

## 'Poo-nami' of raw sewage hits English beaches

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Beaches in England and Wales have closed because water companies pumped raw sewage into the sea. The UK Environment Agency issued warnings to holidaymakers to avoid dozens of beaches this week. Some of the beaches were popular

places for tourists, surfers and swimmers. They risked catching diseases if they went into the water. Water companies advised people to keep their mouth closed if they swam in the sea. A resident on the south coast town of Bexhill-on-Sea described seeing things she didn't want to see floating in the water when she swam. She said: "It's filthy, murky, and it stinks." She added the sewage was "quite obvious" to see and smell. She called it a "poo-nami".

Many people in England are angry with the water companies. England sold its water to private investors in 1989. Company CEOs are now getting million-dollar salaries and bonuses while dangerous raw sewage is polluting the environment. Water companies have pumped raw sewage into Britain's seas and rivers for more than nine million hours since 2016. There has been a 2,000 per cent increase in the past five years. In 2016, the European Union said England's beaches were among the cleanest in Europe; now they are among the dirtiest. One Briton said clean water was a human right and not for company profits. She said water company CEOs care more about their salaries than the UK's environment.

Sources: sky.com / lbc.co.uk / express.co.uk

### Writing

Water should be free. Companies should not make profit from it. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

beaches / water companies / sewage / beaches / tourists / swimming / sea / smell / angry / water / investors / salary / bonus / rivers / human right / profits / CEOs

### True / False

- 1) All of the beaches in England have been closed. T / F
- 2) Many surfers caught diseases from the raw sewage. T / F
- 3) A woman saw "things" floating in the sea. T / F
- 4) The woman said the sewage in the sea was like a "poo-nami". T / F
- 5) England's water was privatized in 1989. T / F
- 6) Water company CEOs get no bonuses because of the sewage. T / F
- 7) England's beaches used to be among Europe's cleanest. T / F
- 8) The article says water company CEOs care about the environment most. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>closed</b>    | a. hazardous     |
| 2. <b>raw</b>       | b. local         |
| 3. <b>popular</b>   | c. clear         |
| 4. <b>resident</b>  | d. most polluted |
| 5. <b>obvious</b>   | e. untreated     |
| 6. <b>angry</b>     | f. rise          |
| 7. <b>dangerous</b> | g. shut          |
| 8. <b>increase</b>  | h. worry         |
| 9. <b>dirtiest</b>  | i. furious       |
| 10. <b>care</b>     | j. well liked    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What should happen to sewage?
- c) Should company CEOs go to prison for damaging the environment?
- d) Why are profits always more important than the environment?
- e) How would you feel if raw sewage was in rivers near you?
- f) How surprised are you that companies in the UK are polluting beaches?
- g) Should private companies control a country's water supply?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the water company CEOs?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. warnings to holidaymakers to avoid   | a. to private investors      |
| 2. They risked catching                 | b. than the UK's environment |
| 3. advised people to keep their mouth   | c. stinks                    |
| 4. It's filthy, murky, and it           | d. the cleanest in Europe    |
| 5. the sewage was "quite obvious"       | e. closed if they swam       |
| 6. Many people in England are angry     | f. dozens of beaches         |
| 7. England sold its water               | g. with the water companies  |
| 8. CEOs are now getting million-dollar  | h. diseases                  |
| 9. England's beaches were among         | i. salaries and bonuses      |
| 10. CEOs care more about their salaries | j. to see and smell          |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of sewage?
- How dangerous is raw sewage?
- What do you think of raw sewage being pumped into the sea?
- What's your image of British beaches?
- Should the water companies be fined?
- Should the water company bosses lose their jobs?
- What do you think of the word 'poonami'?
- What advice do you have for the water company CEOs?

## Spelling

- dpmupe raw sewage into the sea
- avoid znesdo of beaches
- the beaches were popular places for otutrsis
- loaingtf in the water
- It's iltfyh, murky, and it stinks
- the sewage was quite ouvsibo
- sold its water to private nsetvoisr
- million-dollar lssairae
- dangerous raw sewage is ilpltugon the environment
- a 2,000 per cent scrieane
- they are among the dtiirest
- company oftirsp

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. a	8. f	9. d	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Swimming

You think swimming is the best beach activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): making sandcastles, having a barbecue or sunset viewing.

### Role B – Making Sandcastles

You think making sandcastles is the best beach activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): swimming, having a barbecue or sunset viewing.

### Role C – Having a Barbecue

You think having a barbecue is the best beach activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): making sandcastles, swimming or sunset viewing.

### Role D – Sunset Viewing

You think sunset viewing is the best beach activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their activities. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): making sandcastles, having a barbecue or swimming.

## Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the best beach activities at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • Barbecue       | • Jogging            |
| • Sunbathing     | • Swimming           |
| • Sunset viewing | • Making sandcastles |
| • Surfing        | • Beach combing      |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.