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**Level 3 – 21st November, 2019**

## Onion emergency in Bangladesh

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

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

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Onions are very important in Bangladeshi cuisine. The vegetable is a staple in the country's cooking. However, many people are finding it difficult to buy onions. There is a shortage of them, which means prices have rocketed. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent heavy monsoon rains in India damaged a lot of India's onion harvest. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram of onions in Bangladeshi markets has risen from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests over the record prices.

The onion crisis is so serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her cooking. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives in her dishes. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queue for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even if I have to stand another two hours, I will do that. I can save some money. I have never seen onion prices this high." A Dhaka resident said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days since I bought one kilo of onion." Many street-food sellers can no longer make their 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. ONIONS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about onions. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

onions / cuisine / vegetable / cooking / import / Bangladesh / India / opposition / crisis / dishes / on sale / queue / one kilo / two hours / money / 15 days / snacks

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. THE BEST:** Students A **strongly** believe onions are the best vegetables in the world; Students B **strongly** believe they aren't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. LIVE WITHOUT:** Can you live without these things? How would life be different? What alternatives are there? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Can You Live Without It?	How Life Would Be Different	Alternatives
Onions			
Smartphones			
Chocolate			
Music			
Plastic			
A hair brush			

**5. PRICE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "price". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. VEGETABLES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- onions
- potatoes
- garlic
- carrots
- broccoli
- pumpkin
- sweet corn
- Brussels sprouts

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1. cuisine  | a. All of the fruit, vegetables, wheat, rice, etc., gathered from the fields at certain times of the year.                    |
| 2. staple   | b. A main or important part of what a country eats (e.g. bread, rice, pasta, etc.).   |
| 3. shortage | c. Increased very, very quickly and suddenly.   |
| 4. rocketed | d. A style or method of cooking, from a particular country, region, or restaurant.  |
| 5. import   | e. An organized event in which many people go into the streets because they are angry about the government or something else. |
| 6. harvest  | f. A state or situation in which there is not enough of something needed.   |
| 7. protest  | g. Bring goods or services into a country from another country for sale.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. crisis         | h. Stand in a line of people to wait for something to happen.            |
| 9. alternative    | i. A particular variety or kind of cooked food served as part of a meal. |
| 10. dish          | j. An area in a town or city, especially one that has a community.       |
| 11. queue         | k. A time of great difficulty, trouble, or danger.                       |
| 12. resident      | l. Available as another possibility.                                     |
| 13. neighbourhood | m. A small meal or food that is eaten quickly or in a casual way.        |
| 14. snack         | n. A person who lives somewhere permanently or on a long-term basis.     |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Onions are a staple in Bangladeshi cuisine. **T / F**
- b. The article said Bangladesh is importing onions from Iran. **T / F**
- c. The price of onions has increased nearly ten-fold in Bangladesh. **T / F**
- d. The opposition party in Bangladesh has asked people to protest. **T / F**
- e. Bangladesh's Prime Minister is still cooking her meals using onions. **T / F**
- f. Some onions are on sale in markets in Dhaka for double the usual price. **T / F**
- g. A Dhaka resident said she hadn't bought onions in over two weeks. **T / F**
- h. Street-food sellers still have enough onions to make their snacks. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>cuisine</b>      | a. scarcity       |
| 2. <b>shortage</b>     | b. nibbles        |
| 3. <b>damaged</b>      | c. emergency      |
| 4. <b>increase</b>     | d. ruined         |
| 5. <b>protests</b>     | e. substitutes    |
| 6. <b>crisis</b>       | f. wait in line   |
| 7. <b>alternatives</b> | g. rise           |
| 8. <b>queue</b>        | h. local          |
| 9. <b>resident</b>     | i. food           |
| 10. <b>snacks</b>      | j. demonstrations |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Onions are very important                     | a. shortage of them       |
| 2. The vegetable is a staple in                  | b. in her neighbourhood   |
| 3. There is a                                    | c. over the record prices |
| 4. Recent heavy monsoon                          | d. her dishes             |
| 5. nationwide protests                           | e. the country's cooking  |
| 6. she is using onion alternatives in            | f. onion-based snacks     |
| 7. A limited                                     | g. usual price            |
| 8. twice their                                   | h. in Bangladeshi cuisine |
| 9. a lot of people                               | i. rains in India         |
| 10. street-food sellers can no longer make their | j. number of onions       |

