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## **Level 4**

### **Hurricane Irma slams into Caribbean**

**9th September, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

### **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction in the Caribbean. Hurricane Irma devastated the islands of Barbuda and St. Martin. In Barbuda, about 95 per cent of buildings were damaged. The Prime Minister said: "It's absolute devastation. The island is literally under water...Barbuda is barely habitable." There is also massive destruction on St. Martin. An official said the focus was for people to, "get access to food and drinking water".

Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale. It is the strongest ever recorded east of the Caribbean. Irma has had wind speeds close to 300kph for more than 24 hours. It is over 1,200km wide. It is likely to hit Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have ordered people to evacuate the southern part of the state. Residents are getting ready for winds of up to 300kph. There will also be huge and damaging storm surges.

Sources: <https://www.wired.com/story/hurricane-irma-a-practically-impossible-storm/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-41182991>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/07/world/americas/hurricane-irma-caribbean.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A record-                      | a. devastation        |
| 2. causing death                  | b. were damaged       |
| 3. devastated                     | c. habitable          |
| 4. about 95 per cent of buildings | d. and destruction    |
| 5. It's absolute                  | e. under water        |
| 6. The island is literally        | f. breaking hurricane |
| 7. Barbuda is barely              | g. to food            |
| 8. get access                     | h. the islands        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Hurricane Irma is a category   | a. part of the state  |
| 2. the strongest on the           | b. recorded           |
| 3. It is the strongest ever       | c. 1,200km wide       |
| 4. Irma has had wind speeds       | d. 1-5 scale          |
| 5. It is over                     | e. people to evacuate |
| 6. Florida officials have ordered | f. 5 storm            |
| 7. evacuate the southern          | g. surges             |
| 8. damaging storm                 | h. close to 300kph    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hurricane is causing death and destruction in the Caribbean. Hurricane Irma devastated (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Barbuda and St. Martin. In Barbuda, about 95 per cent of buildings were damaged. The Prime Minister said: "(3) \_\_\_\_\_ devastation. The island (4) \_\_\_\_\_ water....Barbuda is barely habitable." There (5) \_\_\_\_\_ destruction on St. Martin. An official said the focus was for people to, "(6) \_\_\_\_\_ food and drinking water".

Hurricane Irma is a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ – the strongest on the 1-5 scale. It is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ recorded east of the Caribbean. Irma has had wind speeds (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for more than 24 hours. It is over 1,200km wide. It (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have ordered people to evacuate the southern part of the state. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ready for winds of up to 300kph. There will also be huge and damaging (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction in the Caribbean. Hurricane Irma devastated the islands of Barbuda and St. Martin. In Barbuda, about 95 percent of buildings were damaged. The Prime Minister said: "It's absolute devastation. The island is literally underwater ... Barbuda is barely habitable." There is also massive destruction on St. Martin. An official said the focus was for people to "get access to food and drinking water". Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale. It is the strongest ever recorded east of the Caribbean. Irma has had wind speeds close to 300 kph for more than 24 hours. It is over 1,200 km wide. It is likely to hit Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have ordered people to evacuate the southern part of the state. Residents are getting ready for winds of up to 300 kph. There will also be huge and damaging storm surges.

# HURRICANES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hurricanes 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Hurricane Irma slams into Caribbean – 9th September, 2017*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma-4.html>

Write about **hurricanes** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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