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Level 6

India cities experiencing hazardous air quality

9th November, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Many of India's big cities are experiencing such hazardous air pollution that it almost defies belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, breathable air is set at a level of 50 according to the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means the air is hazardous to breathe. The AQI website says 300 represents a health alert and the city should be put under emergency conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more serious health effects". On November 8, the city of Chandrapur in Maharashtra reached an AQI level of 824, to become India's most polluted city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists say many cities are now like "gas chambers".

A toxic haze shrouds India's capital and residents are being warned to wear masks. Schools were ordered closed for three days. New Delhi generally has its fair share of pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that clog its streets, most not conforming to emissions standards. The situation has been made worse recently due to a number of factors. These include chemical pollution blowing in from nearby states, farmers setting fire to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to be doused with water to stop dust from rising. They have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 days, except at hospitals and cellphone towers.

Sources: <http://qz.com/829182/this-one-chart-shows-delhis-apocalyptic-pollution-compared-to-the-rest-of-india/>
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2016/11/07/other-indian-cities-join-delhi-air-pollution-emergency/dcNRuzrY9VyJXMZf8uKroM/story.html>
<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/delhi-air-pollution-most-polluted-city-air-quality-index-aqi-3830971/>

WARM-UPS

1. AIR QUALITY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about air quality. 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?

cities / hazardous / pollution / healthy / health alert / emergency / environmentalists / toxic / haze / vehicles / emissions / farmers / dust / electricity / hospitals / towers

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

3. CLEAN AIR: Students A **strongly** believe all the world will have clean air one day; Students B **strongly** believe this will never happen. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. POLLUTION: What are the biggest causes of pollution, what damage do they do and how can we reduce them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Biggest causes	Damage	Solutions
Air pollution			
River pollution			
Ocean pollution			
Noise pollution			
Pollution in space			
Light pollution			

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

6. SOLUTIONS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best solutions to reduce pollution at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- give cash for recycling
- tax polluting companies
- become a vegetarian world
- convert all homes to solar
- plant more trees
- invest in renewables
- ban cars
- ban fossil fuels

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

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

- a. All of India's cities now have hazardous air quality. **T / F**
- b. The standard used to measure air quality is called the Pollution Index. **T / F**
- c. A website says everyone's health may suffer with hazardous air quality. **T / F**
- d. New Delhi is India's most polluted city. **T / F**
- e. Schools in New Delhi closed for three days. **T / F**
- f. There are nine million vehicles on the streets of New Delhi. **T / F**
- g. Air quality is bad even though there are strong winds over New Delhi. **T / F**
- h. Hospitals are exempt from a ban on diesel electricity generators. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. hazardous | a. points |
| 2. standard | b. consequences |
| 3. alert | c. risen to |
| 4. effects | d. congest |
| 5. reached | e. accepted |
| 6. shrouds | f. prohibited |
| 7. clog | g. dangerous |
| 8. factors | h. ease |
| 9. alleviate | i. warning |
| 10. banned | j. covers |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. hazardous air | a. at a level of 50 |
| 2. it almost defies | b. electricity generators |
| 3. set | c. polluted city |
| 4. health | d. shrouds India's capital |
| 5. become India's most | e. belief |
| 6. A toxic haze | f. standards |
| 7. New Delhi generally has its fair | g. pollution |
| 8. not conforming to emissions | h. of wind |
| 9. a lack | i. alert |
| 10. diesel-powered | j. share of pollution |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Many of India's big cities are experiencing such (1) _____ air pollution that it almost (2) _____ belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, breathable air is set at a level of 50 (3) _____ to the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means the air is hazardous to (4) _____. The AQI website says 300 represents a health (5) _____ and the city should be put under emergency conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more (6) _____ health effects". On November 8, the city of Chandrapur in Maharashtra (7) _____ an AQI level of 824, to become India's most polluted city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists say many cities are now like "gas (8) _____".

