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Level 2

Shoppers in Venezuela to be fingerprinted

25th August, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages-2.html>

There are food shortages in Venezuela. People cannot buy basic goods. Too many people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's like panic buying. The president will start a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers will have to scan their fingerprints when they buy food at stores and supermarkets. This is so people buy an equal share of food. The president did not say when the new system would start. People close to him say it could be January. No one knows how much food people can buy or what happens if they buy too much.

There are many reasons for the food shortages. The government says smugglers are buying cheap food and reselling it in Colombia for up to four times their original price. Another reason is that the government controls food prices. Food companies say they cannot make a profit, so they do not produce much. A final reason is the weakness of Venezuela's currency. This makes it expensive to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy. They say the economy needs to change and that the government needs to have less control.

Sources: <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/08/22/venezuela-wants-to-fingerprint-grocery-shoppers-to-control-how-much-food-by/>
<http://www.biometricupdate.com/201408/venezuela-government-looking-to-biometrics-to-prevent-food-smuggling>
<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2349150&CategoryId=10717>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. There are food | a. fingerprints |
| 2. panic | b. to him |
| 3. a new | c. say when |
| 4. scan their | d. shortages in Venezuela |
| 5. people buy an equal | e. buying |
| 6. The president did not | f. buy too much |
| 7. People close | g. system |
| 8. what happens if they | h. share of food |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. There are many | a. currency |
| 2. smugglers are buying | b. their original price |
| 3. for up to four times | c. import food |
| 4. the government controls | d. cheap food |
| 5. they cannot make a | e. privacy |
| 6. the weakness of Venezuela's | f. reasons |
| 7. expensive to | g. profit |
| 8. fingerprinting takes away people's | h. food prices |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages-2.html>

There (1) _____ in Venezuela. People cannot buy basic goods. Too many people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's (2) _____. The president will (3) _____ to stop people buying too much. Shoppers will have to (4) _____ when they buy food at stores and supermarkets. This is so (5) _____ share of food. The president did not say when the new system would start. People close to him say it could be January. No (6) _____ food people can buy or what happens if they buy too much.

There are many reasons for (7) _____. The government says smugglers are buying cheap food and reselling it in Colombia for up to four times (8) _____. Another reason is that the government (9) _____. Food companies say they cannot make a profit, so they do not produce much. A (10) _____ weakness of Venezuela's currency. This makes it (11) _____ food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy. They say the economy needs to change and that the government needs to (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages-2.html>

There are food shortages in Venezuela. People cannot buy basic goods. Too many people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's like panic buying. The president will start a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers will have to scan their fingerprints when they buy food at stores and supermarkets. This is so people buy an equal share of food. The president did not say when the new system would start. People close to him say it could be in January. No one knows how much food people can buy or what happens if they buy too much. There are many reasons for the food shortages. The government says smugglers are buying cheap food and reselling it in Colombia for up to four times their original price. Another reason is that the government controls food prices. Food companies say they cannot make a profit, so they do not produce much. A final reason is the weakness of Venezuela's currency. This makes it expensive to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy. They say the economy needs to change and that the government needs to have less control.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140825-food-shortages-2.html>

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