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Carbon dioxide at record high level

12th May, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is now at a record high. An American weather station in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO₂ levels were at 400 parts per million (ppm). The last time CO₂ was at this level was five million years ago. This was when there were no humans on the Earth. Scientists say the 400ppm level is a warning sign. They say we must do more to stop this number getting bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels would keep rising. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have seen the last CO₂ reading under 400ppm." He told reporters that even at the South Pole, CO₂ would be above 400ppm.

Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that create global warming. Just one CO₂ molecule can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the scientists measuring CO₂ levels, said human activity is making the Earth warmer. He said that, "the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas is driving the acceleration". He pointed out that 300 years ago, CO₂ levels were around 280ppm. He added that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, warned that CO₂ is warming the Earth to dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing sea levels to rise. This will put billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes a long time to melt ice, but we're doing it. It's scary."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22486153>
<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/carbon-dioxide-passes-400ppm-milestone-for-first-time-in-modern-human-history-noaa-says-15975>

WARM-UPS

1. GLOBAL WARMING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about global warming. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

CO2 / atmosphere / five million years ago / warning sign / scientist / South Pole / global warming / human activity / natural gas / arctic ice / sea levels / melt ice

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

3. WARMER EARTH: How will a warmer Earth change lives? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Changes for...	Change	How will they live?
people on small islands		
people in the desert		
penguins		
people in the Himalayas		
fishermen in Maldives		
people in New York		

4. NO PROBLEM: Students A **strongly** believe scientists can stop global warming becoming a problem; Students B **strongly** believe they can't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. DANGERS TO EARTH: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most dangerous at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- global warming
- pollution
- chemical weapons
- overpopulation
- water wars
- cybercrime
- extinction of species
- killer viruses

6. CO2: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'CO2. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A weather station in Peru found high levels of CO2 in the atmosphere. | T / F |
| b. The level of CO2 was at 400 parts per million. | T / F |
| c. The last time the Earth saw this level was 5 million years ago. | T / F |
| d. The level of CO2 at the South Pole will always be under 280. | T / F |
| e. One molecule of CO2 stays in the atmosphere for around 7 years. | T / F |
| f. A scientist said humans are not making the Earth warmer. | T / F |
| g. Levels of CO2 were under 300, 300 years ago. | T / F |
| h. A scientist said it was scary that the arctic ice was melting. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. level | a. increasing |
| 2. high | b. over |
| 3. humans | c. at risk |
| 4. rising | d. amount |
| 5. above | e. speeding up |
| 6. create | f. frightening |
| 7. driving | g. produce |
| 8. acceleration | h. record |
| 9. in danger | i. pushing |
| 10. scary | j. people |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. weather | a. sign |
| 2. when there were no | b. would keep rising |
| 3. a warning | c. of people in danger |
| 4. he thought CO2 levels | d. create global warming |
| 5. even at the South Pole, | e. humans on the Earth |
| 6. one of the gases that | f. to melt ice |
| 7. natural gas is driving | g. station |
| 8. CO2 is warming the Earth | h. CO2 would be above 400ppm |
| 9. This will put billions | i. the acceleration |
| 10. It takes a long time | j. to dangerous levels |

GAP FILL

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

The level of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the (1) _____ is now at a record high. An American weather (2) _____ in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO2 levels were at 400 parts per million (ppm). The (3) _____ time CO2 was at this level was five million years ago. This was when there were no (4) _____ on the Earth. Scientists say the 400ppm level is a warning (5) _____. They say we must do more to stop this number (6) _____ bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO2 levels would keep (7) _____. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have seen the last CO2 reading (8) _____ 400ppm." He told reporters that even at the South Pole, CO2 would be above 400ppm.

rising
sign
last
under
atmosphere
getting
station
humans

Carbon dioxide is one of the (9) _____ that create global warming. Just one CO2 molecule can (10) _____ in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the scientists measuring CO2 levels, said human (11) _____ is making the Earth warmer. He said that, "the (12) _____ of coal, oil, and natural gas is driving the acceleration". He (13) _____ out that 300 years ago, CO2 levels were around 280ppm. He added that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, (14) _____ that CO2 is warming the Earth to dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing (15) _____ levels to rise. This will put billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes a long time to (16) _____ ice, but we're doing it. It's scary."