according
alert
reached
hazardous
chambers
breathe
defies
serious

A toxic (9) _____ shrouds India's capital and residents are being warned to wear masks. Schools were (10) _____ closed for three days. New Delhi generally has its (11) _____ share of pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that (12) _____ its streets, most not conforming to emissions standards. The situation has been made worse recently due to a number of (13) _____. These include chemical pollution blowing in from nearby states, farmers setting (14) _____ to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to be doused with water to stop (15) _____ from rising. They have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 days, (16) _____ at hospitals and cellphone towers.

ordered
clog
dust
haze
factors
except
fair
fire

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

- 1) big cities are experiencing such hazardous air pollution that it almost _____
 - a. defines belief
 - b. defiles belief
 - c. refines belief
 - d. defies belief
- 2) 300 represents a health alert and the city should be put _____ conditions
 - a. under emergencies
 - b. over emergency
 - c. under emergency
 - d. over emergent
- 3) The website says that, "everyone may experience more _____"
 - a. seriously health affects
 - b. serious health effects
 - c. serious healthy effects
 - d. serious health affects
- 4) reached an AQI level of 824, to become India's _____
 - a. most polluted city
 - b. most pollute it city
 - c. most pollutant city
 - d. most pollution city
- 5) Environmentalists say many cities are now like " _____ "
 - a. gas timbers
 - b. gas chambers
 - c. gas chimers
 - d. gas changes
- 6) A toxic haze shrouds India's capital and residents are being warned _____
 - a. to wear casks
 - b. to wear tasks
 - c. to wear masks
 - d. to wear basks
- 7) pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that _____
 - a. log its streets
 - b. clog its streets
 - c. blog its streets
 - d. flog its streets
- 8) The situation has been made worse recently due to a _____
 - a. number of fictions
 - b. number of factions
 - c. number of factories
 - d. number of factors
- 9) To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to be _____
 - a. doused with water
 - b. ousted with water
 - c. doubted with water
 - d. danced with water
- 10) They have also banned diesel-powered _____
 - a. electric generator
 - b. electricity generator
 - c. electrical generator
 - d. electricity generators

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Many of India's (1) _____ experiencing such hazardous air pollution that it almost defies belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, breathable (2) _____ a level of 50 according to the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means (3) _____ to breathe. The AQI website says 300 represents a health alert and the city should (4) _____ emergency conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more serious health effects". On November 8, the city of Chandrapur in Maharashtra (5) _____ level of 824, to become India's most polluted city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists (6) _____ now like "gas chambers".

A toxic haze shrouds India's (7) _____ are being warned to wear masks. Schools were (8) _____ three days. New Delhi generally has its fair share of pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that (9) _____, most not conforming to emissions standards. The situation has been made worse recently due to a number of factors. These include chemical (10) _____ from nearby states, farmers setting fire to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to be (11) _____ to stop dust from rising. They have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 (12) _____ hospitals and cellphone towers.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

1. What do levels of air pollution in many Indian cities defy?
2. What is the name of the standard measurement for air pollution?
3. What numerical level of air pollution represents a health alert?
4. What did a website say everyone might experience?
5. What numerical level did New Delhi reach?
6. What is shrouding New Delhi?
7. How many vehicles are on the streets of India's capital city?
8. What do many vehicles in New Delhi not conform to?
9. What are farmers setting fire to?
10. What are people being encouraged to douse with water?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

- 1) What do levels of air pollution in many Indian cities defy?
 - a) laws
 - b) parents
 - c) logic
 - d) belief
- 2) What is the name of the standard measurement for air pollution?
 - a) Pollution Count Index
 - b) Air Quality Index
 - c) the Chandrapur Gauge
 - d) Breathable Air Count
- 3) What numerical level of air pollution represents a health alert?
 - a) 8
 - b) 824
 - c) 50
 - d) 300
- 4) What did a website say everyone might experience?
 - a) a blocked nose
 - b) dirty skin
 - c) serious health effects
 - d) eyesight problems
- 5) What numerical level did New Delhi reach?
 - a) 427
 - b) 274
 - c) 472
 - d) 724
- 6) What is shrouding New Delhi?
 - a) a mystery
 - b) a cloth
 - c) a toxic haze
 - d) secrecy
- 7) How many vehicles are on the streets of India's capital city?
 - a) 9,000,000
 - b) 9,000,000,000
 - c) 900,000
 - d) 90,000,000
- 8) What do many vehicles in New Delhi not conform to?
 - a) clogged streets
 - b) society
 - c) emissions standards
 - d) driving rules
- 9) What are farmers setting fire to?
 - a) tractors
 - b) straw
 - c) cars
 - d) trees
- 10) What are people being encouraged to douse with water?
 - a) roads
 - b) their face
 - c) cars
 - d) hospitals

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Role A – Give cash for recycling

You think giving cash for recycling is the best way to tackle pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting more trees, banning cars or taxing polluting companies.

