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**Level 2 – 8th August, 2021**

## **Taliban capture first Afghan provincial capital city**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan-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/2108/210808-afghanistan-2.html>

The Taliban have captured a provincial capital city in Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, is now in Taliban control. The police in Zaranj could not fight because there were too few Afghan soldiers to help. The Taliban said it was an important day for the group. This victory will increase the morale of Taliban fighters in other provinces. It said: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in other cities. They may also fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

US-led forces defeated the Taliban after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001. Western powers spent 20 years training the Afghan army and police to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up fighting. The USA and the UK are now pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, says the fighting has entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".

Sources: <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2021/08/06/asia/afghanistan-taliban-zaranj-nimroz-intl/index.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58119886>  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/6/taliban-capture-afghan-provincial-capital-zaranj-nimruz>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. for the first time             | a. morale              |
| 2. now in Taliban                 | b. not fight           |
| 3. The police in Zaranj could     | c. day                 |
| 4. there were too                 | d. very soon           |
| 5. it was an important            | e. since 2001          |
| 6. This victory will increase the | f. beginning           |
| 7. This is just the               | g. control             |
| 8. fall into our hands            | h. few Afghan soldiers |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. US-led forces defeated     | a. peaceful          |
| 2. keep the country           | b. destructive phase |
| 3. the Taliban never gave     | c. of Afghanistan    |
| 4. pulling their forces out   | d. for catastrophe   |
| 5. They are ending their time | e. the Taliban       |
| 6. The UN's special envoy     | f. in the country    |
| 7. a new, deadlier, and more  | g. up fighting       |
| 8. the country was heading    | h. for Afghanistan   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan-2.html>

The Taliban (1) \_\_\_\_\_ provincial capital city in Afghanistan for the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 2001. Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, is now in Taliban control. The police in Zaranj could not fight because there (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Afghan soldiers to help. The Taliban said it was an important day for the group. This (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the morale of Taliban fighters in other provinces. It said: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall (5) \_\_\_\_\_ very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in other cities. They may also fall before the Taliban fight for (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Kabul.

US-led forces defeated the Taliban (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001. Western powers spent 20 years training the Afghan army and police to keep (8) \_\_\_\_\_. However, the Taliban never gave up fighting. The USA and the UK are now (9) \_\_\_\_\_ out of Afghanistan. They are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, says the fighting has entered "(11) \_\_\_\_\_, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country (12) \_\_\_\_\_ "catastrophe".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan-2.html>

The Taliban have captured a provincial capital city in Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, is now in Taliban control. The police in Zaranj could not fight because there were too few Afghan soldiers to help. The Taliban said it was an important day for the group. This victory will increase the morale of Taliban fighters in other provinces. It said: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall in our hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in other cities. They may also fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul. US-led forces defeated the Taliban after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001. Western powers spent 20 years training the Afghan army and police to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up fighting. The USA and the UK are now pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, says the fighting has entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".

# AFGHANISTAN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210808-afghanistan-2.html>

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

*Taliban capture first Afghan provincial capital city – 8th August, 2021*  
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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/2108/210808-afghanistan-2.html>

Write about **Afghanistan** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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