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**Level 6 – 20th June, 2022**

## Italy's largest river experiencing drought

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

Large swathes of Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One region is experiencing its worst drought for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had hardly any rainfall in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 per cent lower. This has caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower than average. A lot of the riverbed has dried up and people can walk across the mud. In one part, the declining water level has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. Authorities are concerned that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water shortage. This means water will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to irrigate their crops.

A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water shortages are unprecedented. The river gets much of its water from Lake Maggiore in the Italian Alps. The lake is seeing its lowest water level since 1946. Problems are being exacerbated by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heat wave. A farmer from the tiny rural town of Guastalla, 150 km southeast of Milan, said she is expecting a "disastrous year". She said: "With such high temperatures and with no rain...the situation is catastrophic." She added: "We believe that there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the lack of rain." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% reduction in fruit and vegetable production.

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/po-river-italy-dries-up-exposes-1943-shipwreck-zibello/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/15/italy-drought-po-valley-ration-water>  
<https://www.euronews.com/2022/06/17/crops-and-drinking-water-threatened-in-italys-po-valley-amid-worst-drought-in-70-years>

# WARM-UPS

**1. DROUGHTS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about droughts. 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?

swathes / drought / water shortage / the past four months / mud / riverbeds / crops / river / lake / water level / temperatures / heat wave / catastrophic / wheat / fruit

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

**3. RATIONING:** Students A **strongly** believe all countries should start rationing water; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. PRECIPITATION:** What do you know about these types of precipitation? How much or how often does it affect you? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How It Affects Me
Monsoon rain		
Showers		
Drizzle / Spitting		
Sleet		
Hail		
Snow		

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

**6. NATURAL DISASTERS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most damaging at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Droughts
- Typhoons
- Blizzards
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Heat waves
- Tornadoes
- Volcanoes

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. swathes     | a. Becoming smaller, fewer, or less; decreasing.                                    |
| 2. drought     | b. Made something visible by uncovering it.   |
| 3. riverbed    | c. A wide strip or area of something, usually lane.                                 |
| 4. declining   | d. Supply water to land or crops.   |
| 5. exposed     | e. A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.   |
| 6. authorities | f. The bottom of the channel a waterway flows along.                                |
| 7. irrigate    | g. The people or organization having political or administrative power and control. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8. unprecedented | h. The action or fact of making something smaller or less in amount, degree, or size. |
| 9. exacerbated   | i. Never done or known before.  |
| 10. heat wave    | j. Made a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse.                          |
| 11. rural        | k. Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.                             |
| 12. catastrophic | l. Relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town.            |
| 13. drop         | m. A prolonged period of abnormally hot weather.                                      |
| 14. reduction    | n. Make or become lower.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

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

1. All of Europe is experiencing water shortages. **T / F**
2. All of Italy is experiencing its worst drought in seven decades. **T / F**
3. Lower water levels revealed a sunken World War II shipwreck. **T / F**
4. Farmers have no problems irrigating their crops. **T / F**
5. A huge lake in Switzerland feeds the River Po. **T / F**
6. A mini heat wave is making the water shortage worse. **T / F**
7. A farmer said she is expecting a disastrous year. **T / F**
8. Fruit production in the Po Valley is expected to rise. **T / F**

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

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1. experiencing</b>  | a. shortage     |
| <b>2. hardly</b>        | b. water        |
| <b>3. exposed</b>       | c. made worse   |
| <b>4. rationed</b>      | d. barely       |
| <b>5. irrigate</b>      | e. countryside  |
| <b>6. unprecedented</b> | f. revealed     |
| <b>7. exacerbated</b>   | g. undergoing   |
| <b>8. rural</b>         | h. disastrous   |
| <b>9. catastrophic</b>  | i. limited      |
| <b>10. lack</b>         | j. unparalleled |