# GAP FILL

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

Onions are very important in Bangladeshi (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The vegetable is a staple in the country's cooking. However, many people are finding it difficult to buy onions. There is a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of them, which means prices have rocketed. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent heavy monsoon (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in India damaged a lot of India's onion (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram of onions in Bangladeshi markets has (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-(7) \_\_\_\_\_ increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests over the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ prices.

*risen*  
*shortage*  
*rains*  
*record*  
*cuisine*  
*fold*  
*harvest*  
*afford*

The onion (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is so serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her cooking. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives in her (10) \_\_\_\_\_. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets at (11) \_\_\_\_\_ their usual price. Hundreds of people (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even if I have to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ another two hours, I will do that. I can save some money. I have never seen onion prices this high." A Dhaka (14) \_\_\_\_\_ said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days (15) \_\_\_\_\_ I bought one kilo of onion." Many street-food sellers can no longer make their onion-based (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*queue*  
*crisis*  
*snacks*  
*stand*  
*dishes*  
*since*  
*twice*  
*resident*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Onions are very important in Bangladeshi cuisine. The vegetable \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. is a staple
  - b. is a stable
  - c. is a sable
  - d. is a stubble
- 2) There is a shortage of them, which means prices \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. have rocket it
  - b. have rock kitted
  - c. have rock it tide
  - d. have rocketed
- 3) Recent heavy monsoon rains in India damaged a lot of India's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. onion invest
  - b. onion harvest
  - c. onion hair vest
  - d. onion hard vest
- 4) risen from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. ten-filed increase
  - b. ten-fold increase
  - c. ten-felt increase
  - d. ten-folds increase
- 5) Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests over \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the records prices
  - b. the recorded prices
  - c. the recording prices
  - d. the record prices
- 6) The onion crisis is so serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in her cook in
  - b. in her cook king
  - c. in her cook kin
  - d. in her cooking
- 7) Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in her dish is
  - b. in her dished
  - c. in her dishes
  - d. in her dish this
- 8) twice their usual price. Hundreds of people \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. queue four hours
  - b. queue for hours
  - c. queue of hours
  - d. queue from hours
- 9) I can save some money. I have never seen onion \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. price is this high
  - b. prices this nigh
  - c. prices this high
  - d. price is this nigh
- 10) Many street-food sellers can no longer make their \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. onion-based snacks
  - b. onion-baste snacks
  - c. onion-boasted snacks
  - d. onion-beast snacks

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Onions are very important (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The vegetable is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the country's cooking. However, many people are finding it difficult to buy onions. There is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ them, which means prices have rocketed. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in India damaged a lot of India's onion harvest. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram of onions in Bangladeshi (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide (6) \_\_\_\_\_ record prices.

