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Level 6

Hurricane Irma slams into Caribbean

9th September, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction as it passes through the Caribbean and heads towards the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused major devastation across the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, said about 95 per cent of the buildings on the island had suffered some damage. He said: "It's absolute devastation. The island is literally under water....Barbuda is barely habitable." A government official for St Martin said: "There is massive destruction. We'll concentrate our first efforts so that in the next hours, people can get access to food and drinking water."

Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale of hurricanes. It is the second strongest hurricane ever to be recorded and the strongest ever recorded east of the Caribbean Sea. Irma has kept a wind speed close to 300kph for more than 24 hours. This is the longest period ever recorded. Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200km wide. It is likely to become a Category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a mandatory evacuation of Florida Keys - the southern part of the state of Florida. Residents there are bracing themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging storm surges.

Sources: <https://www.wired.com/story/hurricane-irma-a-practically-impossible-storm/>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-41182991>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/07/world/americas/hurricane-irma-caribbean.html>

WARM-UPS

1. HURRICANES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about hurricanes. 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?

record-breaking / hurricane / state / devastation / islands / damage / under water / storm / east / wind speed / meteorologists / landfall / evacuation / storm surges

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

3. NATURAL DISASTERS: Students A **strongly** believe hurricanes are the worst natural disasters; Students B **strongly** believe they aren't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. HELPFUL THINGS: How helpful are these things in a hurricane? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How helpful?	Why?
Mobile phone		
Torch		
Blanket		
Tarpaulin		
Chocolate		
Radio		

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

6. POSSESSIONS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important possessions to take with you in a hurricane at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- mobile phone
- photographs
- clothes
- jewellery
- teddy bear
- food
- wallet
- other _____

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

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

- a. The opening sentence says Hurricane Irma was record breaking. **T / F**
- b. Irma damaged about 95% of buildings on the island of Barbuda. **T / F**
- c. Barbuda's Prime Minister said the island was pretty much under water. **T / F**
- d. A St Martin official said the priority was to get the Internet working. **T / F**
- e. The article said Irma is the second-strongest hurricane ever recorded. **T / F**
- f. Hurricane Irma's strongest wind speeds have been 250kph. **T / F**
- g. Hurricane Irma is about 1,200km in diameter. **T / F**
- h. Residents in southern Florida have been told to stay at home. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. causing | a. destruction |
| 2. heads | b. spectrum |
| 3. devastation | c. focus |
| 4. absolute | d. weather forecasters |
| 5. concentrate | e. leading to |
| 6. scale | f. compulsory |
| 7. recorded | g. total |
| 8. meteorologists | h. moves |
| 9. mandatory | i. enormous |
| 10. massive | j. registered |

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

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. A record-breaking hurricane is | a. suffered some damage |
| 2. Hurricane Irma caused major | b. to food and drinking water |
| 3. 95% of the buildings on the island had | c. evacuation of Florida Keys |
| 4. A government | d. to 300kph |
| 5. people can get access | e. devastation |
| 6. It is the second strongest hurricane | f. Category 4 hurricane |
| 7. a wind speed close | g. causing death and destruction |
| 8. It is likely to become a | h. storm surges |
| 9. officials have already ordered a mandatory | i. official |
| 10. massive and damaging | j. ever to be recorded |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A record-(1) _____ hurricane is causing death and destruction as it passes through the Caribbean and (2) _____ towards the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused (3) _____ devastation across the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, said about 95 per cent of the buildings on the island had (4) _____ some damage. He said: "It's absolute devastation. The island is (5) _____ under water...Barbuda is barely habitable." A government official for St Martin said: "There is (6) _____ destruction. We'll (7) _____ our first efforts so that in the next hours, people can get (8) _____ to food and drinking water."

major
massive
suffered
access
breaking
concentrate
heads
literally

Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 (9) _____ of hurricanes. It is the second strongest hurricane ever to be recorded and the strongest ever recorded (10) _____ of the Caribbean Sea. Irma has kept a wind speed (11) _____ to 300kph for more than 24 hours. This is the longest (12) _____ ever recorded. Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200km wide. It is (13) _____ to become a Category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a mandatory (14) _____ of Florida Keys - the southern part of the state of Florida. Residents there are (15) _____ themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging storm (16) _____.

