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Level 6 – 9th December, 2019

Sydney bush fires combine to form 'mega-fire'

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Firefighters in the Australian state of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire ever seen in the region. Eight different bushfires have combined north of the city of Sydney to form what people have dubbed a "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its path. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is roughly 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease."

The ease with which over 100 separate fires are spreading across the state has been exacerbated by a prolonged drought. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early in the season for the ground to be so dry. A spokesman said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous and toxic smoke from the fire. The city is shrouded in the choking smoke. Residents have received advisories about exercising outside. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and frail at the moment."

Sources: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/australia-bushfires-combine-form-mega-fire-north-sydney-191206074513633.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/another-tough-day-nsw-firefighters-battling-city-sized-inferno-20191207-p53hs3.html>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-07/how-rfs-are-tackling-nsw-mega-fire-bigger-than-sydney/11776874>

WARM-UPS

1. BUSHFIRES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about bushfires. 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?

firefighters / fire / city / Sydney / homes / inferno / out of control / vast / burning / ease / drought / authorities / season / consequences / smoke / toxic / exercise / frail

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

3. CLIMATE CHANGE: Students A **strongly** believe climate change is responsible for the fires; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. NATURAL DISASTERS: How dangerous are these disasters? What can he do to survive them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Dangerous?	How To Survive
Bushfires		
Earthquakes		
Hurricanes		
Drought		
Tsunami		
Volcano		

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

6. ESCAPE: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to take in the event of a fire at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Smartphone
- Clothes
- A pet
- Money
- Passport
- Your favourite soft toy
- Photos
- Food

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. battling | a. Joined together; united; merged. |
| 2. combined | b. Of very great size or extent; huge or enormous. |
| 3. dubbed | c. A lengthy and difficult conflict or struggle. |
| 4. gigantic | d. A broad strip or area of something. |
| 5. blaze | e. A very large or fiercely burning fire. |
| 6. swath | f. Absence of difficulty or effort. |
| 7. ease | g. Gave an unofficial name or nickname to someone or something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8. exacerbated | h. Weak and delicate. |
| 9. prolonged | i. Results or effects of an action or condition. |
| 10. drought | j. Risky; dangerous. |
| 11. consequences | k. Made a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse. |
| 12. hazardous | l. Continuing for a long time or longer than usual; lengthy. |
| 13. toxic | m. Poisonous. |
| 14. frail | n. A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

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

- a. Firefighters in Australia say a bushfire is one of the worst they've seen. **T / F**
- b. The bushfire is a combination of eight different fires. **T / F**
- c. The bushfire left a path of tens of thousands destroyed homes. **T / F**
- d. A firefighter boss said they cannot stop the fires. **T / F**
- e. A long drought has made the fires worse. **T / F**
- f. Authorities say the ground was too damp for fires to spread. **T / F**
- g. A spokesperson said there was a tough few years ahead. **T / F**
- h. Residents in Sydney have received no advice about exercising outside. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. battling | a. covered |
| 2. combined | b. fire |
| 3. dubbed | c. distinct |
| 4. inferno | d. amalgamated |
| 5. ease | e. elongated |
| 6. separate | f. poisonous |
| 7. prolonged | g. fighting |
| 8. toxic | h. delicate |
| 9. shrouded | i. named |
| 10. frail | j. abate |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. what people have dubbed | a. to contain |
| 2. businesses and other properties | b. choking smoke |
| 3. Authorities say it is burning | c. drought |
| 4. too vast | d. and frail |
| 5. keep burning until conditions | e. out of control |
| 6. exacerbated by a prolonged | f. toxic smoke |
| 7. the horrific consequences | g. are in its path |
| 8. suffering from hazardous and | h. ease |
| 9. The city is shrouded in the | i. a "mega-fire" |
| 10. emotions are very, very tested | j. of fire |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Firefighters in the Australian (1) _____ of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire ever seen in the region. Eight different bushfires have (2) _____ north of the city of Sydney to form what people have (3) _____ a "mega-fire". The gigantic (4) _____ is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its path. The giant inferno is burning across a (5) _____ of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is (6) _____ 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to (7) _____. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions (8) _____."