The onion (7) \_\_\_\_\_ serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her cooking. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives (8) \_\_\_\_\_. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets (9) \_\_\_\_\_ usual price. Hundreds of people queue for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even if I (10) \_\_\_\_\_ another two hours, I will do that. I can save some money. I have never seen onion prices this high." A Dhaka (11) \_\_\_\_\_ lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days since I bought one kilo of onion." Many street-food sellers can (12) \_\_\_\_\_ their onion-based snacks.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Where did the article say onions were important?
2. What has happened to the price of onions in Bangladesh?
3. Where does Bangladesh traditionally import onions from?
4. What has the price of a kilo of onions risen to in Bangladesh?
5. What has the opposition party called for?
6. Who has stopped using onions in her cooking?
7. How many people queued for onions for hours at a Dhaka market?
8. What did an English teacher say he wanted to save?
9. How long is it since a Dhaka resident has bought onions?
10. What can't street-food sellers sell?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Where did the article say onions were important?
  - a) in international cookery
  - b) in the countryside
  - c) in Bangladeshi culture
  - d) in vegan cuisine
- 2) What has happened to the price of onions in Bangladesh?
  - a) it has rocketed
  - b) it has tanked
  - c) it has gone through the roof
  - d) it has plummeted
- 3) Where does Bangladesh traditionally import onions from?
  - a) India
  - b) Iran
  - c) Turkey
  - d) Pakistan
- 4) What has the price of a kilo of onions risen to in Bangladesh?
  - a) \$4.25
  - b) \$3.25
  - c) \$5.25
  - d) \$2.25
- 5) What has the opposition party called for?
  - a) free food
  - b) onion growing
  - c) onion seeds
  - d) nationwide protests
- 6) Who has stopped using onions in her cooking?
  - a) a top chef
  - b) Bangladesh's Prime Minister
  - c) a teacher
  - d) a vegetarian
- 7) How many people queued for onions for hours at a Dhaka market?
  - a) hundreds
  - b) tens of thousands
  - c) thousands
  - d) hundreds of thousands
- 8) What did an English teacher say he wanted to save?
  - a) onions
  - b) recipes
  - c) money
  - d) Bangladesh
- 9) How long is it since a Dhaka resident has bought onions?
  - a) 15 minutes
  - b) 15 weeks
  - c) 15 hours
  - d) 15 days
- 10) What can't street-food sellers sell?
  - a) onion-based snacks
  - b) spare onions
  - c) onion seeds
  - d) samosas

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Onions**

You think onion is the best vegetable. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vegetables. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potatoes, corn or garlic.

## **Role B – Potatoes**

You think potato is the best vegetable. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vegetables. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): onions, corn or garlic.

## **Role C –Corn**

You think corn the best vegetable. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vegetables. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potatoes, onions or garlic.

## **Role D – Garlic**

You think garlic the best vegetable. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vegetables. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potatoes, corn or onions.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'onion' and 'emergency'.

<b>onion</b>	<b>emergency</b>
--------------	------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cuisine</li><li>• difficult</li><li>• heavy</li><li>• ban</li><li>• markets</li><li>• ten</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• serious</li><li>• limited</li><li>• hours</li><li>• stand</li><li>• resident</li><li>• longer</li></ul>
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# ONIONS SURVEY

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

# ONIONS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'onion'?
3. What do you think of onions?
4. How important are onions in your country's cuisine?
5. How would you describe the taste of onions?
6. What can you do with onions in cooking?
7. How unhappy would you be without onions?
8. What would you do if food prices rocketed?
9. What do you know about Bangladeshi food?
10. Are people right to protest in the streets about onion prices?

*Onion emergency in Bangladesh – 21st November, 2019*  
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# ONIONS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'emergency'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What alternatives are there to onions?
15. What is your favourite onion dish?
16. Are onions best raw or cooked?
17. How long would you queue for food?
18. What food could you not live without?
19. What is your favourite street food?
20. What questions would you like to ask a Bangladeshi?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Onions are very (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Bangladeshi cuisine. The vegetable is a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the country's cooking. However, many people are finding it difficult to buy onions. There is a shortage of them, which means prices have (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent heavy monsoon rains in India damaged a lot of India's onion (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram of onions in Bangladeshi markets has (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the record prices.

