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Level 1 – 21st November, 2019

Onion emergency in Bangladesh

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-1.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-1.html>

Onions are important in Bangladesh food, but it is difficult to buy them. There is a shortage. Prices have gone up a lot, from US36 cents to around \$3.25 a kilo. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Many Bangladeshis cannot afford them. Bangladesh usually imports them from India. Recent heavy rain in India damaged a lot of its onion harvest. India banned exports to Bangladesh. There may be nationwide protests because of the record onion prices.

The onion crisis is very serious. The Prime Minister stopped using onions in her cooking. She is using other things. Some onions are on sale at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queued for hours to buy one kilo. One person said he would stand for longer to save some money. A Dhaka resident said her neighbours have stopped eating onions. She last bought a kilo of onions 15 days ago. Street-food sellers cannot make onion-based snacks.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/18/bangladesh-flies-in-planeloads-of-onions-amid-national-outcry-over-shortage>
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1517352>
<https://bdnews24.com/lifestyle/2019/11/18/soaring-onion-prices-force-many-to-twist-their-taste-buds-in-dhaka>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. it is difficult to | a. to Bangladesh |
| 2. There is a | b. in India |
| 3. This is nearly a ten- | c. prices |
| 4. Recent heavy rain | d. shortage |
| 5. damaged a lot of its onion | e. protests |
| 6. India banned exports | f. fold increase |
| 7. nationwide | g. harvest |
| 8. record onion | h. buy them |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The onion crisis is very | a. eating onions |
| 2. using onions | b. snacks |
| 3. on sale at twice | c. serious |
| 4. save some | d. food sellers |
| 5. her neighbours have stopped | e. their usual price |
| 6. She last bought a | f. money |
| 7. Street- | g. in her cooking |
| 8. onion-based | h. kilo of onions |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-1.html>

Onions (1) _____ Bangladesh food, but it is difficult to buy them. There (2) _____. Prices have gone up a lot, from US36 cents to around \$3.25 a kilo. This is (3) _____ increase. Many Bangladeshis cannot afford them. Bangladesh (4) _____ from India. Recent heavy rain in India (5) _____ of its onion harvest. India banned exports to Bangladesh. There may be nationwide protests because (6) _____ onion prices.

The (7) _____ very serious. The Prime Minister stopped using onions (8) _____. She is using other things. Some onions are (9) _____ twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queued for hours to buy one kilo. One person said he would (10) _____ to save some money. A Dhaka resident said her neighbours have stopped eating onions. She last (11) _____ of onions 15 days ago. (12) _____ cannot make onion-based snacks.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-1.html>

Onions are important in Bangladesh food, but it is difficult to buy them. There is a shortage. Prices have gone up a lot, from US 36 cents to around \$3.25 a kilo. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Many Bangladeshis cannot afford them. Bangladesh usually imports them from India. Recent heavy rain in India damaged a lot of its onion harvest. India banned exports to Bangladesh. There may be nationwide protests because of the record onion prices. The onion crisis is very serious. The Prime Minister stopped using onions in her cooking. She is using other things. Some onions are on sale at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queued for hours to buy one kilo. One person said he would stand for long to save some money. A Dhaka resident said her neighbours have stopped eating onions. She last bought a kilo of onions 15 days ago. Street-food sellers cannot make onion-based snacks.

ONIONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about onions 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) _____

