

# 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)

## **Level 2**

# **Number of blue whales increasing**

**10th September, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-2.html>

## **Contents**

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

**Twitter**



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

**Facebook**



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

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-2.html>

Scientists have good news - numbers of blue whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean are the highest they have been in over a century. The University of Washington reports that there are over 2,200 blue whales between Mexico and Alaska. Hunters killed nearly all of them close to extinction in that area. Whaling became illegal in 1971. Numbers of the world's largest mammal started increasing. It has taken 40 years for the blue whale to recover. Lead researcher Dr Cole Monnahan was very happy at this good news. He said: "For us, this is a great conservation success story."

Dr Monnahan said the number of blue whales might not rise above 2,200. He said: "Some people thought that number should be going up, but if there were about 2,200 whales to begin with, then that is what the environment can support." He warned that the creature still needs protection and only survived because people took action to stop catches and start monitoring. He said without this, the whales could be extinct. He added that the rise in numbers shows, "the ability of blue whale populations to rebuild under careful management and conservation measures".

Sources: <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2014/09/08/study-california-blue-whale-population-rebounds-from-whaling/>  
<http://www.calacademy.org/sciencetoday/californias-blue-whale-population-rebounding/5516878/>  
<http://time.com/3297045/california-blue-whales/>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have               | a. mammal                    |
| 2. in the eastern                | b. over a century            |
| 3. the highest they have been in | c. success story.            |
| 4. close to                      | d. the blue whale to recover |
| 5. Whaling became                | e. good news                 |
| 6. the world's largest           | f. extinction                |
| 7. It has taken 40 years for     | g. illegal in 1971           |
| 8. a great conservation          | h. Pacific Ocean             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. the number of blue whales might not | a. should be going up     |
| 2. Some people thought that number     | b. extinct                |
| 3. there were about 2,200 whales       | c. can support            |
| 4. that is what the environment        | d. populations to rebuild |
| 5. the creature still needs            | e. rise above 2,200       |
| 6. the whales could be                 | f. to begin with          |
| 7. the ability of blue whale           | g. measures               |
| 8. conservation                        | h. protection             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-2.html>

Scientists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ - numbers of blue whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean are the highest (2) \_\_\_\_\_ over a century. The University of Washington reports that there are over 2,200 blue whales between Mexico and Alaska. Hunters killed nearly all of them (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in that area. Whaling became illegal in 1971. Numbers of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ started increasing. It has taken (5) \_\_\_\_\_ blue whale to recover. Lead researcher Dr Cole Monnahan was very happy at this good news. He said: "For us, this is a great (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

Dr Monnahan said the number of blue whales (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 2,200. He said: "Some people thought that number (8) \_\_\_\_\_, but if there were about 2,200 whales (9) \_\_\_\_\_, then that is what the environment can support." He warned that (10) \_\_\_\_\_ protection and only survived because people took action to stop catches and start monitoring. He said without this, the whales (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He added that the rise in numbers shows, "the ability of blue whale populations to rebuild under careful management (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-2.html>

Scientists have good news - numbers of blue whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean are the highest they have been in over a century. The University of Washington reports that there are over 2,200 blue whales between Mexico and Alaska. Hunters killed nearly all of them close to extinction in that area. Whaling became illegal in 1971. Numbers of the world's largest mammal started increasing. It has taken 40 years for the blue whale to recover. Lead researcher Dr Cole Monnahan was very happy at this good news. He said: "For us, this is a great conservation success story." Dr Monnahan said the number of blue whales might not rise above 2,200. He said: "Some people thought that numbers should be going up, but if there were about 2,200 whales to begin with, then that is what the environment can support." He warned that the creature still needs protection and only survived because people took action to stop whaling and start monitoring. He said without this, the whales could be extinct. He added that the rise in numbers shows, "the ability of blue whale population to rebuild under careful management and conservation measures".

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

---

b)

---

c)

---

d)

---

e)

---

f)

---

g)

---

h)

---

*Number of blue whales increasing – 10th September, 2014*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

---

b)

---

c)

---

d)

---

e)

---

f)

---

g)

---

h)

---