warned
burning
stay
sea
melt
gases
activity
pointed

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LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

- 1) The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is now _____.
 - a. at a record highs
 - b. at a record higher
 - c. at a record height
 - d. at a record high
- 2) The last time CO₂ was at this level was five _____.
 - a. million years ago
 - b. million years before
 - c. million years past
 - d. million years earlier
- 3) Scientists say the 400ppm level _____.
 - a. is a warning sign
 - b. is a warning signal
 - c. is a warning signage
 - d. is a warning signs
- 4) scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels _____.
 - a. would kept rising
 - b. would keep raising
 - c. would keep rising
 - d. would keep arising
- 5) He told reporters that even at the South Pole, CO₂ would _____.
 - a. get above 400ppm
 - b. be over 400ppm
 - c. get more 400ppm
 - d. be above 400ppm
- 6) Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that _____.
 - a. create globally warming
 - b. create global warmer
 - c. create global warm-in
 - d. create global warming
- 7) human activity is making _____.
 - a. the Earth warmer
 - b. the Earth warm
 - c. the Earth warmest
 - d. the Earth warms
- 8) Dr Ralph Keeling warned that CO₂ is warming the Earth _____.
 - a. to dangerous levels
 - b. to dangerous levelers
 - c. to dangerous level
 - d. to dangerous leveled
- 9) He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing _____.
 - a. sea levels to raise
 - b. sea levels to rise
 - c. sea levels to risen
 - d. sea levels to arise
- 10) He said: "It takes a long time to melt ice, but we're doing it. _____.
 - a. It's scary
 - b. He's scared
 - c. I'm scary
 - d. It's scared

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere (1) _____.

An American weather station in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO₂ levels (2) _____ million (ppm). The last time CO₂ was at this level was five million years ago. This was when (3) _____ the Earth. Scientists say the 400ppm level is a warning sign. They say we must (4) _____ number getting bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels would keep rising. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have (5) _____ under 400ppm." He told reporters that even at the South Pole, (6) _____ 400ppm.

Carbon dioxide (7) _____ create global warming. Just one CO₂ molecule can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the scientists (8) _____, said human activity is making the Earth warmer. He said that, "the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas (9) _____ ". He pointed out that 300 years ago, CO₂ (10) _____. He added that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, warned that CO₂ is warming the Earth to dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, (11) _____. This will put billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes (12) _____, but we're doing it. It's scary."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

1. What is at a record high?

2. Where did scientists measure CO₂?

3. How many parts per million was the new record?

4. What do scientists want to stop?

5. What will happen in eight to nine years from now?

6. What can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years?

7. Who is Pieter Tans?

8. When were CO₂ levels at 280ppm?

9. When were CO₂ levels at 180ppm?

10. What takes a long time?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

1. What is at a record high?
 - a) the atmosphere
 - b) levels of CO2
 - c) a weather station
 - d) the temperature
2. Where did scientists measure CO2?
 - a) China
 - b) Tahiti
 - c) New York
 - d) Hawaii
3. How many parts per million was the new record?
 - a) 280
 - b) 300
 - c) 400
 - d) 4,000
4. What do scientists want to stop?
 - a) the number getting bigger
 - b) the atmosphere
 - c) CO2
 - d) CO2 readings
5. What will happen in eight to nine years from now?
 - a) levels of CO2 will be at 500ppm
 - b) we'll see the last reading under 400ppm
 - c) ppm will always be under 400
 - d) The South Pole will be hotter than the North Pole
6. What can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years?
 - a) a molecule of CO2
 - b) humans
 - c) global warming
 - d) space
7. Who is Pieter Tans?
 - a) an inventor
 - b) a weather forecaster
 - c) a scientist measuring CO2
 - d) someone who said global warming isn't real
8. When were CO2 levels at 280ppm?
 - a) 300 years ago
 - b) 3,000 years ago
 - c) 300,000 years ago
 - d) 3 million years ago
9. When was CO2 at 180ppm?
 - a) in 1800
 - b) 80 billion years ago
 - c) 8 million years ago
 - d) 800,000 years ago
10. What takes a long time?
 - a) to make CO2
 - b) to record CO2 levels
 - c) for ice to melt
 - d) to burn natural gas

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ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

Role A – Human warming scientist

You think human activity causes global warming. Everyone on Earth must change how we live so we do not produce CO₂. Tell the others three things we must do. You totally disagree with the other scientist and the oil company CEO. Tell them why they are wrong. You agree with the penguin.