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

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Large swathes of Europe are    | a. wave                    |
| 2. hardly any rainfall            | b. unprecedented           |
| 3. fully exposed a                | c. irrigate their crops    |
| 4. water will be                  | d. of rain                 |
| 5. have problems finding water to | e. World War II shipwreck  |
| 6. the water shortages are        | f. rationed for drinking   |
| 7. Problems are being             | g. productivity            |
| 8. a mini heat                    | h. experiencing droughts   |
| 9. a drop in wheat                | i. exacerbated             |
| 10. due to the lack               | j. in the past four months |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

Large (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One region is experiencing its worst (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had (3) \_\_\_\_\_ any rainfall in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 per cent lower. This has caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower than (4) \_\_\_\_\_. A lot of the riverbed has dried up and people can walk across the mud. In one part, the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ water level has fully (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a World War II shipwreck. Authorities are concerned that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water (7) \_\_\_\_\_. This means water will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their crops.

*hardly*  
*exposed*  
*swathes*  
*shortage*  
*drought*  
*declining*  
*irrigate*  
*average*

A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water shortages are (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The river gets much of its water from Lake Maggiore in the Italian Alps. The lake is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ its lowest water level since 1946. Problems are being (11) \_\_\_\_\_ by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heat wave. A farmer from the tiny (12) \_\_\_\_\_ town of Guastalla, 150 km southeast of Milan, said she is expecting a "(13) \_\_\_\_\_ year". She said: "With such high temperatures and with no rain...the situation is (14) \_\_\_\_\_." She added: "We believe that there will be a drop in wheat (15) \_\_\_\_\_ by at least 20 per cent due to the lack of rain." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% (16) \_\_\_\_\_ in fruit and vegetable production.

*rural*  
*disastrous*  
*productivity*  
*unprecedented*  
*exacerbated*  
*reduction*  
*seeing*  
*catastrophic*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

- 1) Large swathes of Europe are experiencing droughts \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and watery shortages
  - b. and water shortages
  - c. and watered shortages
  - d. and waters shortages
- 2) A lot of the riverbed has dried up and people can walk \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. across the mad
  - b. across the muddy
  - c. across the mudded
  - d. across the mud
- 3) the declining water level has fully exposed a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. World War II shipped wreck
  - b. World War II shipwreck
  - c. World War II ships wreck
  - d. World War II ship wreak
- 4) This means water will be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. rationed for drinking
  - b. lesion for drinking
  - c. lashing for drinking
  - d. rash shunned for drinking
- 5) Farmers will also have problems finding water to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. irritate their crops
  - b. a rig gate their crops
  - c. regulate their crops
  - d. irrigate their crops
- 6) Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. short ages are unprecedented
  - b. shore stages are unprecedented
  - c. shortages are unprecedented
  - d. shortage is are unprecedented
- 7) its lowest water level since 1946. Problems \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are being exactly bated
  - b. are being excess bated
  - c. are been excoriated
  - d. are being exacerbated
- 8) by higher-than-average temperatures and a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. mini heat wave
  - b. midi heat wave
  - c. Mimi heat wave
  - d. Miami heat wave
- 9) With such high temperatures and with no rain the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. situation is cat a strop flick
  - b. situation is cats' apostrophe
  - c. situation is catastrophe
  - d. situation is catastrophic
- 10) there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lack off rain
  - b. lick of rain
  - c. lack of rain
  - d. lick off rain

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One region is experiencing (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 per cent lower. This has caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower than average. A lot of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ dried up and people can walk across the mud. In one part, the declining water level has (5) \_\_\_\_\_ World War II shipwreck. Authorities are concerned that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a (6) \_\_\_\_\_. This means water will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to irrigate their crops.

