

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 5 – 18th July, 2019**

## Ethiopia's River Nile dam upsets Egypt

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-5.html>

### Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-5.html>

A dam in Ethiopia is increasing regional tensions. Talks between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan over a dam across the Blue Nile in Ethiopia broke down on Monday. There are fears that filling the dam could lead to armed conflict. Ethiopia needs the dam to supply electricity to its rural areas. It will be Africa's largest hydroelectric dam, and is two-thirds finished. Egypt views the dam as an "existential threat". It is worried the dam will reduce its water supplies. Most of Egypt's water comes from the Nile. This is important during times of drought. The Blue Nile originates in natural springs in Ethiopia. It supplies the majority of the River Nile's water. The Blue Nile merges with the White Nile near Khartoum in Sudan and becomes the River Nile from the point of confluence. Ethiopia calls the dam an "existential necessity". Ethiopia says the dam is essential, because nearly half the country's population has no electricity. Egypt said it could share electricity with Ethiopia instead of the dam being used. An Egyptian politician said: "One nation's need for electricity is pinned to another nation's need for water."

Sources: <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/egypt-ethiopia-nile-dam-sudan-conflict-war-al-sisi-a9620041.html>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02124-8>  
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1705251/middle-east>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. A dam in Ethiopia is increasing           | a. water supplies       |
| 2. filling the dam could lead                | b. its rural areas      |
| 3. supply electricity to                     | c. from the Nile        |
| 4. It will be Africa's largest hydroelectric | d. to armed conflict    |
| 5. Egypt views the dam as an                 | e. times of drought     |
| 6. the dam will reduce its                   | f. dam                  |
| 7. Most of Egypt's water comes               | g. regional tensions    |
| 8. This is important during                  | h. "existential threat" |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. natural                   | a. electricity               |
| 2. It supplies the majority  | b. with the White Nile       |
| 3. The Blue Nile merges      | c. being used                |
| 4. from the point of         | d. "existential necessity"   |
| 5. Ethiopia calls the dam an | e. for water                 |
| 6. instead of the dam        | f. confluence                |
| 7. One nation's need for     | g. springs                   |
| 8. another nation's need     | h. of the River Nile's water |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-5.html>

A dam in Ethiopia (1) \_\_\_\_\_ tensions. Talks between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan over a dam across the Blue Nile in Ethiopia (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Monday. There are fears that filling the dam could lead (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Ethiopia needs the dam to supply electricity to (4) \_\_\_\_\_. It will be Africa's largest hydroelectric dam, and is two-thirds finished. Egypt views the dam as (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It is worried the dam will reduce its water supplies. Most of Egypt's water comes from the Nile. This is important during (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The Blue Nile (7) \_\_\_\_\_ springs in Ethiopia. It supplies (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the River Nile's water. The Blue Nile merges with the White Nile near Khartoum in Sudan and becomes the River Nile from the (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Ethiopia calls the dam (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Ethiopia says the dam is essential, because nearly half the country's population has no electricity. Egypt said it could share electricity with Ethiopia instead of the (11) \_\_\_\_\_. An Egyptian politician said: "One nation's need for electricity (12) \_\_\_\_\_ another nation's need for water."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-5.html>

A dam in Ethiopia is increasing regional tensions. Talks between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan over a dam across the Blue Nile in Ethiopia broke down on Monday. There are fears that filling the dam could lead to armed conflict. Ethiopia needs the dam to supply electricity to its rural areas. It will be Africa's largest hydroelectric dam, and is two-thirds finished. Egypt views the dam as an "existential threat". It is worried the dam will reduce its water supplies. Most of Egypt's water comes from the Nile. This is important during times of drought. The Blue Nile originates in natural springs in Ethiopia. It supplies the majority of the River Nile's water. The Blue Nile merges with the White Nile near Khartoum in Sudan and becomes the River Nile from the point of confluence. Ethiopia calls the dam an "existential necessity". Ethiopia says the dam is essential, because nearly half the country's population has no electricity. Egypt said it could share electricity with Ethiopia instead of the dam being used. An Egyptian politician said: "One nation's need for electricity is pinned to another nation's need for water."

# DAMS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dams 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Ethiopia's River Nile dam upsets Egypt – 18th July, 2019*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## 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/2007/200718-river-nile-dam-5.html>

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---