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Level 6

11 Asian nations declared polio-free

30th March, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>



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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced for the first time that South-East Asia is now free from polio. The WHO certified 11 countries as being clear of the disease. The WHO website said: "This is the fourth of six WHO regions to be certified, marking an important step towards global eradication of polio – a highly infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. With this step, 80 per cent of the world's population now lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-certified countries is India, which as recently as 2009, was home to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio cases. India hasn't seen a single polio case for the last three years.

Polio is currently an incurable disease. It leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone who contracts it. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director for the WHO, said: "This is a momentous victory for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and international partners to eradicate polio from the region." She added: "It is a sign of what we can bequeath our children when we work together." Dr Singh also cautioned against becoming complacent in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally eradicated, all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free status remains fragile."

Sources: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47444&Cr=polio&Cr1=#.UzSxJI4uKHA>
<http://time.com/39919/india-declared-free-of-polio/>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-WHOs-SE-Asia-now-polio-free/articleshow/32790183.cms>

WARM-UPS

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about infectious diseases. 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.

the first time / certified / an important step / infectious / virus / population / cases / incurable / disease / regional / victory / partners / complacent / at risk / fragile

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

3. FREE: How can we make the world free from these problems? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How?	What's stopping this happening?
Malaria		
Corruption		
War		
Cyber-crime		
Racism		
Global warming		

4. ERADICATED: Students A **strongly** believe all diseases will be eradicated one day; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. DISEASE: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to eradicate diseases at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- medicines
- clean water
- education
- raise living standards
- ban international travel
- research and development
- vaccines
- genetic engineering

6. VIRUS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "virus". 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/1403/140330-polio.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. UNESCO has announced Asia is free from polio. | T / F |
| b. A total of 11 countries have been given the all-clear regarding polio. | T / F |
| c. Polio is a disease that attacks the body's nervous system. | T / F |
| d. Nearly half of all global cases of polio in 2009 were in India. | T / F |
| e. Polio is actually a curable disease. | T / F |
| f. A WHO doctor said the eradication was a victory for a few researchers. | T / F |
| g. The doctor warned against future complacency with polio. | T / F |
| h. The doctor said Asia's status as polio-free was extremely strong. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. announced | a. occurrence |
| 2. regions | b. elimination |
| 3. eradication | c. leave |
| 4. infectious | d. significant |
| 5. case | e. warned |
| 6. incurable | f. made public |
| 7. momentous | g. delicate |
| 8. bequeath | h. catching |
| 9. cautioned | i. areas |
| 10. fragile | j. untreatable |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. announced for | a. an incurable disease |
| 2. certified 11 countries as being | b. regions to be certified |
| 3. This is the fourth of six WHO | c. our children |
| 4. a highly | d. victory |
| 5. India hasn't seen a | e. clear of the disease |
| 6. Polio is currently | f. remains fragile |
| 7. a momentous | g. infectious virus |
| 8. eradicate polio | h. single polio case |
| 9. what we can bequeath | i. from the region |
| 10. the region's polio-free status | j. the first time |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced for the first time that South-East Asia is now (1) _____ from polio. The WHO certified 11 countries as being clear of the disease. The WHO website said: "This is the fourth of six WHO (2) _____ to be certified, marking an important step towards global (3) _____ of polio - a (4) _____ infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can cause total (5) _____ in a matter of hours. With this step, 80 per cent of the world's (6) _____ now lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-certified countries is India, which as recently as 2009, was (7) _____ to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio cases. India hasn't seen a (8) _____ polio case for the last three years.

population
highly
regions
home
free
single
paralysis
eradication

Polio is currently an (9) _____ disease. It leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone who contracts it. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, (10) _____ director for the WHO, said: "This is a momentous (11) _____ for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and international (12) _____ to eradicate polio from the region." She added: "It is a sign of what we can bequeath our children when we work together." Dr Singh also (13) _____ against becoming (14) _____ in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally eradicated, all countries are at (15) _____ and the region's polio-free status remains (16) _____."

