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Level 5 – 16th June, 2019

Tensions over oil-tanker attacks in Gulf of Oman

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker-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/1906/190616-oil-tanker-5.html>

Tensions are rising over the latest attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The USA is blaming Iran for the attacks. The vessels were hit by blasts while sailing near the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. The Strait is between Iran and the United Arab Emirates and around a fifth of the world's oil passes through it. The Strait is 68km at its narrowest point. The U.S. Secretary of State said Iran was behind the "blatant assault". He said the U.S. would defend itself and its allies against "Iranian aggression". However, he gave no evidence that Iran was behind the attacks.

It is the second time tankers have been attacked in the past month. Two Saudi tankers were hit in a UAE port last month. The U.S. says the recent tanker blasts were caused by mines. It showed a video of supposed Iranian forces removing an unexploded mine from one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as "suspicious". Iran's navy is investigating them. Iran called the U.S. accusations "unfounded" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said some kind of missile hit his ship, not a mine. The UN said the truth needed to be "clearly established".

Sources: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/oil-tankers-attacked-in-gulf-of-oman-us-navy-says/2019/06/13/d59b784c-8db0-11e9-b162-8f6f41ec3c04_story.html?](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/oil-tankers-attacked-in-gulf-of-oman-us-navy-says/2019/06/13/d59b784c-8db0-11e9-b162-8f6f41ec3c04_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-oil-tanker-attacks%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-oil-tanker-attacks%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/iran-calls-tanker-explosions-suspicious-global-concern-grows-190613150655075.html>
<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/436925/Iran-warns-U-S-over-blame-game-through-suspicious-attacks>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the latest | a. and its allies |
| 2. The USA is blaming Iran | b. oil passes through it |
| 3. The vessels were hit | c. for the attacks |
| 4. the strategically important | d. by blasts |
| 5. a fifth of the world's | e. behind the attacks |
| 6. 68km at its | f. attacks |
| 7. the U.S. would defend itself | g. Strait of Hormuz |
| 8. no evidence that Iran was | h. narrowest point |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the second time tankers have | a. by mines |
| 2. in the past | b. hit his ship |
| 3. recent tanker blasts were caused | c. mine |
| 4. removing an unexploded | d. clearly established |
| 5. Iran called the U.S. accusations | e. been attacked |
| 6. The Japanese owner of one | f. "unfounded" |
| 7. some kind of missile | g. month |
| 8. the truth needed to be | h. of the tankers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker-5.html>

Tensions (1) _____ the latest attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The USA is blaming Iran for the attacks. (2) _____ hit by blasts while sailing near the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. The Strait is between Iran and the United Arab Emirates and (3) _____ of the world's oil passes through it. The Strait is 68km at (4) _____. The U.S. Secretary of State said Iran was (5) _____ assault". He said the U.S. would defend itself and its allies against "Iranian aggression". However, he (6) _____ that Iran was behind the attacks.

It is the second time tankers (7) _____ in the past month. Two Saudi tankers (8) _____ a UAE port last month. The U.S. says the recent tanker blasts were caused by mines. It showed a video of supposed Iranian forces removing (9) _____ from one of the ships. Iran's Foreign Minister described the attacks as "suspicious". Iran's navy (10) _____. Iran called the U.S. accusations "unfounded" and "Iranophobic". The Japanese owner of one of the tankers said some (11) _____ hit his ship, not a mine. The UN said the truth needed to (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker-5.html>

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GULF OF OMAN CRISIS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190616-oil-tanker-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about 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.

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) _____