period
east
bracing
scale
surges
likely
evacuation
close

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

- 1) A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction as it passes _____
 - a. threw the Caribbean
 - b. thru the Caribbean
 - c. through the Caribbean
 - d. thorough the Caribbean
- 2) On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused _____
 - a. majorly devastation
 - b. major devastation
 - c. measured devastation
 - d. measure devastation
- 3) about 95 per cent of the buildings on the island had suffered _____
 - a. some damage
 - b. same damage
 - c. sum damage
 - d. summit damage
- 4) The island is literally under water....Barbuda is _____
 - a. bare habitable
 - b. bared habitable
 - c. barley habitable
 - d. barely habitable
- 5) There is massive destruction. We'll concentrate our first efforts so that _____
 - a. in them next hours
 - b. in the next hour
 - c. on the next hours
 - d. in the next hours
- 6) a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 _____
 - a. shale off hurricanes
 - b. scale of hurricanes
 - c. scales of hurricanes
 - d. scale off hurricanes
- 7) Irma has kept a wind speed close to 300kph _____ 24 hours
 - a. far more than
 - b. for more than
 - c. fore more than
 - d. four more than
- 8) Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over _____
 - a. 1,200km wider
 - b. 1,200km widen
 - c. 1,200km wide
 - d. 1,200km width
- 9) Florida officials have already ordered a _____
 - a. mandatory evacuations
 - b. mandatory evacuating
 - c. mandatory evacuated
 - d. mandatory evacuation
- 10) bracing themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging _____
 - a. storm purges
 - b. storm surges
 - c. storm urges
 - d. storm verges

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A record-breaking hurricane (1) _____ and destruction as it passes through the Caribbean (2) _____ the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused major devastation across the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, (3) _____ of the buildings on the island had suffered some damage. He said: "It's absolute devastation. The (4) _____ under water....Barbuda is barely habitable." A government official for St Martin said: "There is massive destruction. We'll (5) _____ efforts so that in the next hours, people can (6) _____ and drinking water."

Hurricane Irma (7) _____ 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale of hurricanes. It is the second strongest hurricane ever to be recorded and the strongest ever (8) _____ the Caribbean Sea. Irma has (9) _____ close to 300kph for more than 24 hours. This is the longest period ever recorded. Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200km wide. It is likely to become a Category 4 hurricane (10) _____ landfall in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a mandatory evacuation of Florida Keys - the southern (11) _____ state of Florida. Residents there are bracing themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

1. Where did the article say Hurricane Irma was heading?
2. How many Caribbean nations did the article mention in paragraph one?
3. What percentage of buildings on Barbuda was damaged?
4. What did Barbuda's Prime Minister say the island was under?
5. What is the focus for providing people with on St Martin?
6. How many hurricanes have been stronger than Irma?
7. How wide is Hurricane Irma?
8. When is Irma predicted to make landfall in Florida?
9. What have people in Florida Keys been ordered to do?
10. What kind of surges are people in Florida bracing themselves for?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

- 1) Where did the article say Hurricane Irma was heading?
 - a) north
 - b) Florida
 - c) south
 - d) Cuba
- 2) How many Caribbean nations did the article mention in paragraph one?
 - a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 4
- 3) What percentage of buildings on Barbuda was damaged?
 - a) 95%
 - b) 85%
 - c) 75%
 - d) 100%
- 4) What did Barbuda's Prime Minister say the island was under?
 - a) siege
 - b) the spotlight
 - c) water
 - d) pressure
- 5) What is the focus for providing people with on St Martin?
 - a) Internet
 - b) food and water
 - c) electricity
 - d) shelter
- 6) How many hurricanes have been stronger than Irma?
 - a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 0
- 7) How wide is Hurricane Irma?
 - a) 1,300km
 - b) 1,400km
 - c) 1,200km
 - d) 1,500km
- 8) When is Irma predicted to make landfall in Florida?
 - a) Saturday
 - b) Friday night
 - c) Sunday morning
 - d) no one knows for sure
- 9) What have people in Florida Keys been ordered to do?
 - a) evacuate
 - b) stay indoors
 - c) listen to the radio
 - d) batten down the hatches
- 10) What kind of surges are people in Florida bracing themselves for?
 - a) big surges
 - b) electricity surges
 - c) power surges
 - d) storm surges

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

Role A – Mobile Phone

You think your mobile phone is the most important thing to save in a hurricane. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): your wallet, food or jewellery.