Role B – Plant more trees

You think planting more trees is the best way to tackle pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): giving cash for recycling, banning cars or taxing polluting companies.

Role C – Ban cars

You think banning cars is the best way to tackle pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting more trees, giving cash for recycling or taxing polluting companies.

Role D – Tax polluting companies

You think taxing polluting companies is the best way to tackle pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting more trees, banning cars or giving cash for recycling.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

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

air	quality
------------	----------------

- 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">• big• normal• alert• serious• 624• gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• capital• fair• worse• fire• water• 10
--	--

AIR QUALITY SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Write five GOOD questions about air quality 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.

AIR QUALITY DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pollution'?
3. What is pollution like in your city?
4. How serious are world leaders about reducing pollution?
5. What damage does pollution do?
6. How can Indian cities cut their pollution?
7. How can pollution levels in a city get so high?
8. What actions do people need to take with hazardous air quality?
9. What would you do if air in your town was hazardous to breathe?
10. Who is to blame for high levels of pollution?

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AIR QUALITY DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Who should people in India be angry with over poor air quality?
13. What lessons should cities learn from this new crisis?
14. What is happening with climate change treaties?
15. In reality, is profit more important than air quality?
16. What advice do you have for residents of India's cities?
17. What clean energies can India use?
18. How effective is dousing streets with water?
19. Will the actions of city officials in New Delhi help?
20. What questions would you like to ask air quality experts?

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Many of India's big cities are (1) _____ such hazardous air pollution that it almost defies belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, (2) _____ air is (3) _____ at a level of 50 according to the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means the air is hazardous to breathe. The AQI website says 300 represents a health alert and the city should be put (4) _____ emergency conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more serious health (5) _____ ". On November 8, the city of Chandrapur in Maharashtra reached an AQI level of 824, to become India's most polluted city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists say many cities are now (6) _____ "gas chambers".

A toxic haze (7) _____ India's capital and residents are being warned to wear masks. Schools were ordered closed for three days. New Delhi generally has its (8) _____ share of pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that (9) _____ its streets, most not conforming to emissions standards. The situation has been made worse recently due to a (10) _____ of factors. These include chemical pollution blowing in from nearby states, farmers setting fire to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to (11) _____ doused with water to stop dust from rising. They have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 days, (12) _____ at hospitals and cellphone towers.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) experimenting | (b) experiential | (c) experiencing | (d) exponential |
| 2. | (a) breathable | (b) breathe | (c) breathing | (d) breathy |
| 3. | (a) set | (b) let | (c) met | (d) wet |
| 4. | (a) under | (b) in | (c) at | (d) over |
| 5. | (a) efforts | (b) affects | (c) afflicts | (d) effects |
| 6. | (a) compare | (b) same | (c) similar | (d) like |
| 7. | (a) shrouds | (b) shreds | (c) shrubs | (d) shrills |
| 8. | (a) for | (b) fore | (c) fare | (d) fair |
| 9. | (a) clog | (b) blog | (c) flog | (d) log |
| 10. | (a) figure | (b) number | (c) numeral | (d) amount |
| 11. | (a) have | (b) be | (c) do | (d) give |
| 12. | (a) except | (b) expect | (c) excerpt | (d) expert |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Paragraph 1

1. air optilunol
2. it almost difees belief
3. The standard aeemernsmut
4. put under eycrgenme conditions
5. more serious health fctesef
6. nrtsnsoviieelnmta say...