partners
risk
victory
incurable
complacent
fragile
regional
cautioned

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

- 1) The WHO certified 11 countries as being _____
 - a. clears of the disease
 - b. clear of the disease
 - c. clearer of the disease
 - d. clearing of the disease
- 2) ... marking an important step towards global _____
 - a. eradication of polio
 - b. extraction of polio
 - c. emancipation of polio
 - d. irradiation of polio
- 3) a highly infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can _____
 - a. cause total paralyse
 - b. cause total paralysis
 - c. cause total paralyse it
 - d. cause total paralyse is
- 4) With this step, 80 per cent of the world's population now lives in certified _____
 - a. polio-freed regions
 - b. polio-freeze regions
 - c. polio-freer regions
 - d. polio-free regions
- 5) India hasn't seen a _____
 - a. single polio cased
 - b. single polio close
 - c. single polio case
 - d. single polio chase
- 6) Polio is currently an _____
 - a. incurable disease
 - b. incurably disease
 - c. incalculable disease
 - d. ink your able disease
- 7) Singh, regional director for the WHO, said: "This is a _____ ..."
 - a. moment as victory
 - b. momentous victory
 - c. moment us victory
 - d. moment as a victory
- 8) She added: "It is a sign of what we can _____..."
 - a. beneath our children
 - b. bequeath our children
 - c. bereave our children
 - d. bee queen our children
- 9) Dr Singh also cautioned against _____
 - a. becoming complacency
 - b. becoming complacent
 - c. becoming compartments
 - d. becoming con placement
- 10) all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free status _____
 - a. remains fragility
 - b. remains fragile
 - c. remains for agile
 - d. remains far agile

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) (1) _____ the first time that South-East Asia is now free from polio. The WHO certified 11 countries (2) _____ disease. The WHO website said: "This is the fourth of six WHO regions (3) _____, marking an important step towards global eradication of polio – a highly infectious virus that attacks (4) _____ and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. With this step, 80 per cent of the world's population now lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-certified countries is India, (5) _____ 2009, was home to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio cases. India hasn't (6) _____ case for the last three years.

Polio is currently (7) _____. It leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone who contracts it. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director for the WHO, said: "This is (8) _____ for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental organizations, (9) _____ and international partners to eradicate polio from the region." She added: "It is a sign of what we (10) _____ children when we work together." Dr Singh also cautioned against (11) _____ in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally eradicated, all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

1. How many times has Asia been polio-free before?

2. How many countries did the WHO certify as being polio-free?

3. How many WHO regions are not polio-free?

4. What proportion of the world lives in polio-free areas?

5. How many polio cases has India seen in the past three years?

6. What does polio paralyse?

7. What kind of victory did a doctor say the eradication was?

8. What did the doctor say the eradication was a sign of?

9. What did Dr Singh warn against being?

10. How did Dr Singh describe the polio-free status of Asia?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

1. How many times has Asia been polio-free before?
 - a) three
 - b) none
 - c) one
 - d) two
2. How many countries did the WHO certify as being polio-free?
 - a) 8
 - b) 9
 - c) 10
 - d) 11
3. How many WHO regions are not polio-free?
 - a) 2
 - b) 1
 - c) 3
 - d) 0
4. What proportion of the world lives in polio-free areas?
 - a) 60%
 - b) 70%
 - c) 80%
 - d) 90%
5. How many polio cases has India seen in the past three years?
 - a) none
 - b) 27
 - c) 862
 - d) 12,000
6. What does polio paralyse?
 - a) bacteria
 - b) hope
 - c) arms and legs
 - d) society
7. What kind of victory did a doctor say the eradication was?
 - a) a good one
 - b) a closely fought one
 - c) a hard-fought one
 - d) a momentous one
8. What did the doctor say the eradication was a sign of?
 - a) good that can come from working together
 - b) the times
 - c) 21st-century science
 - d) things to come
9. What did Dr Singh warn against being?
 - a) complacent
 - b) ill
 - c) a doctor
 - d) content
10. How did Dr Singh describe the polio-free status of Asia?
 - a) fallible
 - b) fragile
 - c) feline
 - d) futile

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

Role A – Clean water

You think clean water is the best way of avoiding disease. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are problematic about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): education, vaccines or genetic engineering.

