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**Level 6 – 28th March, 2022**

## People in the UK have no money to boil potatoes

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

The cost of living crisis is hitting people's pockets hard all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made basic necessities like food, heating and transport unaffordable for many people. In the UK over the past few months, the debate has been over the shocking dilemma of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than doubled this year for many consumers, resulting in those on low incomes or on benefits facing the choice of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes. This situation will be exacerbated by rises in contributions to the country's health care system, which come into effect next week.

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown lambasted the man responsible for controlling Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "Any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this poverty....You cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and feeding their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act, or the ruling Conservative Party will be known as the "nasty" party. Further price hikes and food shortages are on the horizon as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Government critics are calling for a one-off "windfall tax" on the huge profits of energy companies to help the disadvantaged.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/mar/23/food-bank-users-declining-potatoes-as-cooking-costs-too-high-says-iceland-boss>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-60858113>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10643039/Iceland-boss-claims-food-banks-users-turning-donations-potatoes-amid-energy-price-rises.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE COST OF LIVING:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the cost of living. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

cost of living / pockets / oil prices / necessities / dilemma / doubled / heating / health responsible / compassionate / poverty / urgent / nasty / party / food shortages / help

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. FOOD:** Students A **strongly** believe all governments should buy food for poorer people; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. DILEMMAS:** What would you do in these dilemmas? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Choice	Why?
Heating or eating		
Chocolate cake or salad		
Sleep or study for test		
Buy an iPhone or go holiday		
Give money to charity or save it		
Be honest about friend's bad hairstyle or lie about it		

**5. DEBATE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "debate". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. NECESSITIES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest necessities at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Heating
- Bottled water
- Internet
- Books
- Chocolate
- Gasoline
- Bread
- Electricity

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. soaring          | a. Too expensive for the average person to be able to buy.                                  |
| 2. necessities      | b. A payment to a common fund or collection.  |
| 3. unaffordable     | c. Increasing rapidly above the usual level.  |
| 4. dilemma          | d. Things we need and cannot live without.  |
| 5. exacerbated      | e. A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives. |
| 6. contribution     | f. Made a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse.                                |
| 7. come into effect | g. Start to apply.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. lambasted     | h. Requiring immediate action or attention.            |
| 9. compassionate | i. Criticized someone or something strongly.           |
| 10. poverty      | j. Refuse to take notice of or acknowledge.            |
| 11. ignore       | k. Very bad or unpleasant.                             |
| 12. urgent       | l. Feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others. |
| 13. nasty        | m. Done, made, or happening only once.                 |
| 14. one-off      | n. The state of being extremely poor.                  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. People have deeper pockets because of the cost of living crisis. **T / F**
2. Some people in the UK have to choose between heating and eating. **T / F**
3. Energy prices in the UK have doubled for some people in the UK. **T / F**
4. Some people cannot afford to boil potatoes. **T / F**
5. A former UK prime minister praised Britain's chancellor. **T / F**
6. The former prime minister said the ruling party was nasty. **T / F**
7. The government asked people to look at the horizon. **T / F**
8. Some people want energy companies to pay a one-time extra tax. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>crisis</b>        | a. quandary     |
| 2. <b>soaring</b>       | b. disregard    |
| 3. <b>dilemma</b>       | c. worsened     |
| 4. <b>facing</b>        | d. rising       |
| 5. <b>exacerbated</b>   | e. sympathetic  |
| 6. <b>lambasted</b>     | f. bonanza      |
| 7. <b>compassionate</b> | g. emergency    |
| 8. <b>ignore</b>        | h. critical     |
| 9. <b>urgent</b>        | i. encountering |
| 10. <b>windfall</b>     | j. criticised   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The cost of living crisis is hitting    | a. health care system        |
| 2. basic                                   | b. "heating or eating"       |
| 3. the shocking dilemma of                 | c. for the chancellor to act |
| 4. Energy prices have more                 | d. tax" on the huge profits  |
| 5. rises in contributions to the country's | e. necessities               |
| 6. man responsible for controlling         | f. are on the horizon        |
| 7. You cannot ignore the                   | g. than doubled this year    |
| 8. it was urgent                           | h. Britain's finances        |
| 9. Further price hikes and food shortages  | i. needs of parents          |
| 10. a one-off "windfall                    | j. people's pockets          |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

The cost of living crisis is hitting people's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hard all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made (2) \_\_\_\_\_ necessities like food, heating and transport (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for many people. In the UK over the past few months, the debate has been over the shocking (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than (5) \_\_\_\_\_ this year for many consumers, resulting in those on low incomes or on (6) \_\_\_\_\_ facing the choice of heating their home, or eating. Life is so (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes. This situation will be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by rises in contributions to the country's health care system, which come into effect next week.