dubbed
swath
ease
blaze
state
contain
combined
roughly

The ease with which over 100 separate fires are spreading across the state has been (9) _____ by a prolonged drought. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early in the (10) _____ for the ground to be so dry. A spokesman said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the (11) _____ consequences of fire so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous and (12) _____ smoke from the fire. The city is (13) _____ in the choking smoke. Residents have received (14) _____ about exercising outside. Locals say it is the "(15) _____ ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and (16) _____ at the moment."

season
advisories
toxic
frail
exacerbated
worst
horrific
shrouded

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

- 1) combined north of the city of Sydney to form what people have _____
 - a. dubbed a "mega-fire"
 - b. dubbed a "giga-fire"
 - c. dubbed a "tera-fire"
 - d. dubbed a "kilo-fire"
- 2) Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties _____
 - a. are in its apathy
 - b. are in its pathos
 - c. are in its part
 - d. are in its path
- 3) The giant inferno is burning across a _____
 - a. swath off land
 - b. swath or land
 - c. swath of land
 - d. swath on land
- 4) Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too _____
 - a. vast to containing
 - b. vast to contains
 - c. vast to container
 - d. vast to contain
- 5) They will just keep burning until _____
 - a. conditions easy
 - b. conditions ease
 - c. conditions appease
 - d. conditions please
- 6) fires are spreading across the state has been exacerbated by _____
 - a. a prolonged brought
 - b. a prolonged draught
 - c. a prolonged drought
 - d. a prolonged ought
- 7) This is concerning authorities who say it is very early _____
 - a. in the season
 - b. in a season
 - c. in there season
 - d. inner season
- 8) a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen _____
 - a. the horrific consequential
 - b. the horrific consequences
 - c. the horrific con sequences
 - d. the horrific cons sequences
- 9) People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous _____
 - a. and toxic smoke
 - b. and toxic smoky
 - c. and toxic smoked
 - d. and toxic smoker
- 10) Peoples' emotions are very, very _____
 - a. tested and free
 - b. tested and frail
 - c. tested and trial
 - d. tested and trail

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Firefighters in the Australian state of New South Wales (1) _____ is being called the worst fire ever seen in the region. Eight different bushfires (2) _____ of the city of Sydney to form what people have (3) _____. The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are (4) _____. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is (5) _____. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning (6) _____."

The ease with which over (7) _____ are spreading across the state has been exacerbated by (8) _____. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early in the season for the ground to be so dry. A spokesman said: "There's (9) _____ of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from (10) _____ smoke from the fire. The city is shrouded in the choking smoke. Residents have received advisories (11) _____. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested (12) _____ the moment."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

1. In what state in Australia are the fires burning out of control?
2. How many different bushfires combined to make the "mega-fire"?
3. How far north of Sydney by car are the fires?
4. How wide is the front face of the fire?
5. What did a firefighter say is the only way the fires could be stopped?
6. What has exacerbated the fires?
7. What did authorities say was a concern so early in the season?
8. What kind of smoke did the article say was in Sydney?
9. What did the article say Sydney was shrouded in?
10. What did an official say people's emotions were besides tested?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