Role B – Education

You think education is the best way of avoiding disease. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are problematic about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): clean water, vaccines or genetic engineering.

Role C – Vaccines

You think vaccines are the best way of avoiding disease. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are problematic about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): education, clean water or genetic engineering.

Role D – Genetic engineering

You think genetic engineering is the best way of avoiding disease. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are problematic about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): education, vaccines or clean water.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

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

infectious	virus
-------------------	--------------

- 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">• first• 11• nervous• 80• 2009• three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• limbs• millions• society• children• fight• fragile
--	---

INFECTIOUS DISEASES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

Write five GOOD questions about infectious diseases 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.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 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 'polio'?
- c) How good is this news?
- d) Why has it taken so long to eradicate polio in this region?
- e) What do you know about polio?
- f) What is the nervous system?
- g) How can countries prevent the spread of infectious diseases?
- h) What diseases are common in your country?
- i) What would it be like to work for the WHO?
- j) What's the biggest illness you've ever had?

11 Asian nations declared polio-free – 30th March, 2014
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Do you think doctors will be able to cure all diseases one day?
- c) Should the WHO get a special prize for this achievement?
- d) What diseases would you give money to fight (and why)?
- e) What difficulties do you think health workers had in Asia?
- f) Could countries cure more diseases if they didn't spend so much money on weapons?
- g) How is it possible to completely eradicate a virus?
- h) Do you worry about infectious diseases?
- i) What infectious disease is the biggest threat to humans?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the head of the WHO?

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has (1) _____ for the first time that South-East Asia is now free from polio. The WHO certified 11 countries (2) _____ being clear of the disease. The WHO website said: "This is the fourth of six WHO regions to be certified, (3) _____ an important step towards global eradication of polio – a (4) _____ infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a (5) _____ of hours. With this step, 80 per cent of the world's population now lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-certified countries is India, which as recently as 2009, was (6) _____ to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio cases. India hasn't seen a single polio case for the last three years.

Polio is currently an (7) _____ disease. It leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone who contracts it. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director for the WHO, said: "This is a (8) _____ victory for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and international partners to (9) _____ polio from the region." She added: "It is a sign of what we can bequeath our children when we work together." Dr Singh also cautioned against becoming (10) _____ in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally eradicated, all countries are (11) _____ risk and the region's polio-free status remains (12) _____."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) announced | (b) narrated | (c) orated | (d) voiced |
| 2. | (a) was | (b) has | (c) as | (d) is |
| 3. | (a) marks | (b) marked | (c) marking | (d) mark |
| 4. | (a) elevated | (b) upper | (c) strengthening | (d) highly |
| 5. | (a) case | (b) concern | (c) matter | (d) problem |
| 6. | (a) residence | (b) home | (c) accommodation | (d) domicile |
| 7. | (a) incalculable | (b) incurable | (c) incapable | (d) incidental |
| 8. | (a) mementos | (b) momentous | (c) monuments | (d) moments |
| 9. | (a) irradiate | (b) elongate | (c) eradicate | (d) erudite |
| 10. | (a) competencies | (b) compartments | (c) competence | (d) complacent |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) to | (d) at |
| 12. | (a) fallible | (b) futile | (c) frigid | (d) fragile |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

Paragraph 1

1. nnencdauo for the first time
2. The WHO iicfrtdee 11 countries as being clear
3. an important step towards global natraidoeci of polio
4. a highly uesncitfio virus
5. attacks the sorneuv system
6. cause total lsrpaiysa in a matter of hours

Paragraph 2

7. Polio is currently an caileubrn disease
8. This is a mmsunoteo victory
9. viicl society
10. what we can etbahuqe our children
11. cautioned against becoming nplacctmeo
12. the region's polio-free status remains iareflg

