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Level 2 – 4th March, 2020

Parents angry as COVID-19 shuts schools for a month

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200304-covid-19-2.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/2003/200304-covid-19-2.html>

Japan and Hong Kong closed their elementary, junior-high and high schools. Governments want to protect children from the COVID-19 coronavirus. Schools in Japan will stay closed until April the 8th; children in Hong Kong will return to school on April the 20th at the earliest. Parents are worried about the school closures. Parents have to think about how to care for children. Grandparents will look after some children while their parents go to work. Many children have no grandparents or extended family who live nearby. Parents may have to pay for childcare fees.

Japan's Prime Minister shut the schools after meeting Japan's anti-virus task force. The next two weeks are important to control the spread of COVID-19. He wants to lower the risk of children and teachers getting infected through gathering together. The government will ask companies to make it easier for parents to take time off work to look after children. An angry mother said: "I wonder if the government thinks it is OK to leave children at home alone." She asked: "What's the point of closing schools if parents are still commuting in packed trains?"

Sources: <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13172009>
<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/02/b341be1ebf20-breaking-news-children-should-stay-home-while-schools-closed-over-virus-japan-govt.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51639488>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200304-covid-19-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. protect | a. to work |
| 2. stay closed until | b. the school closures |
| 3. return to school | c. fees |
| 4. worried about | d. children |
| 5. how to care | e. family |
| 6. while their parents go | f. for children |
| 7. extended | g. April |
| 8. pay for childcare | h. on April the 20th |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Japan's anti-virus | a. of COVID-19 |
| 2. The next two weeks | b. packed trains |
| 3. control the spread | c. off work |
| 4. lower the | d. infected |
| 5. getting | e. task force |
| 6. take time | f. alone |
| 7. leave children at home | g. are important |
| 8. commuting in | h. risk |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200304-covid-19-2.html>

Japan and Hong Kong (1) _____, junior-high and high schools. Governments (2) _____ children from the COVID-19 coronavirus. Schools in Japan will stay closed until April the 8th; children in Hong Kong (3) _____ school on April the 20th at the earliest. Parents are worried about (4) _____. Parents have to think about how to care for children. Grandparents will (5) _____ children while their parents go to work. Many children have no grandparents or extended family who live nearby. Parents may have to pay (6) _____.

Japan's Prime Minister (7) _____ after meeting Japan's anti-(8) _____. The next two weeks are important to (9) _____ of COVID-19. He wants to lower the risk of children and (10) _____ through gathering together. The government will ask companies to make it easier for parents to (11) _____ work to look after children. An angry mother said: "I wonder if the government thinks it is OK to leave children at home alone." She asked: "What's the point of closing schools if parents are still (12) _____ trains?"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200304-covid-19-2.html>

Japan and Hong Kong closed their elementary, junior-high and high schools. Governments want to protect children from the COVID-19 coronavirus. Schools in Japan will stay closed until April the 8th; children in Hong Kong will return to school on April the 20th at the earliest. Parents are worried about the school closures. Parents have to think about how to care for children. Grandparents will look after some children while their parents go to work. Many children have no grandparents or extended family who live nearby. Parents may have to pay for childcare fees. Japan's Prime Minister shut the schools after meeting Japan's anti-virus task force. The next two weeks are important to control the spread of COVID-19. He wants to lower the risk of children and teachers getting infected through gathering together. The government will ask companies to make it easier for parents to take time off work to look after children. An angry mother said: "I wonder if the government thinks it is OK to leave children at home alone." She asked: "What's the point of closing schools if parents are still commuting in packed trains?"

CORONAVIRUS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200304-covid-19-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Coronavirus 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) _____