A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ unprecedented. The river gets much of its water from Lake Maggiore in the Italian Alps. The lake is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ water level since 1946. Problems are being exacerbated by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heat wave. A farmer from the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of Guastalla, 150 km southeast of Milan, said (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a "disastrous year". She said: "With such high temperatures and with no rain...the (11) \_\_\_\_\_." She added: "We believe that there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the (12) \_\_\_\_\_." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% reduction in fruit and vegetable production.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

1. What does the article say is experiencing droughts and water shortages?
2. How much lower was this year's snowfall?
3. What did lower water levels reveal in the River Po?
4. What might be rationed?
5. What might farmers not be able to do?
6. When was the last time the water level in Lake Maggiore was so low?
7. How far is the town of Guastalla from Milan?
8. What kind of year is a farmer expecting?
9. By how much did a farmer say wheat production might drop?
10. What might be produced at 20 to 40% lower rates?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

- 1) What does the article say is experiencing droughts and water shortages?
  - a) central Italy
  - b) large swathes of Europe
  - c) Sicily and Rome
  - d) the Mediterranean
- 2) How much lower was this year's snowfall?
  - a) 80%
  - b) 50%
  - c) 60%
  - d) 70%
- 3) What did lower water levels reveal in the River Po?
  - a) a WWII shipwreck
  - b) an oil tanker
  - c) gold from a 1946 bank robbery
  - d) a huge fossil
- 4) What might be rationed?
  - a) hose pipes
  - b) gasoline
  - c) water
  - d) food
- 5) What might farmers not be able to do?
  - a) plant crops
  - b) irrigate their crops
  - c) harvest their crops
  - d) pick fruit
- 6) When was the last time the water level in Lake Maggiore was so low?
  - a) 1964
  - b) 1936
  - c) 1946
  - d) 1963
- 7) How far is the town of Guastalla from Milan?
  - a) 160 km
  - b) 180 km
  - c) 150 km
  - d) 120 km
- 8) What kind of year is a farmer expecting?
  - a) a disastrous year
  - b) a bumper year
  - c) a hot year
  - d) a profitable year
- 9) By how much did a farmer say wheat production might drop?
  - a) 20%
  - b) 40%
  - c) 50%
  - d) 30%
- 10) What might be produced at 20 to 40% lower rates?
  - a) wheat
  - b) fruit and vegetables
  - c) corn
  - d) profits

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

## **Role A – Droughts**

You think droughts are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): blizzards, earthquakes or volcanoes.

## **Role B – Blizzards**

You think blizzards are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): droughts, earthquakes or volcanoes.

## **Role C – Earthquakes**

You think earthquakes are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): blizzards, droughts or volcanoes.

## **Role D – Volcanoes**

You think volcanoes are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): blizzards, earthquakes or droughts.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

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

river	drought

- 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>• swathes</li><li>• past</li><li>• lot</li><li>• mud</li><li>• soon</li><li>• crops</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• much</li><li>• 1946</li><li>• mini</li><li>• 150</li><li>• drop</li><li>• fruit</li></ul>
---	---

# DROUGHTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

Write five GOOD questions about droughts 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.

# DROUGHTS 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 'Italy'?
3. What do you think of hot weather?
4. Have you ever experienced water shortages?
5. What's the best way to deal with a drought?
6. What strange weather have you experienced?
7. What is causing these extreme weather events?
8. What would you do if water was rationed?
9. How difficult is it to be a farmer?
10. How can we help farmers to irrigate their crops?

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# DROUGHTS 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 'river'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How would you feel if rivers near you dried up?
15. What's the best way to deal with a heat wave?
16. Have weather events changed the prices of things?
17. What will the weather be like in 50 years from now?
18. What will you do if food prices rise a lot?
19. What three words best describe this story?
20. What questions would you like to ask the farmers?

## **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/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

Large (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is experiencing its worst drought for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had (3) \_\_\_\_\_ any rainfall in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 per cent lower. This has caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower than average. A lot of the riverbed has dried up and people can walk across the mud. In one part, the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ water level has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. Authorities are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water shortage. This means water will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their crops.

A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water shortages are (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The river gets much of its water from Lake Maggiore in the Italian Alps. The lake is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ its lowest water level since 1946. Problems are being exacerbated by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heat wave. A farmer from the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ rural town of Guastalla, 150 km southeast of Milan, said she is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a "disastrous year". She said: "With such high temperatures and with no rain...the situation is catastrophic." She added: "We believe that there will be a drop (11) \_\_\_\_\_ wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the lack of rain." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% reduction (12) \_\_\_\_\_ fruit and vegetable production.

