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## **Level 2**

### **Scientists say end of world is 30 seconds closer**

**30th January, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170130-doomsday-clock-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 <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170130-doomsday-clock-2.html>

Scientists from the BPA have said the world has become more dangerous in the past year. BPA scientists are experts on nuclear weapons, energy, climate change, and new technologies. They set the Doomsday Clock, which was started in 1947 to show how close the world is to disaster. The BPA just moved the clock's minute hand from three minutes to midnight to two-and-a-half minutes to midnight. This is the closest it has been to midnight (the Apocalypse) since 1953. Then, the minute hand was at two minutes to midnight after hydrogen bomb tests by the USA and Russia.

The BPA's report said President Donald Trump's statements on climate change, nuclear weapons, immigration and terrorism have added to global risk. The BPA warned that: "The probability of global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risks of disaster must be taken very soon." The BPA chief asked people to make sure their leaders do the right things. She said: "I hope the debate [created] by the 2017 setting of the Clock...helps citizens around the world hold their leaders responsible for delivering a safer and healthier planet."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-38760792>  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/01/26/the-doomsday-clock-just-moved-again-its-now-two-and-a-half-minutes-to-midnight/>  
<http://thebulletin.org/sites/default/files/Final%202017%20Clock%20Statement.pdf>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170130-doomsday-clock-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. the world has become        | a. to midnight    |
| 2. in the past                 | b. experts        |
| 3. BPA scientists are          | c. to disaster    |
| 4. nuclear                     | d. tests          |
| 5. show how close the world is | e. hand           |
| 6. moved the clock's minute    | f. more dangerous |
| 7. two minutes                 | g. year           |
| 8. hydrogen bomb               | h. weapons        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The BPA's                  | a. the risks of disaster |
| 2. statements on climate      | b. the right things      |
| 3. The probability of global  | c. healthier planet      |
| 4. actions needed to reduce   | d. responsible           |
| 5. make sure their leaders do | e. change                |
| 6. helps citizens             | f. report                |
| 7. hold their leaders         | g. catastrophe           |
| 8. a safer and                | h. around the world      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170130-doomsday-clock-2.html>

Scientists from the BPA have said the world (1) \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous in the past year. BPA scientists (2) \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear weapons, energy, climate change, and new technologies. They set the Doomsday Clock, which was started in 1947 to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the world is to disaster. The BPA just moved the clock's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from three minutes to midnight to two-and-a-half minutes to midnight. This is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ has been to midnight (the Apocalypse) since 1953. Then, the minute hand was at two minutes to midnight after (6) \_\_\_\_\_ tests by the USA and Russia.

The BPA's report said President Donald Trump's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ climate change, nuclear weapons, immigration and terrorism have (8) \_\_\_\_\_ risk. The BPA warned that: "The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risks of disaster must be (10) \_\_\_\_\_." The BPA chief asked people to make sure their leaders do the right things. She said: "I (11) \_\_\_\_\_ [created] by the 2017 setting of the Clock...helps citizens around the world hold their leaders responsible for (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and healthier planet."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170130-doomsday-clock-2.html>

Scientists from the BPA have said the world has become more dangerous in the past year. BPA scientists are experts on nuclear weapons, energy, climate change, and new technologies. They set the Doomsday Clock, which was started in 1947 to show how close the world is to disaster. The BPA just moved the clock's minute hand from three minutes to midnight to two-and-a-half minutes to midnight. This is the closest it has been to midnight (the Apocalypse) since 1953. Then, the minute hand was at two minutes to midnight after hydrogen bomb tests by the USA and Russia. The BPA's reports said President Donald Trump's statements on climate change, nuclear weapons, immigration and terrorism have added to global risk. The BPA warned that: "The probability of global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risk of disaster must be taken very soon. "The BPA chief asked people to make sure their leaders do the right things. She said: "I hope the debate [created] by the 2017 setting of the Clock... help citizens around the world hold their leaders responsible for delivering a safer and healthier planet."

# THE END OF THE WORLD SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170130-doomsday-clock-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the world today 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) \_\_\_\_\_

