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**Level 5 – 28th March, 2022**

## **People in the UK have no money to boil potatoes**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-5.html>

The cost of living crisis is hitting people all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have made basic necessities unaffordable for many people. In the UK recently, the debate has been over the dilemma of "heating or eating". Energy prices have doubled this year for many consumers. Those on low incomes or on benefits face the choice of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to boil potatoes. This situation will be worsened by rises in contributions to the country's health care system. These come into effect next week.

A former prime minister criticised the man responsible for Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. He said: "Any compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this poverty....You cannot ignore the needs of parents who are having to choose between putting their heating up and feeding their children." He added that the ruling Conservative Party could be known as the "nasty" party. More price hikes and food shortages are coming as the war in Ukraine will see the price of wheat rise. Critics want a one-off tax on energy company profits to help the poor.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/mar/23/food-bank-users-declining-potatoes-as-cooking-costs-too-high-says-iceland-boss>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-60858113>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10643039/Iceland-boss-claims-food-banks-users-turning-donations-potatoes-amid-energy-price-rises.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The cost of living crisis is | a. care system         |
| 2. Soaring                      | b. or on benefits      |
| 3. basic                        | c. worsened            |
| 4. the dilemma of               | d. necessities         |
| 5. Those on low incomes         | e. effect next week    |
| 6. This situation will be       | f. oil and gas prices  |
| 7. the country's health         | g. "heating or eating" |
| 8. These come into              | h. hitting people      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A former                    | a. hikes                  |
| 2. the man responsible for     | b. about this poverty     |
| 3. do something                | c. their children         |
| 4. You cannot ignore the needs | d. energy company profits |
| 5. putting their               | e. of parents             |
| 6. feeding                     | f. prime minister         |
| 7. price                       | g. heating up             |
| 8. a one-off tax on            | h. Britain's finances     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-5.html>

The cost of living (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people all across the world. Soaring oil and gas prices have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ unaffordable for many people. In the UK recently, the debate has been (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of "heating or eating". Energy prices have doubled this year for many consumers. Those on low incomes or (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the choice of heating their home, or eating. Life is so hard for some that they do not have enough money to boil potatoes. This situation will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ rises in contributions to the country's health care system. These (6) \_\_\_\_\_ next week.

A former prime minister criticised the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Britain's finances, chancellor Rishi Sunak. He said: "Any compassionate chancellor would want to do something about this poverty....You cannot (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of parents who are having to choose between putting (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and feeding their children." He added that the ruling Conservative Party could be known as (10) \_\_\_\_\_. More price hikes and food shortages are coming as the war in Ukraine will see the price (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Critics want a one-off (12) \_\_\_\_\_ company profits to help the poor.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-5.html>

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# THE COST OF LIVING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the cost of living 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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2203/220328-cost-of-living-crisis-5.html>

Write about **the cost of living** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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