*dilemma*

*basic*

*hard*

*doubled*

*exacerbated*

*unaffordable*

*pockets*

*benefits*

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the man responsible for controlling Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "Any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this (10) \_\_\_\_\_. ....You cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act, or the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ Conservative Party will be known as the "(13) \_\_\_\_\_" party. Further price hikes and food shortages are on the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Government critics are calling for a one-off "(15) \_\_\_\_\_ tax" on the huge (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of energy companies to help the disadvantaged.

*horizon*

*feeding*

*profits*

*lambasted*

*windfall*

*ruling*

*nasty*

*poverty*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

- 1) The cost of living crisis is hitting \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. people's rockets hard
  - b. people's pock marks hard
  - c. people's pickets hard
  - d. people's pockets hard
- 2) over the past few months, the debate has been over \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the shocking diorama
  - b. the shocking dial Emma
  - c. the shocking dye a lemming
  - d. the shocking dilemma
- 3) of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. doublet this year
  - b. dubbed this year
  - c. doubled this year
  - d. double led this year
- 4) consumers, resulting in those on low incomes \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. or on beneficiaries
  - b. or on benefits
  - c. or on Benny fits
  - d. or on Ben he fits
- 5) rises in contributions to the country's health care system, which come into \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. affect next week
  - b. inflect next week
  - c. reflect next week
  - d. effect next week
- 6) Gordon Brown lambasted the man responsible for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. control in Britain's finances
  - b. con trolling Britain's finances
  - c. counter rolling Britain's finances
  - d. controlling Britain's finances
- 7) Any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do something \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. abut this poverty
  - b. a bout this poverty
  - c. abs out this poverty
  - d. about this poverty
- 8) or the ruling Conservative Party will be known as \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the pasty party
  - b. the pastry party
  - c. the nasty party
  - d. the gnats party
- 9) Further price hikes and food shortages are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on the horizon
  - b. in the horizon
  - c. end the horizon
  - d. on the horizontal
- 10) Government critics are calling for a one-\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. off "windmill tax"
  - b. off "windfall tax"
  - c. off "windy tax"
  - d. off "wind full tax"

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

The cost of living crisis is hitting people's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made (2) \_\_\_\_\_ food, heating and transport unaffordable for many people. In the UK over the past few months, the debate has been over the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than doubled this year for many consumers, resulting in those on low incomes or on benefits (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes. This situation will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ rises in contributions to the country's health care system, which (6) \_\_\_\_\_ next week.

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown (7) \_\_\_\_\_ responsible for controlling Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "(8) \_\_\_\_\_ compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this poverty....You cannot (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of parents who are having to choose between putting (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and feeding their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act, or the ruling Conservative Party will be known as (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Further price hikes and food shortages are on the horizon as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Government critics are calling for a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on the huge profits of energy companies to help the disadvantaged.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

1. What does the article say the cost of living crisis is hitting?
2. What has made the price of basic necessities so expensive?
3. What does the article say have more than doubled this year?
4. What is the dilemma that many people in the UK face?
5. When will people have to start paying more for the health care system?
6. Who criticised the UK chancellor?
7. Who did a former prime minister say the government could not ignore?
8. What might the Conservative Party become known as?
9. What does the article say is on the horizon?
10. What do many people want a one-time tax on?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

- 1) What does the article say the cost of living crisis is hitting?
  - a) oil
  - b) potato prices
  - c) people's pockets
  - d) energy
- 2) What has made the price of basic necessities so expensive?
  - a) soaring oil and gas prices
  - b) bad weather
  - c) inflation
  - d) high demand
- 3) What does the article say have more than doubled this year?
  - a) potato crop yields
  - b) energy prices
  - c) oil production
  - d) poverty
- 4) What is the dilemma that many people in the UK face?
  - a) oil or gas
  - b) working or not working
  - c) saving or spending
  - d) heating or eating
- 5) When will people have to start paying more for the health care system?
  - a) later this year
  - b) next month
  - c) next week
  - d) next year
- 6) Who criticised the UK chancellor?
  - a) poor people
  - b) a former prime minister
  - c) the Conservative Party
  - d) potato farmers
- 7) Who did a former prime minister say the government could not ignore?
  - a) voters
  - b) oil giants
  - c) farmers
  - d) parents
- 8) What might the Conservative Party become known as?
  - a) history
  - b) the nasty party
  - c) the party for the poor
  - d) the party for the rich
- 9) What does the article say is on the horizon?
  - a) the sun
  - b) price hikes and food shortages
  - c) help
  - d) more oil and gas
- 10) What do many people want a one-time tax on?
  - a) the profits of energy companies
  - b) tech companies
  - c) income
  - d) gasoline

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

## **Role A – Heating**

You think heating is life's biggest necessity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): bottled water, bread or books.

