

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## Haze at record levels in Singapore

**23rd June, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

### Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Multiple Choice)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

### Follow Sean Banville on

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



[plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts](https://plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts)

# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution levels in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are continuing to reach new record highs. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the highest ever recorded in Singapore. The previous high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is deemed to be "unhealthy", while anything above 300 is defined as "hazardous". Singapore's government said a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be life-threatening to ill and elderly persons". It has advised all of its citizens to stay indoors and to wear face masks if they have to go outside. Authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest 200,000 households starting from Sunday.

The haze has strained relations between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible for the choking smog. Singapore has accused Indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility in letting fires get so out of control. Indonesia responded by calling Singapore hypocritical, as many of its companies own plantations where fires are being set to clear forests for cultivation. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not apologise for the haze crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to tackle the problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to extinguish the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could last until the end of the dry season in October.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22998592>  
<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/the-haze-singapore/story/indonesia-will-not-apologise-singapore-haze-foreign-minister>  
<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/the-haze-singapore/story/haze-update-indonesian-fires-worsen-singapore-smog-sets-recor>

# WARM-UPS

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

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*pollution / forest fires / record highs / hazardous / life-threatening / face masks / strained relations / choking smog / recklessness / hypocritical / cultivation / dry season*

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

**3. POLLUTION:** How do we reduce it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How bad it is	How to control it
haze		
from cars		
in rivers		
noise pollution		
by factories		
of our minds		

**4. HAZARDOUS:** Students A **strongly** believe pollution will become so bad in the future that many cities will be permanently hazardous to live in; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. RECORD LEVELS:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- pollution
- crime
- traffic
- e-mail spam
- rain
- unemployment
- influenza
- inflation

**6. FACE MASK:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'face mask'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

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

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Fires in Singapore have resulted in record levels of pollution.    | T / F |
| b. Pollution levels are over twice those considered to be unhealthy.  | T / F |
| c. Singapore's government has told people to wear face masks indoors. | T / F |
| d. Singapore's government will soon hand out 200,000 face masks.      | T / F |
| e. Singapore has shared blame for the fires with Indonesia.           | T / F |
| f. Indonesia said Singapore was being hypocritical.                   | T / F |
| g. Indonesia said it would not say sorry to Singapore for the fires.  | T / F |
| h. The pollution could be a problem until October.                    | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. previous     | a. put out      |
| 2. deemed       | b. carelessness |
| 3. sustained    | c. hand out     |
| 4. citizens     | d. prior        |
| 5. distribute   | e. considered   |
| 6. strained     | f. insincere    |
| 7. recklessness | g. continued    |
| 8. hypocritical | h. nationals    |
| 9. tackle       | i. awkward      |
| 10. extinguish  | j. deal with    |

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

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. continuing to                      | a. defined as "hazardous"    |
| 2. The previous                       | b. to tackle the problem     |
| 3. anything above 300 is              | c. one million masks         |
| 4. It has advised all of its citizens | d. out of control            |
| 5. Authorities will distribute        | e. reach new record highs    |
| 6. strained                           | f. the end of the dry season |
| 7. letting fires get so               | g. relations                 |
| 8. fires are being set to clear       | h. to stay indoors           |
| 9. everything was being done          | i. forests for cultivation   |
| 10. the haze could last until         | j. high was in 1997          |

# GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution levels in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to reach new record highs. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the highest ever (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in Singapore. The previous (3) \_\_\_\_\_ was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is deemed to be "unhealthy", while anything above 300 is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ as "hazardous". Singapore's government said a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be life-(6) \_\_\_\_\_ to ill and elderly persons". It has advised all of its citizens to stay indoors and to wear face masks if they have to go outside. Authorities will (7) \_\_\_\_\_ one million masks free to the poorest 200,000 (8) \_\_\_\_\_ starting from Sunday.