The onion crisis is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her cooking. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives in her (8) \_\_\_\_\_. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even if I have to stand another two hours, I will do that. I can save (10) \_\_\_\_\_ money. I have never seen onion prices this high." A Dhaka (11) \_\_\_\_\_ said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days since I bought one kilo of onion." Many street-food sellers can no longer make their onion-(12) \_\_\_\_\_ snacks.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                 |              |                |               |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) importantly | (b) import   | (c) importance | (d) important |
| 2.  | (a) stubble     | (b) stable   | (c) stumble    | (d) staple    |
| 3.  | (a) bussed      | (b) rocketed | (c) shipped    | (d) trained   |
| 4.  | (a) majority    | (b) tablet   | (c) harvest    | (d) policy    |
| 5.  | (a) arisen      | (b) rising   | (c) risen      | (d) rose      |
| 6.  | (a) over        | (b) above    | (c) higher     | (d) upper     |
| 7.  | (a) really      | (b) so       | (c) true       | (d) every     |
| 8.  | (a) dishes      | (b) saucers  | (c) trays      | (d) spoons    |
| 9.  | (a) cues        | (b) queues   | (c) clues      | (d) cubes     |
| 10. | (a) many        | (b) lots     | (c) some       | (d) loads     |
| 11. | (a) spice       | (b) kind     | (c) resident   | (d) treat     |
| 12. | (a) baste       | (b) boast    | (c) beast      | (d) based     |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. Bangladeshi euicnsi
2. The vegetable is a plstea in the country's cooking
3. There is a oerahstg of them
4. Bangladesh traditionally mosiptr onions
5. damaged a lot of India's onion rteahsv
6. Bangladesh's onoiptosp party

## Paragraph 2

7. The onion crisis is so iusoser
8. she is using onion anevitesaltr
9. A dmiltei number of onions are on sale
10. Hundreds of people eueuq for hours
11. A Dhaka esrnitde
12. make their onion-based nsaskc

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) alternatives in her dishes. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets at twice their usual
- ( ) if I have to stand another two hours, I will do that. I can save some money. I have never seen onion prices this
- ( ) food sellers can no longer make their onion-based snacks.
- ( ) high." A Dhaka resident said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped
- ( ) price. Hundreds of people queue for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even
- ( ) increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests over the record prices.
- ( **1** ) Onions are very important in Bangladeshi cuisine. The vegetable is a staple in the country's
- ( ) rocketed. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally
- ( ) eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days since I bought one kilo of onion." Many street-
- ( ) cooking. However, many people are finding it difficult to buy onions. There is a shortage of them, which means prices have
- ( ) imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent heavy monsoon rains in India damaged a lot of India's onion
- ( ) of onions in Bangladeshi markets has risen from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold
- ( ) harvest. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram
- ( ) The onion crisis is so serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her cooking. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. very Onions Bangladeshi important in cuisine . are
2. in the staple cooking . a country's Onions are
3. to difficult People it onions . are buy finding
4. Bangladeshis Many to afford buy onions . cannot simply
5. opposition protests . for nationwide has Bangladesh's party called
6. alternatives in her onion is She using dishes .
7. are A of onions sale . limited number on
8. one Queue hours to for just kilo . buy
9. onion never I prices high . have this seen
10. snacks . can longer no onion-based Sellers their make

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Onions are very *important* / *importance* in Bangladeshi cuisine. The vegetable is a *stable* / *staple* in the country's cooking. However, many people are *finding* / *funding* it difficult to buy onions. There is a *shortening* / *shortage* of them, which means prices have *rocketed* / *shipped*. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot *effort* / *afford* to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent *heavy* / *heavily* monsoon rains in India damaged a lot of India's onion *harvest* / *harvested*. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram of onions in Bangladeshi markets has *arisen* / *risen* from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests *over* / *higher* the record prices.