Paragraph 2

7. A toxic haze rsudosh India's capital
8. most not cmingofnro
9. inssemiso standards
10. To aieaetlv the crisis
11. roads to be eusddo with water
12. ceptex at hospitals

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more serious health effects". On November 8, the city
- () of Chandrapur in Maharashtra reached an AQI level of 824, to become India's most polluted
- () to the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means the air is hazardous to breathe. The AQI website says 300
- () represents a health alert and the city should be put under emergency
- () closed for three days. New Delhi generally has its fair share of pollution problems due to the nine million
- () powered electricity generators for 10 days, except at hospitals and cellphone towers.
- () officials have ordered roads to be doused with water to stop dust from rising. They have also banned diesel-
- () city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists say many cities are now like "gas chambers".
- () worse recently due to a number of factors. These include chemical pollution blowing in from nearby states, farmers
- () A toxic haze shrouds India's capital and residents are being warned to wear masks. Schools were ordered
- (**1**) Many of India's big cities are experiencing such hazardous air pollution that it almost defies
- () belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, breathable air is set at a level of 50 according
- () vehicles that clog its streets, most not conforming to emissions standards. The situation has been made
- () setting fire to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

1. it hazardous almost air defies pollution belief that Such .
2. hazardous to breathe A level of 300 means the air is .
3. under put be should city The conditions emergency .
4. serious effects may more health Everyone experience .
5. are Environmentalists now say like many gas cities chambers .
6. are India's being capital warned and Haze residents shrouds .
7. share its generally problems of fair has Delhi pollution .
8. the vehicles its to million clog Due nine that streets .
9. roads doused City ordered be water have to with officials .
10. - have powered also electricity banned generators diesel They .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Many of India's big cities are experiencing *much / such* hazardous air pollution that it almost *defies / defines* belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, breathable air is set *at / by* a level of 50 according *to / for* the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means the air is hazardous to *breath / breathe*. The AQI website says 300 represents a *health / healthy* alert and the city should be put *over / under* emergency conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more *seriously / serious* health effects". On November 8, the city of Chandrapur in Maharashtra reached an AQI level of 824, to become India's most *pollution / polluted* city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists say many cities are now *like / similar* "gas chambers".

A toxic haze *shrouds / shrouding* India's capital and residents are being *warned / weaned* to wear masks. Schools were ordered closed for three days. New Delhi generally has its *fair / fare* share of pollution problems *due / because* to the nine million vehicles that *clog / blog* its streets, most not conforming to emissions standards. The situation has been made worse recently due to a *number / numeral* of factors. These include chemical pollution *blowing / blew* in from *nearby / nearly* states, farmers setting fire to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to be *roused / doused* with water to stop dust from rising. They have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 days, *expect / except* at hospitals and cellphone towers.

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/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

M_ny _f _nd__'s b_g c_t__s _r_ _xp_r__nc_ng s_ch
h_z_rd__s __r p_ll_t__n th_t _t _lm_st d_f__s b_l__f.
Th_ st_nd_rd m__s_r_m_nt f_r h__lthy, n_rm_l,
br__th_bl__ _r_s s_t_t _l_v_l_f 50 _cc_rd_ng t_ th_
__r Q__l_ty _nd_x (_Q_). _l_v_l_f 300 m__ns th_ __r
_s h_z_rd__s t_ br__th_. Th_ _Q_ w_bs_t_ s_ys 300
r_pr_s_nts _h__lth _l_rt _nd th_ c_ty sh__ld b_p_t
_nd_r _m_rg_ncy c_nd_t__ns. Th_ w_bs_t_ s_ys th_t,
"v_ry_n_ m_y _xp_r__nc_ m_r_ s_r__s h__lth
_ff_cts". _n N_v_mb_r 8, th_ c_ty _f Ch_ndr_p_r_n
M_h_r_shtr_r__ch_d _n _Q_ l_v_l_f 824, t_b_c_m_
_nd__'s m_st p_ll_t_d c_ty. Th_ c_p_t_l N_w D_lh_h_s
r__ch_d _n _Q_ _f 724. _nv_r_nm_nt_l_sts s_y m_ny
c_t__s _r_ n_w_l_k_ "g_s ch_mb_rs".