Role B – Wallet

You think your wallet is the most important thing to save in a hurricane. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): your mobile phone, food or jewellery.

Role C – Food

You think food is the most important thing to save in a hurricane. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): your wallet, your mobile phone or jewellery.

Role D – Jewellery

You think jewellery is the most important thing to save in a hurricane. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): your wallet, food or your mobile phone.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

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

hurricane	wind

- 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">• causing• major• across• some• under• hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• scale• east• 24• wide• already• storm
---	--

HURRICANES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hurricanes 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.

HURRICANES 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 'hurricane'?
3. What do you think of hurricanes?
4. How can people prepare for a hurricane?
5. What do you think it's like to experience a massive hurricane?
6. How can people recover from the devastation of a hurricane?
7. Would you evacuate if you knew a hurricane was coming?
8. Should there be a world hurricane recovery fund?
9. What are the differences between hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones?
10. How do hurricanes form?

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HURRICANES 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 'islands'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about the Caribbean?
15. Why don't governments prepare better for hurricanes?
16. What would 300kph winds do to a town?
17. What do meteorologists do every day?
18. What part does global warming playing play with hurricanes?
19. What happens during a storm surge?
20. What questions would you like to ask a meteorologist?

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/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A record-breaking hurricane is (1) _____ death and destruction as it passes through the Caribbean and (2) _____ towards the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused major (3) _____ across the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, said about 95 per cent of the buildings on the island had suffered some damage. He said: "It's (4) _____ devastation. The island is (5) _____ under water...Barbuda is barely habitable." A government official for St Martin said: "There is massive destruction. We'll concentrate our first efforts so that in the next hours, people can get (6) _____ to food and drinking water."

Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm - the strongest on the 1-5 (7) _____ of hurricanes. It is the second strongest hurricane ever to be recorded and the strongest ever recorded east (8) _____ the Caribbean Sea. Irma has kept a wind speed close to 300kph (9) _____ more than 24 hours. This is the longest period ever recorded. Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200km wide. It is (10) _____ to become a Category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a (11) _____ evacuation of Florida Keys - the southern part of the state of Florida. Residents there are bracing themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging storm (12) _____.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) caused | (b) causes | (c) causation | (d) causing |
| 2. | (a) headings | (b) headed | (c) heads | (d) headers |
| 3. | (a) devastates | (b) devastation | (c) devastating | (d) devastate |
| 4. | (a) resolved | (b) absolved | (c) resolute | (d) absolute |
| 5. | (a) literally | (b) literal | (c) literary | (d) literature |
| 6. | (a) progress | (b) excess | (c) recess | (d) access |
| 7. | (a) level | (b) scale | (c) ratio | (d) rank |
| 8. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) of |
| 9. | (a) far | (b) from | (c) for | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) likeable | (b) likely | (c) liked | (d) liking |
| 11. | (a) mandates | (b) mandate | (c) mandated | (d) mandatory |
| 12. | (a) purges | (b) urges | (c) surges | (d) verges |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

Paragraph 1

1. causing death and otdsricutne
2. caused major nsoaveitdat
3. The island is yalrlliet under water
4. Barbuda is barely hiaebbta
5. We'll erctenotcna our first efforts
6. get asscce to food

Paragraph 2

7. a ecoyatrg 5 storm
8. stotoreeisgolm said Hurricane Irma was...
9. when it makes ldaafnll in Florida
10. a mandatory tæuovniac of Florida Keys
11. Residents there are iargnbc themselves
12. damaging storm uesrgs