*distribute*  
*defined*  
*recorded*  
*households*  
*continuing*  
*reading*  
*high*  
*threatening*

The haze has (9) \_\_\_\_\_ relations between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible for the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ smog. Singapore has accused Indonesia of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and irresponsibility in letting fires get so out of control. Indonesia responded by calling Singapore (12) \_\_\_\_\_, as many of its companies own plantations where fires are being set to clear forests for (13) \_\_\_\_\_. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not apologise for the haze crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to (15) \_\_\_\_\_ the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could last until the end of the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ season in October.

*tackle*  
*hypocritical*  
*dry*  
*choking*  
*cultivation*  
*strained*  
*extinguish*  
*recklessness*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

- 1) Pollution levels in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are continuing to reach \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. new recording highs
  - b. new records highs
  - c. new record highs
  - d. new recorded highs
- 2) The previous high was in 1997 when the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. PSI reached 226
  - b. BCI reached 226
  - c. PXI reached 226
  - d. BSI reached 226
- 3) anything above 300 is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. defined as "hazards us"
  - b. defined "as hazard as"
  - c. defined as "has a dose"
  - d. defined as "hazardous"
- 4) a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours may \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be life-threaten in
  - b. be life-threatening
  - c. be life-threat an inn
  - d. be life-treating an
- 5) Authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. 200,000 houses hold
  - b. 200,000 how solders
  - c. 200,000 householders
  - d. 200,000 households
- 6) The haze has \_\_\_\_\_ between Singapore and Indonesia
  - a. stained relations
  - b. stringed relations
  - c. strayed relations
  - d. strained relations
- 7) Singapore has accused Indonesia of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. recklessness and responsibility
  - b. reckless and irresponsibility
  - c. recklessness and irresponsible
  - d. recklessness and irresponsibility
- 8) Indonesia responded by calling \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Singapore hippo-critical
  - b. Singapore hypocritical
  - c. Singapore hip or critical
  - d. Singapore hype or critic all
- 9) plantations where fires are being set to clear \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. forests for cultivation
  - b. forests for cultivating
  - c. forests for cult aviation
  - d. forests for colt ovation
- 10) all the country's resources would be mobilised to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. distinguish the fires
  - b. ex-anguish the fires
  - c. exiting wish the fires
  - d. extinguish the fires

Haze at record levels in Singapore – 23rd June, 2013

More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com) - Copyright Sean Banville 2013

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution levels in Singapore (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Indonesia are continuing to reach new record highs. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in Singapore. The previous high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is (3) \_\_\_\_\_, while anything above 300 is defined as "hazardous". Singapore's government said a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for 24 hours "may be life-threatening to ill and elderly persons". It has advised (5) \_\_\_\_\_ stay indoors and to wear face masks if they have to go outside. Authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from Sunday.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Singapore has accused Indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of control. Indonesia responded by calling Singapore hypocritical, as many of its companies own plantations where fires (10) \_\_\_\_\_ forests for cultivation. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not apologise for the haze crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to tackle the problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could (12) \_\_\_\_\_ season in October.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