_t_x_c h_z_ shr__ds _nd__'s c_p_t_l _nd r_s_d_nts
r b__ng w_rn_d t_ w__r m_sks. Sch__ls w_r_
_rd_r_d cl_s_d f_r thr__d_ys. N_w D_lh_g_n_r_lly h_s
_ts f__r sh_r__f p_ll_t__n pr_bl_ms d__t_ th_n_n_
m_ll__n v_h_cl_s th_t cl_g__ts str__ts, m_st n_t
c_nf_rm_ng t_ _m_ss__ns st_nd_rds. Th_ s_t__t__n
h_s b__n m_d_w_rs_r_c_ntly d__t_ _n_mb_r_f
f_ct_rs. Th_s_ _ncl_d_ch_m_c_l p_ll_t__n bl_w_ng _n
fr_m n__rby st_t_s, f_rm_rs s_tt_ng f_r_t_str_w_s
__t_mn _rr_v_s, _nd _l_ck _f w_nd. T__ll_v__t_ th_
cr_s_s, c_ty _ff_c__ls h_v__rd_r_d_r__ds t_b_
d__s_d_w_th w_t_r_t_st_p_d_st fr_m r_s_ng. Th_y h_v_
_ls_b_nn_d d__s_l-p_w_r_d_l_ctr_c_ty g_n_r_t_rs f_r
10 d_ys, _xc_pt_t_h_sp_t_ls _nd c_llph_n_t_w_rs.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

many of india's big cities are experiencing such hazardous air pollution that it almost defies belief the standard measurement for healthy normal breathable air is set at a level of 50 according to the air quality index (aqi) a level of 300 means the air is hazardous to breathe the aqi website says 300 represents a health alert and the city should be put under emergency conditions the website says that "everyone may experience more serious health effects" on november 8 the city of chandrapur in maharashtra reached an aqi level of 824 to become india's most polluted city the capital new delhi has reached an aqi of 724 environmentalists say many cities are now like "gas chambers"

a toxic haze shrouds india's capital and residents are being warned to wear masks schools were ordered closed for three days new delhi generally has its fair share of pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that clog its streets most not conforming to emissions standards the situation has been made worse recently due to a number of factors these include chemical pollution blowing in from nearby states farmers setting fire to straw as autumn arrives and a lack of wind to alleviate the crisis city officials have ordered roads to be doused with water to stop dust from rising they have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 days except at hospitals and cellphone towers

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1611/161109-air-quality.html>

Many of India's big cities are experiencing such hazardous air pollution that almost defies belief. The standard measurement for healthy, normal, breathable air is set at a level of 50 according to the Air Quality Index (AQI). A level of 300 means the air is hazardous to breathe. The AQI website says 300 represents a health alert and the city should be put under emergency conditions. The website says that, "everyone may experience more serious health effects". On November 8, the city of Chandrapur in Maharashtra reached an AQI level of 824, to become India's most polluted city. The capital New Delhi has reached an AQI of 724. Environmentalists say many cities are now like "gas chambers". A toxic haze shrouds India's capital and residents are being warned to wear masks. Schools were ordered closed for three days. New Delhi generally has its fair share of pollution problems due to the nine million vehicles that clog its streets, most not conforming to emissions standards. This situation has been made worse recently due to a number of factors. These include chemical pollution blowing in from nearby states, farmers setting fire to straw as autumn arrives, and a lack of wind. To alleviate the crisis, city officials have ordered roads to be dusted with water to stop dust from rising. They have also banned diesel-powered electricity generators for 10 days, except at hospitals and cell phone towers.

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 the Air Quality Index. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. AIR QUALITY: Make a poster about air quality in your country. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. FINES: Write a magazine article about giving people and companies big fines for creating pollution. 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 air quality. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to improve it. 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 F c T d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. hazardous | a. dangerous |
| 2. standard | b. accepted |
| 3. alert | c. warning |
| 4. effects | d. consequences |
| 5. reached | e. risen to |
| 6. shrouds | f. covers |
| 7. clog | g. congest |
| 8. factors | h. points |
| 9. alleviate | i. ease |
| 10. banned | j. prohibited |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Belief
2. Air Quality Index
3. 300
4. More serious health effects
5. 724
6. A toxic haze
7. Nine million
8. Emissions standards
9. Straw
10. Roads

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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