- 1) In what state in Australia are the fires burning out of control?
 - a) Queensland
 - b) New South Wales
 - c) Tasmania
 - d) Victoria
- 2) How many different bushfires combined to make the "mega-fire"?
 - a) 5
 - b) 6
 - c) 7
 - d) 8
- 3) How far north of Sydney by car are the fires?
 - a) an hour
 - b) a quarter of an hour
 - c) 90 minutes
 - d) a few minutes
- 4) How wide is the front face of the fire?
 - a) 40 km, give or take a kilometre
 - b) around 50km
 - c) roughly 60km
 - d) about 90km
- 5) What did a firefighter say is the only way the fires could be stopped?
 - a) if Mother Nature acted
 - b) if conditions eased
 - c) if a tropical cyclone came
 - d) if the weather turned
- 6) What has exacerbated the fires?
 - a) a prolonged drought
 - b) camp fires
 - c) permafrost
 - d) CO2
- 7) What did authorities say was a concern so early in the season?
 - a) exploding gas tanks
 - b) koalas
 - c) dry ground
 - d) trash in forests
- 8) What kind of smoke did the article say was in Sydney?
 - a) hazardous and toxic smoke
 - b) wafting smoke
 - c) noxious smoke
 - d) thick, black smoke
- 9) What did the article say Sydney was shrouded in?
 - a) choking smoke
 - b) worry
 - c) fear
 - d) secrecy
- 10) What did an official say people's emotions were besides tested?
 - a) free
 - b) fragile
 - c) fraught
 - d) frail

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Role A – Smartphone

You think your smartphone is the most important thing to rescue in the event of a fire. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important to rescue. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): clothes, pet or money.

Role B – Clothes

You think clothes the most important things to rescue in the event of a fire. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important to rescue. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): smartphone, pet or money.

Role C – A Pet

You think a pet is the most important thing to rescue in the event of a fire. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important to rescue. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): clothes, smartphone or money.

Role D – Money

You think money is the most important thing to rescue in the event of a fire. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important to rescue. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): clothes, pet or smartphone.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

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

bush	fire

- 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">• battling• region• tens• covering• control• keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100• concerning• tough• toxic• choking• frail
--	--

BUSHFIRES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bushfires 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.

BUSHFIRES 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 'bush'?
3. What do you know about Sydney?
4. Why does Australia have so many bushfires?
5. How would you deal with a bushfire?
6. What damage do bushfires do?
7. How worried are you about fires?
8. What should the firefighters do?
9. What do you think of firefighters?
10. What advice do you have for the people of Sydney?

Sydney bush fires combine to form 'mega-fire' – 9th December, 2019
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BUSHFIRES 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 'fire'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What can Australia do to ease drought conditions?
15. What hazards are there to our health from bushfires?
16. To what degree has global warming made the bushfires worse?
17. Why is the earth seeing more natural disasters?
18. What is the worst disaster seen by your town?
19. When in your life have you felt frail?
20. What questions would you like to ask a firefighter?

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/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Firefighters in the Australian (1) _____ of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire ever seen in the region. Eight different bushfires have (2) _____ north of the city of Sydney to form what people have (3) _____ a "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its (4) _____. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is (5) _____ 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too (6) _____ to contain. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease."

The ease with which over 100 separate fires are spreading across the state has been (7) _____ by a prolonged drought. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early (8) _____ the season for the ground to be so dry. A spokesman said: "There's a tough couple of months (9) _____ and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire so (10) _____ this season." People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous and toxic smoke from the fire. The city is (11) _____ in the choking smoke. Residents have received advisories about exercising outside. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and (12) _____ at the moment."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) hemisphere | (b) zone | (c) state | (d) pact |
| 2. | (a) combined | (b) conspired | (c) condoned | (d) convened |
| 3. | (a) dubbed | (b) curbed | (c) rubbed | (d) sobbed |
| 4. | (a) path | (b) short cut | (c) road | (d) street |
| 5. | (a) coarsely | (b) roughly | (c) brutally | (d) violently |
| 6. | (a) vest | (b) bust | (c) baste | (d) vast |
| 7. | (a) congregated | (b) ameliorated | (c) exacerbated | (d) dilated |
| 8. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) in |
| 9. | (a) ahead | (b) forward | (c) future | (d) advance |
| 10. | (a) few | (b) far | (c) many | (d) much |
| 11. | (a) adorned | (b) shrouded | (c) bedecked | (d) dressed |
| 12. | (a) grail | (b) trail | (c) frail | (d) rail |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Paragraph 1

1. what people have bubedd a "mega-fire"
2. The gigantic zalbe
3. The giant reifnon is burning
4. the mega-fire is hurgylo 60km wide
5. too avst to contain
6. keep burning until conditions seea