1. What does PSI mean?

---

2. When did the PSI first hit 226?

---

3. What PSI level is considered to be hazardous?

---

4. Who is at risk with PSI levels above 400?

---

5. Who will get a free face mask?

---

6. What adjective was used to describe the smog?

---

7. What did Indonesia call Singapore?

---

8. Who will not apologise?

---

9. What is Indonesia doing to tackle the problem?

---

10. Until which month could the haze continue?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

1. What does PSI mean?
  - a) Polluting State Information
  - b) Pollution Searching Inspection
  - c) Pollutant Standards Index
  - d) Polluted Singapore Initiative
2. When did the PSI first hit 226?
  - a) 1997
  - b) last week
  - c) earlier this year
  - d) October 21, 2004
3. What PSI level is considered to be hazardous?
  - a) 280
  - b) 300
  - c) 150
  - d) 226
4. Who is at risk with PSI levels above 400?
  - a) athletes
  - b) babies
  - c) Singapore's government
  - d) the elderly
5. Who will get a free face mask?
  - a) elderly people
  - b) models
  - c) the poorest households
  - d) Singapore's government
6. What adjective was used to describe the smog?
  - a) unacceptable
  - b) choking
  - c) grey
  - d) smoggy
7. What did Indonesia call Singapore?
  - a) complaining
  - b) inferior
  - c) unlucky
  - d) hypocritical
8. Who will not apologise?
  - a) Singapore's government
  - b) Indonesia's Foreign Ministry
  - c) those slashing and burning
  - d) plantation workers
9. What is Indonesia doing to tackle the problem?
  - a) this and that
  - b) everything
  - c) talking
  - d) nothing
10. Until which month could the haze continue?
  - a) October
  - b) August
  - c) September
  - d) November

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

## **Role A – Singapore leader**

You are furious with Indonesia for the haze. Tell the others three reasons why. You want the Indonesian government to extinguish all fires immediately. You also want promises that there will be no more fires in the future. You will call for a global ban on Indonesian goods if nothing happens.

## **Role B – Indonesian leader**

You are very angry with Singapore for overreacting to the haze. Tell the others three reasons why. Many of the plantations that started the fires are owned by Singaporean companies. You are doing your best to limit the haze. Singapore should be more patient and not make threats.

## **Role C – Plantation owner**

You have no time for the governments of Singapore or Indonesia. Tell the others three reasons why. You have employees with mouths to feed. You must burn the forests or you and your workers will have no money. Tell both leaders that they are hypocrites.

## **Role D – Singaporean**

You are fed up with your government and Indonesia's leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Ask your leader why he can't guarantee breathable air. Ask Indonesia's leader why he thinks it's OK to let such pollution affect other countries. Ask if they care that people's health is suffering.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

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

<b>record</b>	<b>level</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>• caused</li><li>• ever</li><li>• 226</li><li>• 400</li><li>• wear</li><li>• free</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• relations</li><li>• control</li><li>• own</li><li>• apologise</li><li>• tackle</li><li>• dry</li></ul>
---	--

# POLLUTION SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Write five GOOD questions about pollution 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.

# **POLLUTION DISCUSSION**

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pollution'?
- c) What do you know about the Singapore haze?
- d) How would you feel about your city being polluted by another country?
- e) Who is at fault – Indonesia or Singaporean plantation owners?
- f) What can Singaporeans do to live normally?
- g) Could this be the future of the Earth?
- h) Do governments and big companies really care about ordinary people?
- i) Would you stay indoors?
- j) Would you consider moving away from Singapore if you lived there?

*Haze at record levels in Singapore – 23rd June, 2013*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

# **POLLUTION DISCUSSION**

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How can Singapore and Indonesia improve relations?
- c) What's the worst pollution you've experienced?
- d) Should the world ban the produce the forests are being burnt for?
- e) Why are all governments so incapable of helping people?
- f) How hypocritical is Singapore?
- g) What is your answer to this crisis?
- h) Should Singaporeans get compensation for this?
- i) What damage will the haze do?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Singapore's Prime Minister?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

Copyright © [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com) 2013

---

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution levels in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are continuing to reach new record (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the highest ever recorded in Singapore. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to be "unhealthy", while anything above 300 is defined (4) \_\_\_\_\_ "hazardous". Singapore's government said a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be life-(5) \_\_\_\_\_ to ill and elderly persons". It has advised all of its citizens to stay indoors and to wear face masks if they have to go outside. Authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest 200,000 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ starting from Sunday.

The haze has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ relations between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible for the choking smog. Singapore has accused Indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ fires get so out of control. Indonesia responded by calling Singapore hypocritical, as many of its companies own plantations where fires are being (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to clear forests for (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not apologise for the haze crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to tackle the problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could (12) \_\_\_\_\_ until the end of the dry season in October.

