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Level 5 – 6th March 2023

British supermarkets ration fruit and vegetables

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing-5.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing-5.html>

Shoppers in Britain are hunting around to find fruit and vegetables. Britain's big supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have given various reasons for the shortfall in supply and why shelves are bare in supermarket aisles. Britain's biggest chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of some vegetables to just three per customer. Tesco said shortages were due to adverse weather overseas. It said a drought in Morocco had led to poor harvests. Tesco assured customers it was working hard to "get things back to normal".

Other factors are behind the rationing. Britain's farmers are facing higher energy costs. It is no longer profitable for many growers to operate. In addition, a tomato disease has wiped out various crops across Europe. An industry analyst said Brexit has also played a part. He said: "If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are shocked at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves in Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, full of fresh produce.

Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/28/british-supermarkets-are-rationing-fruit-and-vegetables-amid-shortages.html>
<https://thehill.com/homenews/ap/ap-business/ap-uk-is-grappling-with-vegetable-shortages-how-did-it-happen/>
<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20230227-as-uk-supermarkets-ration-fruits-and-vegetables-many-blame-brexit-for-shortages>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. supermarkets are rationing produce | a. aisles |
| 2. amid shortages | b. various reasons |
| 3. The big chains have given | c. weather |
| 4. why shelves | d. back to normal |
| 5. in supermarket | e. from suppliers |
| 6. shortages were due to adverse | f. poor harvests |
| 7. a drought in Morocco had led to | g. like cucumbers |
| 8. get things | h. are bare |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Other factors are | a. produce |
| 2. farmers are facing | b. out various crops |
| 3. It is no longer | c. export to the U.K. |
| 4. a tomato disease has wiped | d. profitable |
| 5. Brexit has also played | e. torn Ukraine |
| 6. This leaves less available for | f. a part |
| 7. in war- | g. behind the rationing |
| 8. full of fresh | h. higher energy costs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing-5.html>

Shoppers in Britain are (1) _____ find fruit and vegetables. Britain's big supermarkets are (2) _____ cucumbers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have given various reasons for the (3) _____ and why shelves are bare in supermarket aisles. Britain's biggest chain, Tesco, has (4) _____ some vegetables to just three per customer. Tesco said shortages were (5) _____ weather overseas. It said (6) _____ Morocco had led to poor harvests. Tesco assured customers it was working hard to "get things back to normal".

Other (7) _____ the rationing. Britain's farmers are facing higher energy costs. It is no (8) _____ many growers to operate. In addition, a tomato disease has wiped out various crops across Europe. (9) _____ said Brexit has also played a part. He said: "If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to (10) _____ demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are (11) _____ photos on social media of supermarket shelves in Europe, (12) _____ Ukraine, full of fresh produce.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing-5.html>

Shoppers in Britain are hunting around to find fruit and vegetables. Britain's big supermarkets are rationing produce like cucumbers and tomatoes amid shortages from suppliers. The big chains have given various reasons for the shortfall in supply and why shelves are bare in supermarkets. Britain's biggest chain, Tesco, has limited purchases of some vegetables to just three per customer. Tesco said shortages were due to adverse weather overseas. It said a drought in Morocco had led to poor harvests. Tesco assured customers it was working hard to "get things back to normal". Other factors are behind the rationing. Britain's farmers are facing high energy costs. It is no longer profitable for many growers to operate. In addition, a tomato disease has wiped out various crops across Europe. An industry analyst said Brexit has also played a part. He said: "If there are shortfalls in production in the EU, then it makes sense for EU producers to serve their local demand first. This leaves less available for export to the U.K." Many shoppers are shocked at seeing photos on social media of supermarket shelves in Europe, and in war-torn Ukraine, full of fresh produce.

VEGETABLES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230306-uk-vegetable-rationing-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vegetables 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) _____

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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) _____