Role B – Natural warming scientist

You think human activity is not the reason for global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. You believe it is natural the Earth is getting warmer. You don't think anyone is in danger. You think it is OK to keep using gas, oil, coal, etc. You know scientists can protect the Earth.

Role C – Oil company CEO

You are tired of scientists warning about global warming. You are angry because people get scared. They also start using less oil and gasoline. Your company is very green. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Disagree with everything the human warming scientist says. Also, if the ice melts, penguins can easily find a new home.

Role D – Penguin

You are very, very, very angry with humans. Tell the others three reasons why. They only care about money. Oil companies want profits and do not care about the environment. Scientists who say human activity does not warm the earth are crazy. You want all oil production to stop immediately.

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AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

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

record	high
---------------	-------------

- 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">• now• found• million• bigger• nine• above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• create• oil• 300• 180• sea• scary
---	--

GLOBAL WARMING SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

Write five GOOD questions about global warming 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.

GLOBAL WARMING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the phrase 'global warming'?
- c) Are you worried about global warming?
- d) What do you do every day to reduce CO2?
- e) What more could you do?
- f) Do you think people worry or care about the CO2 level being 400ppm?
- g) When will people really start to worry about global warming?
- h) What causes global warming?
- i) What do you think of scientists who say human activity does not create global warming?
- j) Can we do anything to keep CO2 levels under 400ppm?

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GLOBAL WARMING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you know about carbon dioxide?
- c) How much pollution is there in your town?
- d) What do you think of giant oil companies?
- e) Can an oil company be green?
- f) What will happen if the Earth gets warmer and warmer?
- g) Which countries are most responsible for global warming?
- h) What kind of danger will billions of people be in if sea levels rise?
- i) Is global warming the biggest problem on Earth?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a global warming expert?

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. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is (1) _____ at a record high. An American weather station in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO₂ levels were at 400 parts (2) _____ million (ppm). The last time CO₂ was at this level was five million years ago. This was when there were no humans on the Earth. Scientists say the 400ppm level is a (3) _____ sign. They say we must do (4) _____ to stop this number getting bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels would keep (5) _____. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have seen the last CO₂ reading under 400ppm." He told reporters that (6) _____ at the South Pole, CO₂ would be above 400ppm.

Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that create global (7) _____. Just one CO₂ molecule can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the scientists (8) _____ CO₂ levels, said human activity is making the Earth warmer. He said that, "the (9) _____ of coal, oil, and natural gas is driving the acceleration". He pointed (10) _____ that 300 years ago, CO₂ levels were around 280ppm. He added that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, warned that CO₂ is warming the Earth (11) _____ dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing sea levels to rise. This will put billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes a long time to melt ice, but we're doing it. It's (12) _____."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) now | (b) then | (c) now and then | (d) immediately |
| 2. | (a) par | (b) pre | (c) per | (d) post |
| 3. | (a) warned | (b) warns | (c) warn | (d) warning |
| 4. | (a) maximum | (b) more | (c) most | (d) many |
| 5. | (a) rearing | (b) raising | (c) arising | (d) rising |
| 6. | (a) event | (b) never | (c) ever | (d) even |
| 7. | (a) warmth | (b) warming | (c) warms | (d) warmed |
| 8. | (a) measuring | (b) measured | (c) measure | (d) measures |
| 9. | (a) burning | (b) roasting | (c) igniting | (d) firing |
| 10. | (a) up | (b) in | (c) out | (d) to |
| 11. | (a) of | (b) for | (c) up | (d) to |
| 12. | (a) scarred | (b) scary | (c) scared | (d) scars |

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SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

Paragraph 1

1. CO2 in the mepaotehrs
2. teerwah station
3. ntstecisis say...
4. a rwinng sign
5. CO2 levels would keep sinirg
6. He told sretrepro...