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

- |     |                   |                 |               |               |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) swashes       | (b) swats       | (c) swathes   | (d) swatches  |
| 2.  | (a) region        | (b) legion      | (c) lesion    | (d) liaison   |
| 3.  | (a) hardly        | (b) harden      | (c) hardy     | (d) hardiness |
| 4.  | (a) inclining     | (b) declining   | (c) climbing  | (d) reclining |
| 5.  | (a) concertinaed  | (b) coerced     | (c) cornered  | (d) concerned |
| 6.  | (a) irritate      | (b) irrigate    | (c) infuriate | (d) inculcate |
| 7.  | (a) unprecedented | (b) represented | (c) pretended | (d) presented |
| 8.  | (a) watering      | (b) showering   | (c) seeing    | (d) hosing    |
| 9.  | (a) tainted       | (b) tinted      | (c) tinny     | (d) tiny      |
| 10. | (a) expecting     | (b) expectant   | (c) expiring  | (d) exporting |
| 11. | (a) on            | (b) in          | (c) at        | (d) as        |
| 12. | (a) at            | (b) on          | (c) as        | (d) in        |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. Large twashes of Europe
2. experiencing its worst tughodr for 70 years
3. exposed a World War II krpsheiw
4. there'll be a serious water grhaoest
5. water will be eindrtoa for drinking
6. finding water to etrarigi their crops

## Paragraph 2

7. Problems are being tebdxacerae
8. A farmer from the tiny arurl town
9. she is expecting a odtissaur year
10. the situation is acpothrtisac
11. a drop in wheat iytvudtpoirc
12. a 30 to 40% idecrtoun

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

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

- ( ) any rainfall in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 per cent lower. This has
- ( ) experiencing its worst drought for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had hardly
- ( ) rain." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% reduction in fruit and vegetable production.
- ( **1** ) Large swathes of Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One region is
- ( ) of its water from Lake Maggiore in the Italian Alps. The lake is seeing its lowest water level since 1946. Problems are being
- ( ) temperatures and with no rain...the situation is catastrophic." She added: "We believe that
- ( ) concerned that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water shortage. This means water
- ( ) caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower than average. A lot of the riverbed has dried
- ( ) southeast of Milan, said she is expecting a "disastrous year". She said: "With such high
- ( ) exacerbated by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heat wave. A farmer from the tiny rural town of Guastalla, 150 km
- ( ) A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water shortages are unprecedented. The river gets much
- ( ) there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the lack of
- ( ) up and people can walk across the mud. In one part, the declining water level has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. Authorities are
- ( ) will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to irrigate their crops.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

1. swathes experiencing catastrophic droughts . Europe are of Large
2. lot dried has of riverbed the up . A
3. water Declining fully exposed have levels a shipwreck .
4. will drinking . means water be This rationed for
5. problems water crops . Have finding to irrigate their
6. water said the spokesperson shortages are unprecedented . A
7. lake The lowest seeing water its is levels .
8. the from Guastalla . tiny rural of Farmers town
9. high such is With temperatures, situation catastrophic . the
10. productivity . a there'll be believe in drop We

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

Large *swats* / *swathes* of Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One *region* / *regional* is experiencing its worst drought for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had *hardly* / *hardened* any rainfall in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 per cent lower. This has caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower *that* / *than* average. A *lot* / *loads* of the riverbed has dried up and people can walk across the *mud* / *muddy*. In one part, the declining water level has *fully* / *full* exposed a World War II shipwreck. Authorities are *cornered* / *concerned* that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious *watery* / *water* shortage. This means water will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to *irritate* / *irrigate* their crops.

