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**Level 5 – 6th October, 2019**

## **Dry weather affecting autumn leaves colours**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201006-autumn-leaves-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/2010/201006-autumn-leaves-5.html>

The changing colours of autumn leaves is a spectacular natural event in forests worldwide. The golds, reds, yellows, greens and browns are a colourful canvas that sees in the end of summer. This year in the USA, the foliage has been affected by drought conditions. This has dulled the vibrant colours of the leaves. Over 80 per cent of America's northwest has had weather not conducive to perfect foliage. The traditional autumnal beauty spots of Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are experiencing drought and lacklustre colours.

A forest and ecology professor at the University of Vermont explained why this year has been so bad. He said it was a combination of factors, including good tree growth, mild drought, warm days and cool nights over the last month. He added that the colours came two weeks earlier than normal, "and will probably go by fast and furiously". He said the drought creates "physiological stress for the trees". He warned: "The stress is not a good thing and may be a harbinger of things to come with climate change. In terms of fall foliage, drought can cause the leaves to die."

NOTE: The word "autumn" is UK English; in USA English it is "fall".

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/03/weather/drought-hindering-fall-foliage-saturday/index.html>  
<https://www.slashgear.com/the-severe-drought-gripping-much-the-nation-is-impacting-fall-foliage-03640942/>  
<https://boston.cbslocal.com/2020/10/02/new-england-fall-foliage-peak-weekend-drives-wbz-forecast/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201006-autumn-leaves-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a spectacular natural           | a. to perfect foliage  |
| 2. a colourful                     | b. end of summer       |
| 3. sees in the                     | c. colours             |
| 4. affected by                     | d. spots               |
| 5. dulled                          | e. drought conditions  |
| 6. weather not conducive           | f. canvas              |
| 7. The traditional autumnal beauty | g. the vibrant colours |
| 8. lacklustre                      | h. event               |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A forest and ecology | a. of fall foliage   |
| 2. why this year has    | b. drought           |
| 3. it was a combination | c. the leaves to die |
| 4. mild                 | d. of things to come |
| 5. physiological        | e. been so bad       |
| 6. a harbinger          | f. stress            |
| 7. In terms             | g. professor         |
| 8. drought can cause    | h. of factors        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201006-autumn-leaves-5.html>

The changing colours of autumn leaves (1) \_\_\_\_\_ natural event in forests worldwide. The golds, reds, yellows, greens and browns are a colourful (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the end of summer. This year in the USA, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ been affected (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This has dulled the vibrant colours of the leaves. Over 80 per cent of America's northwest has had weather (5) \_\_\_\_\_ perfect foliage. The traditional autumnal beauty spots of Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are experiencing drought (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

A (7) \_\_\_\_\_ professor at the University of Vermont explained why this year has been so bad. He said it was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ factors, including good tree growth, mild drought, warm days (9) \_\_\_\_\_ over the last month. He added that the colours came two weeks earlier than normal, "and will probably go by (10) \_\_\_\_\_". He said the drought creates "physiological stress for the trees". He warned: "The stress is not a good thing and may be (11) \_\_\_\_\_ things to come with climate change. In terms (12) \_\_\_\_\_, drought can cause the leaves to die."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201006-autumn-leaves-5.html>

The changing colour of autumn leaves is a spectacular natural event in forests worldwide. The golds, reds, yellows, greens and browns are a colourful canvas that sees in the end of summer. This year in the USA, the foliage has been affected by drought conditions. This has dulled the vibrant colours of the leaves. Over 80 percent of America's northwest has had weather not conducive to perfect foliage. The traditional autumnal beauty spots of Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are experiencing drought and lack lustre colours. A forest and ecology professor at the University of Vermont explained why this year has been so bad. He said it was a combination of factors, including good tree growth, mild drought, warm days and cool nights over the last month. He added that the colours came two weeks earlier than normal, "and will probably go by fast and furiously". He said the drought creates "physiological stress for the trees". He warned: "The stress is not a good thing and may be a harbinger of things to come with climate change. In terms of fall foliage, drought can cause the leaves to die."

# AUTUMN LEAVES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2010/201006-autumn-leaves-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about autumn leaves 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) \_\_\_\_\_