The onion crisis is so *seriously* / *serious* that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her *cook* / *cooking*. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives in her *saucers* / *dishes*. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets at *twice* / *two* their usual price. Hundreds of people *cue* / *queue* for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even if I have to stand *other* / *another* two hours, I will do that. I can save some money. I have never seen onion prices *such* / *this* high." A Dhaka *resident* / *residence* said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days since I *bought* / *buy* one kilo of onion." Many street-food sellers can no *longer* / *shorter* make their onion-based snacks.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

O n\_\_ n s \_r\_ v\_r y \_m p\_r t\_n t \_n B\_n g l\_d\_s h\_ c\_\_ s\_n\_. Th\_ v\_g\_t\_b l\_ s \_ s t\_p l\_ \_n th\_ c\_\_ n t\_r y 's c\_\_ k\_n g. H\_w\_v\_r, m\_n y p\_\_ p l\_ \_r\_ f\_n d\_n g \_t d\_f f\_c\_l t t\_ b\_y \_n\_\_ n s. Th\_r\_ \_s \_ s h\_r t\_g\_ \_f th\_m, w h\_c h m\_\_ n s p\_r\_c\_s h\_v\_ r\_c k\_t\_d. M\_n y B\_n g l\_d\_s h\_s s\_m p\_l y c\_n n\_t \_f f\_r d t\_ b\_y \_n\_\_ n s. B\_n g l\_d\_s h t\_r\_d\_t\_\_ n\_l l y \_m p\_r t\_s \_n\_\_ n s f\_r\_m \_t\_s n\_\_ g h\_b\_\_ r I\_n d\_\_\_. R\_c\_n t h\_\_ v\_y m\_n s\_\_ n r\_\_ n s \_n I\_n d\_\_ d\_m\_g\_d \_ l\_t \_f I\_n d\_\_ 's \_n\_\_ n h\_r v\_s t. Th\_s h\_s m\_d\_ I\_n d\_\_ b\_n \_x p\_r t\_s t\_ B\_n g l\_d\_s h. T h\_ p\_r\_c\_ \_f \_n\_ k\_l\_g\_r\_m \_f \_n\_\_ n s \_n B\_n g l\_d\_s h\_ m\_r k\_t\_s h\_v\_ r\_s\_n f\_r\_m U S 3 6 c\_n t\_s t\_ \_r\_\_ n d \$ 3 . 2 5. Th\_s \_s n\_\_ r\_l y \_ t\_n - f\_l d \_n c\_r\_\_ s\_. B\_n g l\_d\_s h 's \_p p\_s\_t\_\_ n p\_r t\_y h\_s c\_l\_l\_d \_f\_r n\_t\_\_ n w\_d\_ p\_r t\_s t\_s \_v\_r th\_ r\_c\_r d p\_r\_c\_s .

T h\_ \_n\_\_ n c\_r\_s\_s \_s s\_ s\_r\_\_ s t h\_t \_v\_n th\_ P r\_m\_ M\_n\_s t\_r h\_s s t\_p p\_d \_s\_n g \_t \_n h\_r c\_\_ k\_n g. S h\_\_ k h H\_s\_n\_ W\_z\_d s\_\_ d s h\_ \_s \_s\_n g \_n\_\_ n \_l\_t\_r n\_t\_v\_s \_n h\_r d\_s h\_s. A l\_m\_t\_d n\_m b\_r \_f \_n\_\_ n s \_r\_ \_n s\_l\_ \_n s\_v\_r\_l D h\_k\_ m\_r k\_t\_s \_t t\_w\_c\_ th\_\_ r \_s\_\_ l p\_r\_c\_. H\_n d\_r\_d s \_f p\_\_ p l\_ q\_\_\_\_ \_f\_r h\_\_ r\_s t\_ b\_y j\_s t \_n\_ k\_l\_. A 4 1 - y\_\_ r -\_l\_d E\_n g\_l\_s h t\_\_ c\_h\_r s\_\_ d: " E v\_n \_f I h\_v\_ t\_ s t\_n d \_n\_t h\_r t\_w\_ h\_\_ r\_s, I w\_l\_l d\_ t h\_t. I c\_n s\_v\_ s\_m\_ m\_n y. I h\_v\_ n\_v\_r s\_\_ n \_n\_\_ n p\_r\_c\_s th\_s h\_g h." A D h\_k\_ r\_s\_d\_n t s\_\_ d \_l\_t \_f p\_\_ p l\_ \_n h\_r n\_\_ g h\_b\_\_ r h\_\_ d h\_v\_ s t\_p p\_d \_\_ t\_n g \_n\_\_ n s. S h\_ s\_\_ d: " I t h\_s b\_\_ n 1 5 d\_y s s\_n c\_ I b\_\_ g h\_t \_n\_ k\_l\_ \_f \_n\_\_ n." M\_n y s\_t\_r\_\_ t - f\_\_ d s\_l l\_r\_s c\_n n\_ l\_n g\_r m\_k\_ th\_\_ r \_n\_\_ n - b\_s\_d s n\_c k s .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