Paragraph 2

7. gases that create global aiwrnmng
8. one CO2 uelmloce
9. enusmagir CO2 levels
10. Inutaar gas
11. ouergasnd levels
12. It's cyras

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () activity is making the Earth warmer. He said that, "the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas is driving
- () warming the Earth to dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing sea levels to rise. This will put
- (**1**) The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is now at a record high. An American weather
- () bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels would keep
- () billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes a long time to melt ice, but we're doing it. It's scary."
- () that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, warned that CO₂ is
- () station in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO₂ levels were at 400 parts per million (ppm). The last
- () stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the scientists measuring CO₂ levels, said human
- () Earth. Scientists say the 400ppm level is a warning sign. They say we must do more to stop this number getting
- () rising. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have seen the last CO₂ reading under 400ppm." He told
- () Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that create global warming. Just one CO₂ molecule can
- () the acceleration". He pointed out that 300 years ago, CO₂ levels were around 280ppm. He added
- () reporters that even at the South Pole, CO₂ would be above 400ppm.
- () time CO₂ was at this level was five million years ago. This was when there were no humans on the

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

1. the in (CO2) dioxide carbon of level The atmosphere.

2. million at 400 CO2 parts levels per were.

3. on the Earth This was when there were no humans.

4. warning Scientists 400ppm a the is sign say level.

5. above be would CO2, Pole South the at Even 400ppm.

6. gases that create global warming CO2 is one of the.

7. the One CO2 scientists of levels measuring.

8. ago levels 280ppm years CO2 around 300, were.

9. dangerous warming levels the Earth CO2 to is.

10. billions of This people will in put danger.

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CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is *know / now* at a record high. An American *weather / weathered* station in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO₂ levels were at 400 parts *par / per* million (ppm). The *last / past* time CO₂ was at this level was five million years ago. This was when there were *no / non* humans on the Earth. Scientists say the 400ppm level is a *warning / warned* sign. They say we must do more to stop this *numeral / number* getting bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels would keep *raising / rising*. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have *saw / seen* the last CO₂ reading under 400ppm." He told reporters that *even / ever* at the South Pole, CO₂ would be above 400ppm.

Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that *creation / create* global warming. Just one CO₂ molecule can stay *in / on* the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the *sciences / scientists* measuring CO₂ levels, said human activity is making the Earth *warmer / warming*. He said that, "the *burning / burnt* of coal, oil, and natural gas is driving the *acceleration / engine*". He pointed out that 300 years ago, CO₂ levels were around 280ppm. He *added / attached* that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, warned that CO₂ is warming the Earth *to / of* dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing sea levels to *rise / raise*. This will put billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes a long time to melt ice, but we're doing it. It's *scary / scared*."

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 http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

Th_ l_v_l _f c_rb_n d__x_d_ (C_2) _n th_ _tm_sph_r_ _s n_w _t _r_c_r_d h_gh. _n _m_r_c_n w__th_r st_t _n _n H_w__ _r_c_r_d_d th_ n_w h_gh _n th_ 9th _f M_y. _t f__nd C_2 l_v_ls w_r_ _t 400 p_rts p_r m_ll__n (ppm). Th_ l_st t_m_ C_2 w_s _t th_s l_v_l w_s f_v_ m_ll__n y__rs _g_. Th_s w_s wh_n th_r_ w_r_ n_ h_m_ns _n th_ __rth. Sc__nt_sts s_y th_ 400ppm l_v_l _s _w_rn_ng s_gn. Th_y s_y w_ m_st d_m_r_t_ st_p th_s n_mb_r g_tt_ng b_gg_r. H_w_v_r, sc__nt_st J_m_s B_tl_r s__d h_ th__ght C_2 l_v_ls w__ld k__p r_s_ng. H_w_rn_d: " _n __ght t_n_n_y__rs, w_w_ll pr_b_bly h_v_s__n th_ l_st C_2 r__d_ng _nd_r 400ppm." H_t_ld r_p_r_t_rs th_t _v_n _t th_ S__th P_l_, C_2 w__ld b__b_v_ 400ppm.