## **Role B – Bottled Water**

You think bottled water is life's biggest necessity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): heating, bread or books.

## **Role C – Bread**

You think bread is life's biggest necessity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): bottled water, heating or books.

## **Role D – Books**

You think books are life's biggest necessity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): bottled water, bread or heating.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'cost' and 'crisis'.

<b>cost</b>	<b>crisis</b>
-------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pockets</li><li>• few</li><li>• dilemma</li><li>• low</li><li>• hard</li><li>• effect</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• responsible</li><li>• poverty</li><li>• feeding</li><li>• urgent</li><li>• horizon</li><li>• huge</li></ul>
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# THE COST OF LIVING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the cost of living 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.

# THE COST OF LIVING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'cost'?
3. What do you think of the cost of living?
4. Do you have enough money?
5. How have rising energy prices affected you?
6. What things have you noticed going up in price?
7. What do you think of the dilemma of heating or eating?
8. How much do you worry about money?
9. What was the last thing you could not afford to buy?
10. What advice do you have for people on low incomes?

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# THE COST OF LIVING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'crisis'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How difficult do you think it is to look after a country's finances?
15. How much do political parties care about poor people?
16. How has the war in Ukraine affected you?
17. What advice do you have for chancellor Rishi Sunak?
18. What would you do if you could not afford to buy food?
19. Should big companies pay more money in tax?
20. What questions would you like to ask oil company CEOs?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

The cost of living crisis is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people's pockets hard all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ basic necessities like food, heating and transport unaffordable for many people. In the UK over the past few months, the debate has been (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the shocking dilemma of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than doubled this year for many consumers, resulting (4) \_\_\_\_\_ those on low incomes or on benefits facing the choice of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes. This situation will be (5) \_\_\_\_\_ by rises in contributions to the country's health care system, which come (6) \_\_\_\_\_ effect next week.

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the man responsible for controlling Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "Any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this (8) \_\_\_\_\_....You cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and feeding their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act, or the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Conservative Party will be known as the "nasty" party. Further price (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and food shortages are on the horizon as the war in Ukraine will see the price of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ rise. Government critics are calling for a one-(12) \_\_\_\_\_ "windfall tax" on the huge profits of energy companies to help the disadvantaged.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                  |                  |                 |
|-----|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) sewing     | (b) filling      | (c) hitting      | (d) smashing    |
| 2.  | (a) made       | (b) done         | (c) given        | (d) had         |
| 3.  | (a) over       | (b) above        | (c) up           | (d) heighten    |
| 4.  | (a) in         | (b) of           | (c) as           | (d) up          |
| 5.  | (a) extricated | (b) inculcated   | (c) incarcerated | (d) exacerbated |
| 6.  | (a) to         | (b) as to        | (c) unto         | (d) into        |
| 7.  | (a) lambasted  | (b) lambded      | (c) basted       | (d) lumbered    |
| 8.  | (a) perish     | (b) impoverished | (c) impoverish   | (d) poverty     |
| 9.  | (a) ruling     | (b) reeling      | (c) railing      | (d) rolling     |
| 10. | (a) trails     | (b) hikes        | (c) walks        | (d) tramps      |
| 11. | (a) wheal      | (b) wheat        | (c) whet         | (d) wheaten     |
| 12. | (a) off        | (b) on           | (c) only         | (d) once        |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. basic nesesiesict like food
2. fuaofldrenab for many people
3. the shocking eidmaml of "heating or eating"
4. more than ueboddl this year
5. This situation will be aceexrebtad by rises
6. riinutocotbsn to the country's health care system

## Paragraph 2

7. Brown mdeblatsa the man
8. caring and caoanpieostsm
9. ogiern the needs of parents
10. it was urgent for the rhanecllco
11. food rgsoehast
12. a ffeo-on "windfall tax"