Paragraph 2

7. exacerbated by a prolonged udhtrgo
8. a thquo couple of months ahead
9. the horrific enqsuesenocc of fire
10. suffering from zaurshod and toxic smoke
11. The city is eduordsh in the choking smoke
12. aflri at the moment

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () hazardous and toxic smoke from the fire. The city is shrouded in the choking smoke. Residents have received
- (**1**) Firefighters in the Australian state of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire ever
- () form what people have dubbed a "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens
- () The ease with which over 100 separate fires are spreading across the state has been exacerbated
- () seen the horrific consequences of fire so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from
- () seen in the region. Eight different bushfires have combined north of the city of Sydney to
- () of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its path. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of
- () land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is roughly 60km
- () official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and frail at the moment."
- () advisories about exercising outside. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An
- () by a prolonged drought. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early in the season for the ground to be so
- () dry. A spokesman said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already
- () wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner
- () Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

1. a prolonged It exacerbated drought . has by been
2. in to season so be the dry . Early
3. of seen the horrific fire . already consequences We've
4. are in People smoke . from Sydney toxic suffering
5. about exercising outside . Residents advisories have received
6. the region . The seen in fire ever worst
7. hour's is blaze drive . an gigantic The just
8. of giant burning is across land . inferno swaths The
9. control . it Authorities burning out is of say
10. until just ease . keep will conditions They burning

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Firefighters in the Australian *regional / state* of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire *never / ever* seen in the region. Eight different bushfires have *combined / contrived* north of the city of Sydney to form what people have *dabbed / dubbed* a "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is just an *hour's / hourly* drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its *path / road*. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is *rough / roughly* 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too *vast / aghast* to contain. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop *these / them* fires. They will just keep burning until conditions *tease / ease*."

The ease with which over 100 separate fires are *spearheading / spreading* across the state has been exacerbated by a prolonged *draft / drought*. This is concerning *authority / authorities* who say it is very early in the *session / season* for the ground to be so *drought / dry*. A spokesman said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire so *far / many* this season." People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous and toxic *smoky / smoke* from the fire. The city is shrouded in the choking smoke. Residents have received *advise / advisories* about exercising *out / outside*. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and *frail / trail* at the moment."

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/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

F_r_f_g h t_r s _n t h_ A_s t r_l__ n s t_t_ _f N_w
S__ t h W_l_s _r_ b_t t_l_n g w h_t _s b__ n g c_l
l_d t h_ w_r s t f_r_ _v_r s__ n _n t h_ r_g__ n .
E_g h t d_f f_r_n t b_s h_f_r_s h_v_ c_m b_n_d n_r t
h _f t h_ c_t y _f S y d n_y t_ f_r m w h_t p__ p
l_ h_v_ d_b b_d _ " m_g_- f_r_". T h_ g_g_n t_c b
l_z_ _s j_s t _n h__ r' s d_r_v_ f_r_m S y d n_y .
T_n s _f t h__ s_n d_s _f h_m_s , b_s_n_s s_s _n d _t
h_r p_r_p_r t__ s _r_ _n _t_s p_t h . T h_ g__ n t _n
f_r n_ _s b_r n_n g _c r_s s _ s w_t h _f l_n d
c_v_r_n g _v_r 3 0 0 , 0 0 0 h_c t_r_s . T h_ f_r_n t
f t h m_g_- f_r_ s r__ g h l_y 6 0 k m w_d_ . A_t
h_r_t__ s s_y _t _s b_r n_n g __ t _f c_n t_r_l _n d
_s t__ v_s t t_ c_n t__ n . F_r_ S_r v_c_ D_p_t y
C_m m_s s__ n_r R_b R_g_r s s__ d : " W_ c_n n_t s
t_p t h_s_ f_r_s . T h_y w_l l j_s t k__ p b_r n_n g
_n t_l c_n d_t__ n s __ s_ . "