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () certified countries is India, which as recently as 2009, was home to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio
- () of polio – a highly infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. With this
- () polio. The WHO certified 11 countries as being clear of the disease. The WHO website said: "This is the fourth
- () of six WHO regions to be certified, marking an important step towards global eradication
- () victory for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental
- () eradicated, all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free status remains fragile."
- () cautioned against becoming complacent in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally
- () who contracts it. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director for the WHO, said: "This is a momentous
- () sign of what we can bequeath our children when we work together." Dr Singh also
- () step, 80 per cent of the world's population now lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-
- () Polio is currently an incurable disease. It leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone
- () organizations, civil society and international partners to eradicate polio from the region." She added: "It is a
- () cases. India hasn't seen a single polio case for the last three years.
- (**1**) The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced for the first time that South-East Asia is now free from

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

1. countries The as WHO being certified clear 11.

2. of fourth the is This certified be to regions WHO six.

3. highly that nervous A virus the infectious attacks system.

4. is One newly countries the certified India of -.

5. single hasn't years the polio seen last case a India 3 for.

6. disease Polio currently incurable is an.

7. anyone kill can and limbs the of paralysis to leads It.

8. momentous the health A for of victory millions workers.

9. fight Becoming against complacent the in disease the.

10. The status region's remains polio fragile - free.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has *announced / announcement* for the first time that South-East Asia is now *freely / free* from polio. The WHO certified 11 countries as being clear of the *a / the* disease. The WHO website said: "This is the *four / fourth* of six WHO regions to be certified, marking an important step towards global eradication of polio – a highly infectious *viral / virus* that attacks the *nervous / nervousness* system and can cause total *paralysed / paralysis* in a matter of hours. With this step, 80 per cent of the world's population *now / current* lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-certified countries is India, which as recently *was / as* 2009, was home to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio cases. India hasn't seen a *single / singular* polio case for the last three years.

Polio is currently an *incumbent / incurable* disease. It leads to paralysis of the *lambs / limbs* and can kill anyone who *contracts / contacts* it. Dr Poonam Khetrupal Singh, regional *direction / director* for the WHO, said: "This is a *momentous / moments* victory for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental organizations, *civilian / civil* society and international partners to eradicate polio from the *regionally / region*." She added: "It is a sign of what we can *bequeath / beneath* our children when we work together." Dr Singh also cautioned against becoming *complacent / combatant* in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally eradicated, all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free status remains *fragile / futile*."

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/1403/140330-polio.html>

Th_ W_rld H__lth _rg_n_z_t__n (WH_) h_s _nn__nc_d
f_r th_ f_rst t_m_ th_t S__th-__st _s__ _s_n_w fr__
fr_m p_l___. Th_ WH_ c_rt_f__d 11 c__ntr__s _s_b__ng
cl__r_f th_ d_s__s_. Th_ WH_ w_bs_t_ s__d: "Th_s _s
th_ f__rth_ f_s_x WH_ r_g__ns t_ b_ c_rt_f__d,
m_rk_ng _n_ _mp_rtn_t_ st_p_ t_w_rds_ gl_b_l
_r_d_c_t__n_ f_p_l__ - _h_g_hly_ _nf_ct__s_ v_r_s_ th_t
_tt_ck_s_ th_ n_rv__s_ syst_m_ _nd_ c_n_ c__s_ t_t_l
p_r_ly_s_s_ _n_ _m_ttr_f_h__rs. W_th_ th_s_ st_p_, 80 p_r
c_nt_ f_ th_ w_rld's_ p_p_l_t__n_ n_w_l_v_s_ _n_ c_rt_f__d
p_l__-fr__ r_g__ns." _n_ _f_ th_ n_wly-c_rt_f__d
c__ntr__s_ _s_ _nd__, wh_ch_ _s_ r_c_ntly_ _s_ 2009, w_s
h_m_t_ _lm_st_ 50 p_r_c_nt_ f_ th_ w_rld's_ p_l__ c_s_s_.
nd _h_s_n't_ s__n_ _s_n_g_l_ p_l__ c_s_ f_r_ th_ l_st
thr__ y__rs.