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) to act, or the ruling Conservative Party will be known as the "nasty" party. Further price hikes and food shortages are on the
- ( ) doubled this year for many consumers, resulting in those on low incomes or on benefits facing the choice
- ( **1** ) The cost of living crisis is hitting people's pockets hard all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made basic
- ( ) to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes. This situation will be exacerbated by rises in
- ( ) of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money
- ( ) between putting their heating up and feeding their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor
- ( ) Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown lambasted the man responsible for controlling Britain's finances,
- ( ) something about this poverty....You cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose
- ( ) few months, the debate has been over the shocking dilemma of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than
- ( ) horizon as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Government critics are calling
- ( ) for a one-off "windfall tax" on the huge profits of energy companies to help the disadvantaged.
- ( ) necessities like food, heating and transport unaffordable for many people. In the UK over the past
- ( ) chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "Any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do
- ( ) contributions to the country's health care system, which come into effect next week.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

1. The hitting people . is living cost of crisis
2. dilemma . The debate been over the has shocking
3. year . doubled this more have prices Energy than
4. don't to gas . money have enough use They
5. exacerbated situation will This further rises . by be
6. lambasted finances . the responsible for Brown man controlling
7. cannot needs of ignore the parents . You
8. It the chancellor was urgent for act . to
9. hikes are and the on Price horizon . shortages
10. the windfall profits . tax huge one-off A on

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

The cost of living *crisis / critics* is hitting people's pockets hard all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made *basically / basic* necessities like food, heating and transport *affordable / unaffordable* for many people. In the UK over the past few months, the debate has been *over / above* the shocking dilemma of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than *doubled / two-fold* this year for many consumers, resulting in *those / them* on low incomes or on benefits facing the *choose / choice* of heating their home, or eating. Life is so *hard / hardly* for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to *boil / boiling* potatoes. This situation will be exacerbated by rises in contributions to the country's health care system, which come *onto / into* effect next week.

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown *basted / lambasted* the man responsible *for / by* controlling Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "Any *cared / caring* and compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this *impoverished / poverty*....You cannot ignore the *needy / needs* of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and *feeding / fed* their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act, or the ruling Conservative Party will be *knowing / known* as the "nasty" party. Further price *hikes / trails* and food shortages are on the *horizontal / horizon* as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Government *criticises / critics* are calling for a one-off "windfall tax" on the huge profits of energy companies to help the disadvantaged.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

Th\_ c\_st \_f l\_v\_ng cr\_s\_s \_s h\_tt\_ng p\_\_pl\_'s p\_ck\_ts  
h\_rd \_ll \_cr\_ss th\_ w\_rld. S\_\_r\_ng \_\_l \_nd g\_s pr\_c\_s  
h\_v\_ m\_d\_ b\_s\_c n\_c\_ss\_t\_\_s l\_k\_ f\_\_d, h\_\_tng \_nd  
tr\_nsp\_rt \_n\_ff\_rd\_bl\_ f\_r m\_ny p\_\_pl\_. \_n th\_ \_K  
\_v\_r th\_ p\_st f\_w m\_nths, th\_ d\_b\_t\_ h\_s b\_\_n \_v\_r  
th\_ sh\_ck\_ng d\_l\_mm\_ \_f "h\_\_tng \_r \_\_tng". \_n\_rgy  
pr\_c\_s h\_v\_ m\_r\_ th\_n d\_\_bl\_d th\_s y\_\_r f\_r m\_ny  
c\_ns\_m\_rs, r\_s\_ltng \_n th\_s\_ \_n l\_w \_nc\_m\_s \_r \_n  
b\_n\_f\_ts f\_c\_ng th\_ ch\_\_c\_ \_f h\_\_tng th\_\_r h\_m\_, \_r  
\_\_tng. L\_f\_ \_s s\_ h\_rd f\_r s\_m\_ th\_t th\_y d\_ n\_t  
h\_v\_ \_n\_\_gh m\_ny t\_ \_s\_ g\_s \_r l\_ctr\_c\_ty t\_ b\_\_l  
p\_t\_t\_\_s. Th\_s s\_t\_\_t\_\_n w\_ll b\_ \_x\_c\_rb\_t\_d by r\_s\_s  
\_n c\_ntr\_b\_t\_\_ns t\_ th\_ c\_\_ntry's h\_\_lth c\_r\_ syst\_m,  
wh\_ch c\_m\_ \_nt\_ \_ff\_ct n\_xt w\_\_k.