T h_ __ s_ w_t h w h_c h _v_r 1 0 0 s_p_r_t_ f_r_s
r s p_r__ d_n g _c r_s s t h_ s t_t_ h_s b__ n
_x_c_r b_t_d b y _ p_r_l_n g_d d_r__ g h t . T h_s _s
c_n c_r_n_n g __ t h_r_t__ s w h_ s_y _t _s v_r y __ r
l_y _n t h_ s__ s_n f_r t h_ g_r__ n d t_ b_ s_ d_r
y . A s p_k_s m_n s__ d : " T h_r_' s _ t__ g h c__
p_l_ _f m_n t h_s _h__ d _n d w_' v_ _l_r__ d y s__ n
t h_ h_r r_f_c c_n s_q__ n c_s _f f_r_ s_ f_r t h_s
s__ s_n . " P__ p_l_ _n S y d n_y _r_ s_f f_r_n g f_r_m
h_z_r d__ s _n d t_x_c s m_k_ f_r_m t h_ f_r_ . T h_
c_t y _s s h_r__ d_d _n t h_ c h_k_n g s m_k_ .
R_s_d_n t_s h_v_ r_c__ v_d _d v_s_r__ s _b__ t _x_r
c_s_n g __ t_s_d_ . L_c_l_s s_y _t _s t h_ " w_r s t
_v_r " f_r_ _n d _s " _n p_r_c_d_n t_d " . A n _f f_c__ l
s__ d : " P__ p_l_s' _m_t__ n_s _r_ v_r y , v_r y t_s
t_d _n d f_r__ l _t t h_ m_m_n t . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

firefighters in the Australian state of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire ever seen in the region. Eight different bushfires have combined north of the city of Sydney to form what people have dubbed a megafire. The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its path. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the megafire is roughly 60km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. Fire service deputy commissioner Rob Rogers said we cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease.

The ease with which over 100 separate fires are spreading across the state has been exacerbated by a prolonged drought. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early in the season for the ground to be so dry. A spokesman said there's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire so far this season. People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous and toxic smoke from the fire. The city is shrouded in the choking smoke. Residents have received advisories about exercising outside. Locals say it is the worst ever fire and is unprecedented. An official said people's emotions are very, very tested and frail at the moment.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires.html>

Firefighters in the Australian state of New South Wales are battling what is being called the worst fire ever seen in the region. Eight different bush fires have combined north of the city of Sydney to form what people have dubbed a "mega-fire". The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive from Sydney. Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and other properties are in its path. The giant inferno is burning across a swath of land covering over 300,000 hectares. The front of the mega-fire is roughly 60 km wide. Authorities say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will just keep burning until conditions ease." The ease with which over 100 separate fires are spreading across the state has been exacerbated by a prolonged drought. This is concerning authorities who say it is very early in the season for the ground to be so dry. A spokesman said: "There's at least a couple of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fires so far this season." People in Sydney are suffering from hazardous and toxic smoke from the fire. The city is shrouded in the choking smoke. Residents have received advisories about exercising outside. Locals say it is the "worst ever" fire and is "unprecedented". An official said: "People's emotions are very, very tested and frail at the moment."

HOMWORK

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. BUSHFIRES: Make a poster about bushfires. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CLIMATE CHANGE: Write a magazine article about the increase in bushfires being because of climate change. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and disagree with 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 bushfires. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on how to stop bushfires. 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. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c F d T e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. New South Wales
2. Eight
3. An hour
4. Roughly 60km
5. If conditions eased
6. A prolonged drought
7. Dry ground
8. Hazardous and toxic spoke
9. Choking smoke
10. Frail

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. It has been exacerbated by a prolonged drought.
2. Early in the season to be so dry.
3. We've already seen the horrific consequences of fire.
4. People in Sydney are suffering from toxic smoke.
5. Residents have received advisories about exercising outside.
6. The worst fire ever seen in the region.
7. The gigantic blaze is just an hour's drive.
8. The giant inferno is burning across swaths of land.
9. Authorities say it is burning out of control.
10. They will just keep burning until conditions ease.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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