A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water shortages are *unprecedented* / *unrepresented*. The river gets much of its water from Lake Maggiore *in* / *on* the Italian Alps. The lake is *seen* / *seeing* its lowest water level since 1946. Problems are being *reverberated* / *exacerbated* by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heat *weave* / *wave*. A farmer from the tiny *rural* / *mural* town of Guastalla, 150 km southeast of Milan, said she is expecting a "disastrous year". She said: "With such high temperatures and with no rain...the situation is *catastrophic* / *catastrophe*." She added: "We believe that there will be a *droop* / *drop* in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the *lack* / *slack* of rain." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% reduction in *fruit* / *fruity* and vegetable production.

**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)

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L\_rg\_ sw\_th\_s \_f \_\_r\_p\_ \_r\_ \_xp\_r\_\_nc\_ng dr\_\_ghts  
\_nd w\_t\_r sh\_rt\_g\_s. \_n\_ r\_g\_\_n \_s\_ xp\_r\_\_nc\_ng \_ts  
w\_rst dr\_\_ght f\_r 70 y\_\_rs. Th\_ \_r\_\_, \_n n\_rth\_rn  
\_t\_ly, h\_s h\_d h\_rdly \_ny r\_\_nf\_ll \_n th\_ p\_st f\_\_r  
m\_nths. Th\_s y\_\_r's sn\_wf\_ll w\_s 70 p\_r c\_nt l\_w\_r.  
Th\_s h\_s c\_\_s\_d th\_ R\_v\_r P\_, \_t\_ly's l\_rg\_st, t\_ b\_  
thr\_\_ m\_tr\_s l\_w\_r th\_n \_v\_r\_g\_. \_ l\_t \_f th\_  
r\_v\_rb\_d h\_s dr\_\_d \_p \_nd p\_\_pl\_ c\_n w\_lk \_cr\_ss th\_  
m\_d. \_n \_n\_ p\_rt, th\_ d\_cl\_n\_ng w\_t\_r l\_v\_l h\_s f\_lly  
\_xp\_s\_d \_ W\_rld W\_r \_\_ sh\_pwr\_ck. \_\_th\_r\_t\_\_s \_r\_  
c\_nc\_rn\_d th\_t \_f \_t d\_\_sn't r\_\_n s\_\_n, th\_r'll b\_ \_  
s\_r\_\_s w\_t\_r sh\_rt\_g\_. Th\_s m\_\_ns w\_t\_r w\_ll b\_  
r\_t\_\_n\_d f\_r dr\_nk\_ng. F\_rm\_rs w\_ll \_ls\_ h\_v\_  
pr\_bl\_ms f\_nd\_ng w\_t\_r t\_ \_rr\_g\_t\_ th\_\_r cr\_ps.

\_ sp\_k\_sp\_rs\_n fr\_m \_t\_ly's P\_ B\_s\_n \_\_th\_r\_ty s\_\_d  
th\_ w\_t\_r sh\_rt\_g\_s \_r\_ \_npr\_c\_d\_nt\_d. Th\_ r\_v\_r g\_ts  
m\_ch \_f \_ts w\_t\_r fr\_m L\_k\_ M\_gg\_\_r\_ \_n th\_ \_t\_l\_\_n  
\_lps. Th\_ l\_k\_ \_s s\_\_ng \_ts l\_w\_st w\_t\_r l\_v\_l s\_nc\_  
1946. Pr\_bl\_ms \_r\_ b\_\_ng \_x\_c\_rb\_t\_d by h\_gh\_r-th\_n-  
\_v\_r\_g\_ t\_m\_p\_r\_t\_r\_s \_nd \_ m\_n\_ h\_\_t w\_v\_. \_ f\_rm\_r  
fr\_m th\_ t\_ny r\_r\_l t\_wn \_f G\_\_st\_ll\_, 150 km  
s\_\_th\_\_st \_f M\_l\_n, s\_\_d sh\_ \_s \_xp\_ct\_ng \_  
"d\_s\_str\_\_s y\_\_r". Sh\_ s\_\_d: "W\_th s\_ch h\_gh  
t\_m\_p\_r\_t\_r\_s \_nd w\_th n\_ r\_\_n...th\_ s\_t\_\_t\_\_n \_s  
c\_t\_str\_ph\_c." Sh\_ \_dd\_d: "W\_ b\_l\_\_v\_ th\_t th\_r\_  
w\_ll b\_ \_ dr\_p \_n wh\_\_t pr\_d\_ct\_v\_ty by \_t l\_\_st 20  
p\_r c\_nt d\_\_ t\_ th\_ l\_ck \_f r\_\_n." Th\_ P\_ V\_ll\_y w\_ll  
s\_\_ \_ 30 t\_ 40% r\_d\_ct\_\_n \_n fr\_\_t \_nd v\_g\_t\_bl\_  
pr\_d\_ct\_\_n.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

