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**Level 2 – 2nd February, 2019**

## Deadly polar vortex freezes mid-America

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-2.html>

A lot of America is in the middle of a deadly cold snap. Many states from the north to the south have freezing temperatures. This hasn't happened for decades. It is currently colder in some parts of the USA than in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of a polar vortex. This is freezing air and wind from the Arctic. The government has declared a state of emergency in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have closed because of the extreme cold. People were warned not to travel, and even not to go outside or breathe in the icy air.

A weather website said that the temperature in one part of Minnesota fell to a real-feel  $-60^{\circ}$  Celsius. Many parts of the Chicago River and Niagara Falls turned to ice. Parts of Lake Michigan froze over. The big freeze is responsible for the deaths of at least eight people. Health officials are telling people to go outside only if it is necessary. They warned that letting the freezing air get on the skin was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People were also told to be careful when shoveling snow outside. People should be careful of snow and ice falling from the roof.

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/us/extreme-cold-weather.html>  
<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/427652-how-dangerous-and-historic-is-the-polar-vortex-hitting-the-midwest>  
<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/75-below-zero-polar-vortex-yields-deadly-cold-as-thousands-endure-power-cuts-travel-issues-mount-in-midwest/70007291>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. in the middle of a           | a. outside             |
| 2. Many states from the         | b. of emergency        |
| 3. The cold spell is because of | c. of the extreme cold |
| 4. declared a state             | d. icy air             |
| 5. closed because               | e. north to the south  |
| 6. People were warned not       | f. deadly cold snap    |
| 7. not to go                    | g. a polar vortex      |
| 8. breathe in the               | h. to travel           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. the temperature in one    | a. be careful        |
| 2. Lake Michigan froze       | b. problems          |
| 3. The big freeze is         | c. from the roof     |
| 4. letting the freezing air  | d. over              |
| 5. breathing                 | e. get on the skin   |
| 6. be careful when shoveling | f. part of Minnesota |
| 7. People should             | g. responsible       |
| 8. snow and ice falling      | h. snow outside      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-2.html>

A lot of America is in (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a deadly cold snap. Many states from the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ south have freezing temperatures. This hasn't happened for decades. It is currently colder (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the USA than in Antarctica. The cold spell is because of a polar vortex. This is freezing (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from the Arctic. The government has declared a state (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Many schools and businesses have closed because of the extreme cold. People were warned not to travel, and even not to go (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the icy air.

A weather website said that the temperature (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of Minnesota fell to a real-feel -60° Celsius. Many (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago River and Niagara Falls turned to ice. Parts of Lake Michigan froze over. The big freeze is responsible for the deaths (9) \_\_\_\_\_ eight people. Health officials are telling people to go outside only if it is necessary. They (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the freezing air get on the skin was dangerous. It could lead to frostbite or breathing problems. People (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to be careful when shoveling snow outside. People should be careful of snow and ice falling (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-2.html>

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# FREEZING WEATHER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1902/190202-polar-vortex-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Freezing weather 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) \_\_\_\_\_