P_l__ _s_ c_rr_ntly_ _n_ _nc_r_b_l_ d_s__s_. _t_l__ds_ t_
p_r_ly_s_s_ _f_ th_ l_mbs_ _nd_ c_n_ k_ll_ _ny_n_ wh_
c_ntr_cts_ _t_. Dr P__n_m_ Kh_tr_p_l_ S_ngh, r_g__n_l
d_r_ct_r_ f_r_ th_ WH_, s__d: "Th_s _s_ _m_m_nt__s
v_ct_r_y_ f_r_ th_ m_ll__ns_ _f_ h__lth_ w_rk_rs_ wh_ h_v_
w_rk_d_ _w_th_ _g_v_rnm_nts_, _n_n-g_v_rnm_nt_l
_rg_n_z_t__ns_, c_v_l_ s_c__ty_ _nd_ _nt_rn_t__n_l
p_rtn_rs_ t_ _r_d_c_t_ p_l__ fr_m_ th_ r_g__n." Sh_
_dd_d: "_t_ _s_ _s_gn_ _f_ wh_t_ w_ c_n_ b_q__th_ _r
ch_ldr_n_ wh_n_ w_ w_rk_ t_g_th_r." Dr S_ngh_ _ls_
c__t__n_d_ _g__nst_ b_c_m_ng_ c_mpl_c_nt_ _n_ th_ f_ght
_g__nst_ th_ d_s__s_. Sh_ s__d: "_nt_l_ p_l__ _s_
gl_b_lly_ _r_d_c_t_d_, _ll_ c__ntr__s_ r__t_r_sk_ _nd_ th_
r_g__n's_ p_l__-fr__ st_t_s_r_m__ns_ fr_g_l_."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

the world health organization (who) has announced for the first time that south-east asia is now free from polio the who certified 11 countries as being clear of the disease the who website said "this is the fourth of six who regions to be certified marking an important step towards global eradication of polio – a highly infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours with this step 80 per cent of the world's population now lives in certified polio-free regions" one of the newly-certified countries is india which as recently as 2009 was home to almost 50 per cent of the world's polio cases india hasn't seen a single polio case for the last three years

polio is currently an incurable disease it leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone who contracts it dr poonam khetrapal singh regional director for the who said "this is a momentous victory for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments non-governmental organizations civil society and international partners to eradicate polio from the region" she added "it is a sign of what we can bequeath our children when we work together" dr singh also cautioned against becoming complacent in the fight against the disease she said "until polio is globally eradicated all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free status remains fragile"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140330-polio.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced for the first time that South-East Asia is now free from polio. The WHO certified 11 countries as being clear of the disease. The WHO website said: "This is the fourth of six WHO regions to be certified, marking an important step towards global eradication of polio – a highly infectious virus that attacks the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. With this step, 80 percent of the world's population now lives in certified polio-free regions." One of the newly-certified countries is India, which as recently as 2009, was home to almost 50 percent of the world's polio cases. India has not seen a single polio case for the last three years. Polio is currently an incurable disease. It leads to paralysis of the limbs and can kill anyone who contracts it. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director for the WHO, said: "This is a momentous victory for the millions of health workers who have worked with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and international partners to eradicate polio from the region." She added: "It is a sign of what we can bequeath our children when we work together." Dr Singh also cautioned against becoming complacent in the fight against the disease. She said: "Until polio is globally eradicated, all countries are at risk and the region's polio-free status remains fragile."

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 infectious diseases. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. ERADICATION: Write a magazine article about the WHO's attempts at eradicating the world's diseases. Include imaginary interviews with people who work for the WHO.

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 infectious diseases. Ask him/her three questions about infectious diseases. Give him/her three of your fears about them. 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 T d T e F f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. announced | a. made public |
| 2. regions | b. areas |
| 3. eradication | c. elimination |
| 4. infectious | d. catching |
| 5. case | e. occurrence |
| 6. incurable | f. untreatable |
| 7. momentous | g. significant |
| 8. bequeath | h. leave |
| 9. cautioned | i. warned |
| 10. fragile | j. delicate |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. None
2. 11
3. 2
4. 80%
5. None
6. Limbs
7. A momentous one
8. What can happen by working together
9. Complacent
10. Fragile

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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