C_rb_n d__x_d_ _s _n _f th_ g_s_s th_t cr__t_gl_b_l w_rm_ng. J_st _n_ C_2 m_l_c_l_ c_n st_y _n th_ _tm_sph_r_ f_r h_ndr_ds _f y__rs. P__t_r T_ns, _n__f th_ sc__nt_sts m__s_r_ng C_2 l_v_ls, s__d h_m_n _ct_v_ty _s m_k_ng th_ __rth w_rm_r. H_s__d th_t, "th_ b_rn_ng _f c__l, __l, _nd n_t_r_l g_s _s dr_v_ng th_ _cc_l_r_t__n". H_p__nt_d __t th_t 300 y__rs _g_, C_2 l_v_ls w_r_ __r__nd 280ppm. H__dd_d th_t 800,000 y__rs _g_, th_y w_r_ _t 180ppm. _n th_r sc__nt_st, Dr R_lph K__l_ng, w_rn_d th_t C_2 _s w_rm_ng th_ __rth t_d_ng_r__s l_v_ls. H_s w_rr__d _b__t _rct_c_c_m_lt_ng, c__s_ng s__l_v_ls t_r_s_. Th_s w_ll p_t_b_ll__ns _f p__pl_ _n d_ng_r. H_s__d: " _t t_k_s _l_ng t_m_ t_m_lt_c_, b_t w_'r_d__ng _t. _t's sc_r_y."

Carbon dioxide at record high level– 12th May, 2013

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PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

the level of carbon dioxide (co2) in the atmosphere is now at a record high an american weather station in hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of may it found co2 levels were at 400 parts per million (ppm) the last time co2 was at this level was five million years ago this was when there were no humans on the earth scientists say the 400ppm level is a warning sign they say we must do more to stop this number getting bigger however scientist james butler said he thought co2 levels would keep rising he warned "in eight to nine years we will probably have seen the last co2 reading under 400ppm" he told reporters that even at the south pole co2 would be above 400ppm

carbon dioxide is one of the gases that create global warming just one co2 molecule can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years pieter tans one of the scientists measuring co2 levels said human activity is making the earth warmer he said that "the burning of coal oil and natural gas is driving the acceleration" he pointed out that 300 years ago co2 levels were around 280ppm he added that 800000 years ago they were at 180ppm another scientist dr ralph keeling warned that co2 is warming the earth to dangerous levels he is worried about arctic ice melting causing sea levels to rise this will put billions of people in danger he said "it takes a long time to melt ice but we're doing it it's scary"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130512-carbon_dioxide.html

The level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is now at a record high. An American weather station in Hawaii recorded the new high on the 9th of May. It found CO₂ levels were at 400 parts per million (ppm). The last time CO₂ was at this level was five million years ago. This was when there were no humans on the Earth. Scientists say the 400 ppm level is a warning sign. They say we must do more to stop this number getting bigger. However, scientist James Butler said he thought CO₂ levels would keep rising. He warned: "In eight to nine years, we will probably have seen the last CO₂ reading under 400 ppm." He told reporters that even at the South Pole, CO₂ would be above 400 ppm. Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that create global warming. Just one CO₂ molecule can stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Pieter Tans, one of the scientists measuring CO₂ levels, said human activity is making the Earth warmer. He said that, "the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas is driving the acceleration". He pointed out that 300 years ago, CO₂ levels were around 280 ppm. He added that 800,000 years ago, they were at 180 ppm. Another scientist, Dr Ralph Keeling, warned that CO₂ is warming the Earth to dangerous levels. He is worried about arctic ice melting, causing sea levels to rise. This will put billions of people in danger. He said: "It takes a long time to melt ice, but we're doing it. It's scary."

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 carbon dioxide (CO₂). Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. GLOBAL WARMING: Make a poster about global warming. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HOTTER EARTH: Write a magazine article about a hotter Earth in the future. Include imaginary interviews with people who lost their homes because of rising sea levels.

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 a global warming expert. Ask him/her three questions about global warming. Give him/her three ideas on how to stop global warming. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. level | a. amount |
| 2. high | b. record |
| 3. humans | c. people |
| 4. rising | d. increasing |
| 5. above | e. over |
| 6. create | f. produce |
| 7. driving | g. pushing |
| 8. acceleration | h. speeding up |
| 9. in danger | i. at risk |
| 10. scary | j. frightening |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The level of CO₂ in the atmosphere
2. At a weather station in Hawaii
3. 400
4. The number getting bigger
5. We will see the last reading under 400ppm
6. A molecule of CO₂
7. One of the scientists measuring CO₂
8. 300 years ago
9. 800,000 years ago
10. To melt ice

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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