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

- |     |                  |                 |                 |                 |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) highs        | (b) height      | (c) heightens   | (d) high        |
| 2.  | (a) history      | (b) earliest    | (c) previous    | (d) precedent   |
| 3.  | (a) doomed       | (b) domed       | (c) deemed      | (d) damned      |
| 4.  | (a) being        | (b) for         | (c) by          | (d) as          |
| 5.  | (a) threats      | (b) threatens   | (c) threatening | (d) threat      |
| 6.  | (a) homeowner    | (b) households  | (c) homemakers  | (d) houses      |
| 7.  | (a) stained      | (b) strained    | (c) stoned      | (d) streamed    |
| 8.  | (a) lets         | (b) letting     | (c) let         | (d) lettings    |
| 9.  | (a) wet          | (b) let         | (c) set         | (d) net         |
| 10. | (a) distribution | (b) aggravation | (c) motivation  | (d) cultivation |
| 11. | (a) distinguish  | (b) anguish     | (c) languish    | (d) extinguish  |
| 12. | (a) fast         | (b) past        | (c) mast        | (d) last        |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. totPnula Standards Index
2. the riepsvuo high
3. defined as "dzhauraso"
4. may be life-gienthnaert to ill and elderly persons
5. Authorities will eudsiribtt one million masks
6. the poorest 200,000 ohlhsudoes

## Paragraph 2

7. siantdre relations
8. Singapore has cecsuad Indonesia
9. recklessness and yiinslbrpeoriist
10. set to clear forests for lcvonatitui
11. iesidtsn that everything was being done
12. xigetihns the fires



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

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

- ( **1** ) Pollution levels in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are continuing to reach new record
- ( ) smog. Singapore has accused Indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility in letting fires get so
- ( ) plantations where fires are being set to clear forests for cultivation. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not
- ( ) out of control. Indonesia responded by calling Singapore hypocritical, as many of its companies own
- ( ) apologise for the haze crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to tackle the
- ( ) to the poorest 200,000 households starting from Sunday.
- ( ) high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is deemed to be "unhealthy", while anything above 300 is defined
- ( ) as "hazardous". Singapore's government said a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be life-
- ( ) and to wear face masks if they have to go outside. Authorities will distribute one million masks free
- ( ) the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could last until the end of the dry season in October.
- ( ) The haze has strained relations between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible for the choking
- ( ) problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to extinguish
- ( ) threatening to ill and elderly persons". It has advised all of its citizens to stay indoors
- ( ) highs. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the highest ever recorded in Singapore. The previous

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

1. fires Singapore caused Pollution by levels forest in.

---

2. Anything as above 300 "hazardous" is . defined

---

3. advised its stay has of to It all citizens indoors.

---

4. they Wear masks face . to outside go if have

---

5. will Authorities free masks million one distribute.

---

6. responsible Who choking for is smog the.

---

7. letting so control in get of Irresponsibility fires out.

---

8. clear Fires cultivation set are forests to being for.

---

9. fires mobilised to Resources extinguish would the be.

---

10. haze The season dry the of end the until last could.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution *level / levels* in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are continuing to reach new record *heightens / highs*. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the highest ever recorded in Singapore. The *previous / impervious* high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is *deemed / doomed* to be "unhealthy", while anything *atop / above* 300 is defined *has / as* "hazardous". Singapore's government said a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be *life-threatening / life-threatens* to ill and elderly persons". It has *advice / advised* all of its citizens to stay indoors and to wear face masks if they *have / must* to go outside. Authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest 200,000 *households / freeholders* starting from Sunday.

The haze has *strained / stained* relations between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible for the *smoking / choking* smog. Singapore has *accused / abused* Indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility in letting fires get *so / such* out of control. Indonesia responded by *calling / calls* Singapore hypocritical, as many of its companies own plantations where fires are being *set / let* to clear forests for cultivation. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not apologise for the *haze / hazy* crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to *tackle / offence* the problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to *extinguish / distinguish* the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could *past / last* until the end of the dry season in October.

