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Level 1 – 9th November, 2019

Typhoon-damaged bullet trains scrapped in Japan

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191109-shinkansen-bullet-trains-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191109-shinkansen-bullet-trains-1.html>

Ten of Japan's bullet trains were destroyed when a typhoon hit Japan in October. The typhoon caused great damage. There were many photos of the bullet trains lined up next to each other. They were deep in water after a river burst its banks. The trains ran between Tokyo and the Sea of Japan coast. The line is now running just 80 per cent of its normal services. The bullet train company hopes to run a full service again by the end of March 2020.

Bullet trains are called Shinkansen in Japan. They started in 1964. They are a symbol of Japan and were the world's fastest trains. They travel at 320kph. The bullet train rail network covers 2,764km. A Shinkansen president said the damage was around \$135 million. He said the floodwater damaged motors and brakes. He added: "For stability and safety, we [will] replace the trains with newly built ones instead of repairing them."

Sources: https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20191106_37/
<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2019/11/4e7dfd267c83-all-10-typhoon-flooded-shinkansen-bullet-trains-to-be-scrapped.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-50323239>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinkansen>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191109-shinkansen-bullet-trains-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a typhoon hit Japan in | a. company |
| 2. the bullet trains lined up | b. its banks |
| 3. after a river burst | c. March 2020 |
| 4. between Tokyo and the Sea | d. next to each other |
| 5. 80 per cent of | e. again |
| 6. The bullet train | f. of Japan coast |
| 7. run a full service | g. October |
| 8. by the end of | h. its normal services |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Bullet trains are called Shinkansen | a. \$135 million |
| 2. They travel | b. built ones |
| 3. The bullet train rail | c. at 320kph |
| 4. the damage was around | d. repairing them |
| 5. floodwater damaged motors | e. network |
| 6. For stability | f. and brakes |
| 7. replace the trains with newly | g. in Japan |
| 8. instead of | h. and safety |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191109-shinkansen-bullet-trains-1.html>

Ten of Japan's bullet trains (1) _____ a typhoon hit Japan in October. The typhoon (2) _____. There were many photos of the bullet trains (3) _____ to each other. They were deep in water after a river (4) _____. The trains ran between Tokyo and the Sea of Japan coast. The line is now running just 80 per cent of (5) _____. The bullet train company hopes to run a (6) _____ by the end of March 2020.

Bullet (7) _____ Shinkansen in Japan. They started in 1964. They (8) _____ of Japan and were the world's fastest trains. They travel at 320kph. The bullet train (9) _____ 2,764km. A Shinkansen president said the damage was around \$135 million. He said the floodwater damaged (10) _____. He added: "For stability and safety, we (11) _____ trains with newly built ones (12) _____ them."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191109-shinkansen-bullet-trains-1.html>

Ten of Japan's bullet trains were destroyed when a typhoon hit Japan in October. The typhoon caused great damage. There were many photos of the bullet trains lined up next to each other. They were deep in water after a river burst its banks. The trains ran between Tokyo and the Sea of Japan coast. The line is now running just 80 percent of its normal services. The bullet train company hopes to run a full service again by the end of March 2020. Bullet trains are called Shinkansen in Japan. They started in 1964. They are a symbol of Japan and were the world's fastest trains. They travel at 320 kmph. The bullet train rail network covers 2,764 km. A Shinkansen president said the damage was around \$135 million. He said the flood water damaged motors and brakes. He added: "For stability and safety, we [will] replace the trains with newly built ones instead of repairing them."

BULLET TRAINS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191109-shinkansen-bullet-trains-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bullet trains in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