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a mandatory
- () destruction. We'll concentrate our first efforts so that in the next hours, people can get access to food and drinking water."
- () speed close to 300kph for more than 24 hours. This is the longest period ever recorded. Meteorologists
- () devastation across the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the
- () evacuation of Florida Keys - the southern part of the state of Florida. Residents there are bracing
- () the Caribbean and heads towards the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused major
- () British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, said about 95 per cent of the buildings on the island had
- (**1**) A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction as it passes through
- () said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200km wide. It is likely to become a Category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall
- () Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale of hurricanes. It is the second strongest hurricane
- () themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging storm surges.
- () water...Barbuda is barely habitable." A government official for St Martin said: "There is massive
- () ever to be recorded and the strongest ever recorded east of the Caribbean Sea. Irma has kept a wind
- () suffered some damage. He said: "It's absolute devastation. The island is literally under

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

1. is and record hurricane death A breaking causing destruction - .
2. caused Irma islands Caribbean the across devastation major .
3. the on buildings the of per cent 95 About suffered had island .
4. water island under is The literally .
5. to People food can and get drinking access water .
6. scale The the 1-5 hurricanes on of strongest .
7. ever recorded the hurricane be is strongest to It second .
8. wind Irma speed has close kept to a 300kph .
9. mandatory Officials already a evacuation have ordered .
10. of bracing 300kph themselves Residents for there winds are .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and *destructive / destruction* as it passes through the Caribbean and *heads / headings* towards the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused *majority / major* devastation *across / crosses* the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, said about 95 per cent *on / of* the buildings on the island had suffered *sum / some* damage. He said: "It's *absolute / absolutely* devastation. The island is *literally / literal* under water....Barbuda is barely *habitable / habitation*." A government official for St Martin said: "There is massive destruction. We'll concentrate our first efforts so that in the next hours, people can get *excess / access* to food and drinking water."

Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the *strangest / strongest* on the 1-5 scale of *hurricane / hurricanes*. It is the second strongest hurricane *even / ever* to be recorded and the strongest ever *recording / recorded* east of the Caribbean Sea. Irma has kept a wind speed *close / closed* to 300kph for more than 24 hours. This is the longest period ever recorded. Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200km *width / wide*. It is likely to become a Category 4 hurricane when it *makes / takes* landfall in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a mandatory *evacuate / evacuation* of Florida Keys - the southern *part / partner* of the state of Florida. Residents there are bracing themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging storm *purges / surges*.

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/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

_ r _ c _ rd-br _ _ k _ ng h _ rr _ c _ n _ _ s c _ _ s _ ng d _ _ th _ nd
d _ str _ ct _ n _ s _ t p _ ss _ s thr _ _ gh th _ C _ r _ bb _ n _ nd
h _ _ ds t _ w _ rds th _ _ .S. st _ t _ _ f Fl _ r _ d _ . _ n Th _ rsd _ y,
H _ rr _ c _ n _ _ rm _ c _ _ s _ d m _ j _ r d _ v _ st _ t _ _ n _ cr _ ss th _
C _ r _ bb _ n _ _ sl _ nds _ f B _ rb _ d _ , St. M _ rt _ n, _ ng _ ll _
_ nd th _ Br _ t _ sh V _ rg _ n _ sl _ nds. Th _ Pr _ m _ M _ n _ st _ r
_ f B _ rb _ d _ , G _ st _ n Br _ wn _ , s _ _ d _ b _ _ t 95 p _ r _ c _ nt _ f
th _ b _ _ ld _ ngs _ n th _ _ sl _ nd h _ d _ s _ ff _ r _ d _ s _ m _
d _ m _ g _ . H _ s _ _ d: " _ t's _ bs _ l _ t _ d _ v _ st _ t _ _ n. Th _
_ sl _ nd _ s _ l _ t _ r _ lly _ nd _ r _ w _ t _ r...B _ rb _ d _ _ s _ b _ r _ ly
h _ b _ t _ bl _ ." _ g _ v _ rnm _ nt _ ff _ c _ _ l _ f _ r St M _ rt _ n s _ _ d:
"Th _ r _ _ s m _ ss _ v _ d _ str _ ct _ n. W _ 'll c _ nc _ ntr _ t _ _ r
f _ rst _ ff _ rts s _ th _ t _ n th _ n _ xt h _ _ rs, p _ _ pl _ c _ ng _ t
_ cc _ ss _ t _ f _ _ d _ nd dr _ nk _ ng w _ t _ r."

