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Level 5

Egypt opens extension of Suez Canal

9th August, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal-5.html>

Contents

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| The Reading | 2 |
| Matching | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| Survey | 5 |
| Discussion | 6 |
| Writing | 7 |

Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal-5.html>

Egypt's President Sisi has attended a ceremony to open an extension of the Suez Canal. The original canal was built in 1869. It took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was built in 12 months. It beat predictions by experts that it would take five years. The canal is a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed up the canal in his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, to attend the opening. The yacht was the first ship to officially sail through the original canal a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi said the new canal is Egypt's "gift to the world".

Egypt's government hopes the canal will be a much-needed boost for the economy. The head of the Suez Canal Authority said it was important to ensure Egypt earned money from its waterways in the future. He said: "If I can't handle this and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative routes will emerge." He hopes revenue will increase from \$5.3 billion now to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic must grow from the current 49 ships per day to 97 by 2023. This needs a nine per cent increase in global trade. Some economists doubt whether these figures can be met.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/egypt/11787279/Egypt-launches-new-Suez-Canal-celebration.html>
<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2015/08/06/egypt-seeks-to-boost-economy-through-expansion-of-suez-canal/>
<http://www.albawaba.com/business/suez-canal-inauguration-kickstarts-new-way-trade-egypt-727878>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. attended a | a. half ago |
| 2. The original canal was | b. his presidential yacht |
| 3. It beat predictions | c. the original canal |
| 4. a passageway between the Mediterranean | d. to the world |
| 5. sailed up the canal in | e. and Red seas |
| 6. the first ship to officially sail through | f. built in 1869 |
| 7. a century-and-a- | g. ceremony |
| 8. Egypt's gift | h. by experts |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. a much-needed | a. 49 ships per day |
| 2. important to ensure Egypt | b. in global trade |
| 3. If I can't | c. earned money |
| 4. turn it into | d. figures can be met |
| 5. alternative routes | e. boost for the economy |
| 6. shipping traffic must grow from the current | f. handle this |
| 7. a nine per cent increase | g. will emerge |
| 8. economists doubt whether these | h. revenue |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal-5.html>

Egypt's President Sisi has (1) _____ to open an extension of the Suez Canal. The original (2) _____ 1869. It took 10 years to build. The new, \$8.5 billion canal was built in 12 months. It beat predictions by experts (3) _____ five years. The canal is a passageway between the Mediterranean and Red seas. President Sisi sailed (4) _____ his presidential yacht, the El Mahrousa, to attend the opening. The yacht was the first (5) _____ sail through the original canal a century-and-a-half ago. President Sisi said the new canal is Egypt's "(6) _____".

Egypt's government hopes the canal will (7) _____ boost for the economy. (8) _____ Suez Canal Authority said it was important to ensure Egypt earned money from its waterways in the future. He said: "If I (9) _____ and turn it into revenue for the Egyptian treasury, alternative (10) _____." He hopes revenue will increase from \$5.3 billion now to \$13.2 billion by 2023. That means shipping traffic (11) _____ the current 49 ships per day to 97 by 2023. This needs a nine per cent increase in global trade. Some economists doubt whether (12) _____ be met.

CANALS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about canals 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)

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)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150809-suez-canal-5.html>

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