large swathes of europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages one region is experiencing its worst drought for 70 years the area in northern italy has had hardly any rainfall in the past four months this years snowfall was 70 per cent lower this has caused the river po italy's largest to be three metres lower than average a lot of the riverbed has dried up and people can walk across the mud in one part the declining water level has fully exposed a world war ii shipwreck authorities are concerned that if it doesnt rain soon there'll be a serious water shortage this means water will be rationed for drinking farmers will also have problems finding water to irrigate their crops a spokesperson from italy's po basin authority said the water shortages are unprecedented the river gets much of its water from lake maggiore in the italian alps the lake is seeing its lowest water level since 1946 problems are being exacerbated by higherthanaverage temperatures and a mini heat wave a farmer from the tiny rural town of guastalla 150 km southeast of milan said she is expecting a disastrous year she said with such high temperatures and with no rainthe situation is catastrophic she added we believe that there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 per cent due to the lack of rain the po valley will see a 30 to 40 reduction in fruit and vegetable production

## PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220620-italy-drought.html>

Largest wathes of Europe are experiencing droughts and water shortages. One region is experiencing its worst drought for 70 years. The area, in northern Italy, has had hardly any rain fall in the past four months. This year's snowfall was 70 percent lower. This has caused the River Po, Italy's largest, to be three metres lower than average. A lot of the river bed has dried up and people can walk across the mud. In one part, the declining water level has fully exposed a World War II shipwreck. Authorities are concerned that if it doesn't rain soon, there'll be a serious water shortage. This means water will be rationed for drinking. Farmers will also have problems finding water to irrigate their crops. A spokesperson from Italy's Po Basin Authority said the water shortages are unprecedented. The river gets much of its water from Lake Maggiore in the Italian Alps. The lake is seeing its lowest water levels since 1946. Problems are being exacerbated by higher-than-average temperatures and a mini heatwave. A farmer from the tiny rural town of Guastalla, 150 km southeast of Milan, said she is expecting a "disastrous year". She said: "With such high temperatures and with no rain... the situation is catastrophic." She added: "We believe that there will be a drop in wheat productivity by at least 20 percent due to the lack of rain." The Po Valley will see a 30 to 40% reduction in fruit and vegetable production.







# 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. DROUGHTS:** Make a poster about droughts. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. LESS WATER:** Write a magazine article about all of us using less water. 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 droughts. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to address water shortages. 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. e    3. f    4. a    5. b    6. g    7. d  
8. i    9. j    10. m    11. l    12. k    13. n    14. h

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Large swathes of Europe
2. 70%
3. A WWII shipwreck
4. Water
5. Irrigate crops
6. 1946
7. 150 km
8. A disastrous year
9. 20%
10. Fruit and vegetables

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

1. Large swathes of Europe are experiencing catastrophic droughts.
2. A lot of the riverbed has dried up.
3. Declining water levels have fully exposed a shipwreck.
4. This means water will be rationed for drinking.
5. Have problems finding water to irrigate their crops.
6. A spokesperson said the water shortages are unprecedented.
7. The lake is seeing its lowest water levels.
8. Farmers from the tiny rural town of Guastalla.
9. With such high temperatures, the situation is catastrophic.
10. We believe there'll be a drop in productivity.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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