**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 [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution levels in Singapore recorded by first firms  
and news agency reach new records.  
The Pollution Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on  
Friday, the highest ever recorded in Singapore. The  
previous high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226.  
The PSI of 150 is deemed to be "unhealthy", while  
anything above 300 is deemed to be "hazardous".  
Singapore's government said it is ordering about 400  
schools to close for 24 hours "may be left throughout the  
weekend for parents". The schools were ordered to close  
because of the haze. The schools will distribute  
to millions of masks for the past 200,000  
hours of school from Sunday.

The haze has strained relations between Singapore  
and news agency over what is seen as a  
challenge to Singapore's record and news agency  
reliance on Singapore's record and news agency  
safety control. News agency responded by calling  
Singaporean hypocritical, as many firms complain  
about pollution when firms are being sued to  
close for health reasons. News agency's Foreign Ministry  
would not play a role for the haze crisis, but instead  
the very thing was being done to tackle the problem.  
President S. S. L. B. M. Y. N. said "all the  
country's resources" would be mobilised to  
fight the haze. Singapore's Prime Minister  
warned that the haze could last until the end of the  
dry season in October.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

pollution levels in singapore caused by forest fires in indonesia are continuing to reach new record highs the pollutant standards index (psi) hit 401 on friday the highest ever recorded in singapore the previous high was in 1997 when the psi reached 226 a psi of 150 is deemed to be "unhealthy" while anything above 300 is defined as "hazardous" singapore's government said a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be life-threatening to ill and elderly persons" it has advised all of its citizens to stay indoors and to wear face masks if they have to go outside authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest 200000 households starting from sunday

the haze has strained relations between singapore and indonesia over who is responsible for the choking smog singapore has accused indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility in letting fires get so out of control indonesia responded by calling singapore hypocritical as many of its companies own plantations where fires are being set to clear forests for cultivation indonesia's foreign ministry would not apologise for the haze crisis but insisted that everything was being done to tackle the problem president susilo bambang yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to extinguish the fires singapore's prime minister warned that the haze could last until the end of the dry season in october

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze\\_singapore.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130623-haze_singapore.html)

Pollution levels in Singapore caused by forest fires in Indonesia are continuing to reach new record highs. The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 on Friday, the highest ever recorded in Singapore. The previous high was in 1997 when the PSI reached 226. A PSI of 150 is deemed to be "unhealthy", while anything above 300 is defined as "hazardous". Singapore's government said a reading above 400 sustained for 24 hours "may be life-threatening to ill and elderly persons". It has advised all of its citizens to stay indoors and to wear face masks if they have to go outside. Authorities will distribute one million masks free to the poorest 200,000 households starting from Sunday. The haze has strained relations between Singapore and Indonesia over who is responsible for the choking smog. Singapore has accused Indonesia of recklessness and irresponsibility in letting fires get so out of control. Indonesia responded by calling Singapore hypocritical, as many of its companies own plantations where fires are being set to clear forests for cultivation. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry would not apologise for the haze crisis, but insisted that everything was being done to tackle the problem. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to extinguish the fires. Singapore's Prime Minister warned that the haze could last until the end of the dry season in October.







# 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 the haze covering Singapore. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. HAZE:** Write a magazine article about the haze. Include imaginary interviews with people who live in Singapore.

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 Indonesia's leader. Ask him three questions about the haze. Give him three ideas on how to tackle it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. previous     | a. prior        |
| 2. deemed       | b. considered   |
| 3. sustained    | c. continued    |
| 4. citizens     | d. nationals    |
| 5. distribute   | e. hand out     |
| 6. strained     | f. awkward      |
| 7. recklessness | g. carelessness |
| 8. hypocritical | h. insincere    |
| 9. tackle       | i. deal with    |
| 10. extinguish  | j. put out      |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Pollutant Standards Index
2. 1997
3. Anything above 300
4. Ill and elderly persons
5. The poorest households
6. Choking
7. Hypocritical
8. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry
9. Everything
10. October

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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