F\_rm\_r \_K Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r G\_rdn Br\_wn l\_mb\_st\_d th\_  
m\_n r\_sp\_ns\_bl\_ f\_r c\_ntr\_ll\_ng Br\_t\_\_n's f\_n\_nc\_s,  
ch\_nc\_ll\_r R\_sh\_ S\_n\_k. Mr Br\_wn s\_\_d: "\_ny c\_r\_ng  
\_nd c\_m\_p\_ss\_\_n\_t\_ ch\_nc\_ll\_r w\_\_ld w\_nt t\_ d\_  
s\_m\_th\_ng \_b\_\_t th\_s p\_v\_rty....Y\_\_ c\_nn\_t \_gn\_r\_ th\_  
n\_\_ds \_f p\_r\_nts wh\_ \_r\_ h\_v\_ng t\_ ch\_\_s\_ b\_tw\_\_n  
p\_ttng th\_\_r h\_\_tng \_p \_nd f\_\_dng th\_\_r ch\_ldr\_n."  
H\_ \_dd\_d th\_t \_t w\_s \_rg\_nt f\_r th\_ ch\_nc\_ll\_r t\_  
\_ct, \_r th\_ r\_l\_ng C\_ns\_rv\_t\_v\_ P\_rty w\_ll b\_ kn\_wn  
\_s th\_ "n\_sty" p\_rty. F\_rth\_r pr\_c\_ h\_k\_s \_nd f\_\_d  
sh\_rt\_g\_s \_r\_ \_n th\_ h\_r\_z\_n \_s th\_ w\_r \_n \_kr\_\_n  
w\_ll s\_\_ th\_ pr\_c\_ \_f wh\_\_t r\_s\_. G\_v\_rnm\_nt cr\_t\_cs  
\_r\_ c\_llng f\_r \_ \_n\_-\_\_ff "w\_ndf\_ll t\_x" \_n th\_ h\_g\_  
pr\_f\_ts \_f \_n\_rgy c\_m\_p\_n\_\_s t\_ h\_lp th\_  
d\_s\_dv\_nt\_g\_d.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

the cost of living crisis is hitting peoples pockets hard all across the world soaring oil and gas prices have made basic necessities like food heating and transport unaffordable for many people in the uk over the past few months the debate has been over the shocking dilemma of heating or eating energy prices have more than doubled this year for many consumers resulting in those on low incomes or on benefits facing the choice of heating their home or eating life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes this situation will be exacerbated by rises in contributions to the countrys health care system which come into effect next week

former uk prime minister gordon brown lambasted the man responsible for controlling britains finances chancellor rishi sunak mr brown said any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this poverty you cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and feeding their children he added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act or the ruling conservative party will be known as the nasty party further price hikes and food shortages are on the horizon as the war in ukraine will see the price of wheat rise government critics are calling for a oneoff windfall tax on the huge profits of energy companies to help the disadvantaged

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis.html>

The cost of living crisis is hitting people's pockets hard all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made basic necessities like food, heating and transport unaffordable for many people. In the UK over the past few months, the debate has been over the shocking dilemma of "heating or eating". Energy prices have more than doubled this year for many consumers, resulting in those on low incomes or on benefits facing the choice of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to use gas or electricity to boil potatoes. This situation will be exacerbated by rises in contribution to the country's health care system, which come into effect next week. Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown lambasted the man responsible for controlling Britain's finances, Chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Brown said: "Any caring and compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this poverty.... You cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and feeding their children." He added that it was urgent for the chancellor to act, or the ruling Conservative Party will be known as the "nasty" party. Further price hikes and food shortages are on the horizon as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Government critics are calling for a one-off "windfall tax" on the huge profits of energy companies that help the disadvantaged.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE COST OF LIVING:** Make a poster about the cost of living. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. FREE FOOD:** Write a magazine article about governments giving free food to anyone who cannot afford to buy it. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on the cost of living. Ask him/her three questions about the cost of living. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. People's pockets
2. Soaring oil and gas prices
3. Energy prices
4. Heating or eating
5. Next week
6. A former prime minister
7. Parents
8. The nasty party
9. Price hikes and food shortages
10. The profits of energy companies

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The cost of living crisis is hitting people.
2. The debate has been over the shocking dilemma.
3. Energy prices have more than doubled this year.
4. They don't have enough money to use gas.
5. This situation will be exacerbated by further rises.
6. Brown lambasted the man responsible for controlling finances.
7. You cannot ignore the needs of parents.
8. It was urgent for the chancellor to act.
9. Price hikes and shortages are on the horizon.
10. A one-off windfall tax on the huge profits.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)