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**Level 4 – 9th December, 2019**

## **Sydney bush fires combine to form 'mega-fire'**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

Australian fire-fighters are battling the worst bushfire they have seen. They dubbed it a "mega-fire". Eight different fires combined an hour's drive north of Sydney. The gigantic blaze is endangering tens of thousands of homes in its path. It is burning across a huge swath of land and is roughly 60km wide. Officials say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. They said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will keep burning until conditions ease."

The spread of the fires was made worse by a long drought. It is very early for forests to be so dry. Officials said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already seen the horrific consequences of fire." Sydney is covered in choking, poisonous smoke. Residents received advice about exercising outside. They say it is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and frail at the moment."

Sources: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/australia-bushfires-combine-form-mega-fire-north-sydney-191206074513633.html>  
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/another-tough-day-nsw-firefighters-battling-city-sized-inferno-20191207-p53hs3.html>  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-07/how-rfs-are-tackling-nsw-mega-fire-bigger-than-sydney/11776874>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. They dubbed it                | a. these fires     |
| 2. an hour's drive               | b. a "mega-fire"   |
| 3. endangering tens of thousands | c. conditions ease |
| 4. burning across a              | d. of homes        |
| 5. burning out                   | e. to contain      |
| 6. too vast                      | f. north of Sydney |
| 7. We cannot stop                | g. of control      |
| 8. They will keep burning until  | h. huge swath      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. the fires was made worse by      | a. "unprecedented" |
| 2. a tough couple of months         | b. a long drought  |
| 3. Sydney is covered in choking,    | c. the moment      |
| 4. Residents received               | d. ahead           |
| 5. exercising                       | e. tested          |
| 6. They say it is                   | f. advice          |
| 7. Peoples' emotions are very, very | g. outside         |
| 8. frail at                         | h. poisonous smoke |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

Australian fire-fighters are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ bushfire they have seen. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ "mega-fire". Eight different fires combined an hour's drive north of Sydney. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ endangering tens of thousands of homes (4) \_\_\_\_\_. It is burning across a huge swath of land (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 60km wide. Officials say it is burning out of control and is too vast to contain. They said: "We cannot stop these fires. They will keep burning (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The spread of the fires was made worse by (7) \_\_\_\_\_. It is very early for forests to (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Officials said: "There's a tough couple of months ahead and we've already (9) \_\_\_\_\_ consequences of fire." Sydney is (10) \_\_\_\_\_, poisonous smoke. Residents received advice (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They say it is "unprecedented". An official said: "Peoples' emotions are very, very tested and frail (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

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# BUSHFIRES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191209-sydney-bushfires-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bushfires 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) \_\_\_\_\_

