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## **Level 4**

### **Fast-growing weed covering Australian town**

**20th February, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-4.html>

## **Contents**

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

Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-4.html>

A weed is a big problem in the small Australian town of Wangaratta, Victoria. The weed is called "hairy panic" and it is burying homes and buildings in the town. Hairy panic is a grass that grows everywhere in Australia. The dead grass gathers in large bundles, which are blown across the land. There is a lot of it in the town. It is piled as high as the roof with some houses, so people cannot reach their homes. It looks like a scene from a horror movie.

Many residents have left town until the weed has gone. They are tired of spending hours a day clearing piles of dead grass from their gardens. It is a battle to fight through the weeds to get into their home. One resident said the weed was "mentally draining". Another resident said it was difficult to find his car in the morning. However, he called it, "a first-world problem". He said: "We don't put it on the scale of any of the famine or poverty going on in the world."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-35600546>  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-18/giant-tumbleweeds-invade-wangaratta/7181600>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/australia/12162443/Australian-town-Wangaratta-in-Victoria-blanketed-by-hairy-panic-tumbleweed.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. The weed is called "hairy panic" and it | a. as the roof              |
| 2. a grass that grows                      | b. gathers in large bundles |
| 3. The dead grass                          | c. everywhere               |
| 4. blown across                            | d. their homes              |
| 5. There is a lot of                       | e. is burying homes         |
| 6. It is piled as high                     | f. a horror movie           |
| 7. people cannot reach                     | g. the land                 |
| 8. a scene from                            | h. it in the town           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Many residents have        | a. hours a day       |
| 2. They are tired of spending | b. scale             |
| 3. clearing piles             | c. draining          |
| 4. a battle to fight          | d. on in the world   |
| 5. mentally                   | e. through the weeds |
| 6. a first-                   | f. left town         |
| 7. put it on the              | g. world problem     |
| 8. famine or poverty going    | h. of dead grass     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-4.html>

A weed is a big (1) \_\_\_\_\_ small Australian town of Wangaratta, Victoria. The weed is called "hairy panic" (2) \_\_\_\_\_ homes and buildings in the town. Hairy panic is a grass that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia. The dead grass gathers in large bundles, which are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the land. There is a lot of it in the town. It is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the roof with some houses, so people cannot reach their homes. It looks (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from a horror movie.

Many residents (7) \_\_\_\_\_ until the weed has gone. They are tired of spending hours a day (8) \_\_\_\_\_ dead grass from their gardens. It is a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ through the weeds to get into their home. One resident said the weed was "(10) \_\_\_\_\_". Another resident said it was difficult to find his car in the morning. However, he called it, "(11) \_\_\_\_\_". He said: "We don't put it (12) \_\_\_\_\_ any of the famine or poverty going on in the world."

# PANIC SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160220-hairy-panic-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about panic 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)

