaidIran'snavywasinvestigatingthem.IrancalledtheU.S.accusations"unfounded,""inflammatory"and"Iranophobic".TheJapaneseownerofoneofthetankerssaidhisvesselwasstruckbysomekindofmissileandnotbyamine.TheUnitedNationscautionedthatthetruthneededtobe"clearlyestablished".

FREE WRITING

Write about the **Gulf of Oman Crisis** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

It is easy to reduce tensions over the oil tanker attacks. Discuss.

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. GULF OF OMAN CRISIS: Make a poster about the Gulf of Oman Crisis. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DE-ESCALATION: Write a magazine article about the Gulf of Oman Crisis being very easy to de-escalate. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree with and disagree with this.

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 the Gulf of Oman Crisis. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to de-escalate it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1.	e	2.	c	3.	b	4.	f	5.	a	6.	g	7.	d
8.	m	9.	k	10.	n	11.	h	12.	j	13.	i	14.	l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1.	rising	a.	escalating
2.	blaming	b.	accusing
3.	blasts	c.	explosions
4.	blatant	d.	flagrant
5.	evidence	e.	proof
6.	carried out	f.	conducted
7.	supposed	g.	alleged
8.	suspicious	h.	questionable
9.	inflammatory	i.	provocative
10.	established	j.	found

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Tensions
2. Japan and Norway
3. A fifth
4. 68km
5. Iran being behind the attacks
6. Two
7. Suspicious
8. Iranophobic
9. Some kind of missile
10. The truth

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. The USA is blaming Iran for the attacks.
2. Navigating waters close to the strategically important strait.
3. A fifth of the world's oil passes through.
4. The U.S. would defend itself and its allies.
5. No evidence that Iran was behind the attacks.
6. The second such incidents carried out against tankers.
7. Two Saudi tankers were sabotaged in the port.
8. The U.S. says tankers were hit by mines.
9. He said Iran's navy was investigating them.
10. The truth needed to be clearly established.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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