H _ rr _ c _ n _ _ rm _ _ s _ _ c _ t _ g _ ry 5 st _ rm - th _ str _ ng _ st
_ n th _ 1-5 sc _ l _ _ f h _ rr _ c _ n _ s. _ t _ s th _ s _ c _ nd
str _ ng _ st h _ rr _ c _ n _ _ v _ r _ t _ b _ _ r _ c _ rd _ d _ nd th _
str _ ng _ st _ v _ r _ r _ c _ rd _ d _ _ st _ f th _ C _ r _ bb _ n S _ _ .
_ rm _ h _ s k _ pt _ w _ nd sp _ _ d cl _ s _ t _ 300kph f _ r m _ r _
th _ n 24 h _ _ rs. Th _ s _ _ s th _ l _ ng _ st p _ r _ d _ v _ r
r _ c _ rd _ d. M _ t _ r _ l _ g _ sts s _ _ d H _ rr _ c _ n _ _ rm _ w _ s
_ v _ r 1,200km w _ d _ . _ t _ s _ l _ k _ ly t _ b _ c _ m _ _ C _ t _ g _ ry
4 h _ rr _ c _ n _ wh _ n _ t _ m _ k _ s l _ ndf _ ll _ n Fl _ r _ d _ _ n
S _ t _ rd _ y m _ rn _ ng. Fl _ r _ d _ _ ff _ c _ _ ls h _ v _ _ lr _ _ dy
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PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

a record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction as it passes through the caribbean and heads towards the us state of florida on thursday hurricane irma caused major devastation across the caribbean islands of barbuda st martin anguilla and the british virgin islands the prime minister of barbuda gaston browne said about 95 per cent of the buildings on the island had suffered some damage he said "it's absolute devastation the island is literally under water...barbuda is barely habitable" a government official for st martin said "there is massive destruction we'll concentrate our first efforts so that in the next hours people can get access to food and drinking water"

hurricane irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale of hurricanes it is the second strongest hurricane ever to be recorded and the strongest ever recorded east of the caribbean sea irma has kept a wind speed close to 300kph for more than 24 hours this is the longest period ever recorded meteorologists said hurricane irma was over 1200km wide it is likely to become a category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall in florida on saturday morning florida officials have already ordered a mandatory evacuation of florida keys - the southern part of the state of florida residents there are bracing themselves for winds of up to 300kph and massive and damaging storm surges

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A record-breaking hurricane is causing death and destruction as it passes through the Caribbean and heads toward the U.S. state of Florida. On Thursday, Hurricane Irma caused major devastation across the Caribbean islands of Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands. The Prime Minister of Barbuda, Gaston Browne, said about 95 percent of the buildings on the island had suffered some damage. He said: "It's absolute devastation. The island is literally underwater... Barbuda is barely habitable." A government official for St. Martin said: "There is massive destruction. We'll concentrate our first efforts so that in the next hours people can get access to food and drinking water." Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm – the strongest on the 1-5 scale of hurricanes. It is the second strongest hurricane ever to be recorded and the strongest ever recorded east of the Caribbean Sea. Irma has kept a wind speed close to 300 kph for more than 24 hours. This is the longest period ever recorded. Meteorologists said Hurricane Irma was over 1,200 km wide. It is likely to become a Category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall in Florida on Saturday morning. Florida officials have already ordered a mandatory evacuation of Florida Keys – the southern part of the state of Florida. Residents there are bracing themselves for winds of up to 300 kph and massive and damaging storm surges.

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

Write about **hurricanes** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170909-hurricane-irma.html>

A hurricane is the scariest of all natural disasters. Discuss.

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

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

4. HURRICANE-PROOF: Write a magazine article about all buildings in hurricane-prone areas being built to survive in any hurricane. 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 hurricanes. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to better prepare for a hurricane. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. causing | a. leading to |
| 2. heads | b. moves |
| 3. devastation | c. destruction |
| 4. absolute | d. total |
| 5. concentrate | e. focus |
| 6. scale | f. spectrum |
| 7. recorded | g. registered |
| 8. meteorologists | h. weather forecasters |
| 9. mandatory | i. compulsory |
| 10. massive | j. enormous |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Florida
2. Four
3. 95%
4. Water
5. Food and water
6. One
7. 1,200km
8. Saturday morning
9. Evacuate
10. A storm surge

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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