onions are very important in bangladeshi cuisine the vegetable is a staple in the countrys cooking however many people are finding it difficult to buy onions there is a shortage of them which means prices have rocketed many bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour india recent heavy monsoon rains in india damaged a lot of indias onion harvest this has made india ban exports to bangladesh the price of one kilogram of onions in bangladeshi markets has risen from us36 cents to around 325 this is nearly a tenfold increase bangladeshs opposition party has called for nationwide protests over the record prices

the onion crisis is so serious that even the prime minister has stopped using it in her cooking sheikh hasina wazed said she is using onion alternatives in her dishes a limited number of onions are on sale in several dhaka markets at twice their usual price hundreds of people queue for hours to buy just one kilo a 41yearold english teacher said even if i have to stand another two hours i will do that i can save some money i have never seen onion prices this high a dhaka resident said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions she said it has been 15 days since i bought one kilo of onion many streetfood sellers can no longer make their onionbased snacks

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Onions are very important in Bangladeshi cuisine. The vegetable is a staple in the country's cooking. However, many people are finding it difficult to buy onions. There is a shortage of them, which means prices have rocketed. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh traditionally imports onions from its neighbour India. Recent heavy monsoon rains in India damaged a lot of India's onion harvest. This has made India ban exports to Bangladesh. The price of one kilogram of onions in Bangladesh market has risen from US 36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests over the record prices. The onion crisis is so serious that even the Prime Minister has stopped using it in her cooking. Sheikh Hasina Wazed said she is using onion alternatives in her dishes. A limited number of onions are on sale in several Dhaka markets at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queue for hours to buy just one kilo. A 41-year-old English teacher said: "Even if I have to stand another two hours, I will do that. It saves some money. I have never seen onion prices this high." A Dhaka resident said a lot of people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She said: "It has been 15 days since I bought one kilo of onion." Many street-food sellers can no longer make their onion-based snacks.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. ONIONS:** Make a poster about onions. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. FOOD PRICES:** Write a magazine article about governments keeping food prices low. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on onions. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on onions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d    2. b    3. f    4. c    5. g    6. a    7. e  
8. k    9. l    10. i    11. h    12. n    13. j    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T    b F    c T    d T    e F    f T    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. i	2. a	3. d	4. g	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. f	9. h	10. b

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. In Bangladeshi cuisine
2. It has skyrocketed
3. India
4. \$3.25
5. Nationwide protests
6. Bangladesh's Prime Minister
7. Hundreds
8. Money
9. 15 days
10. Onion-based snacks

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Onions are very important in Bangladeshi cuisine.
2. Onions are a staple in the country's cooking.
3. People are finding it difficult to buy onions.
4. Many Bangladeshis simply cannot afford to buy onions.
5. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests.
6. She is using onion alternatives in her dishes.
7. A limited number of onions are on sale.
8. Queue for hours to buy just one kilo.
9. I have never seen onion prices this high.
10. Sellers can no longer make their onion-based snacks.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. a    4. b    5. d    6. b    7. a    8. c    9. d    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)