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Level 2

Record number of flowers bloom

12th January, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/2015/150112-flowers-2.html>

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/2015/150112-flowers-2.html>

Scientists are amazed at how many flowers there are in the U.K. this winter. In normal years, between 20 and 30 types of flowers and plants are open. On New Year's Day, scientists found 368 different flowers in bloom. Some are five months early. Scientists say this record number is because of climate change. Last year was the warmest year ever in Britain. A scientist told the BBC he was surprised at the number of flowers. He said: "Fifty years ago, people looking for plants in flower at the start of the year found 20 species. This year the total has amazed us."

The scientist said warmer weather and mild winters were changing when flowers open. He said: "We are now in our fourth mild winter....We thought that the snow and hard frosts before Christmas would have finished most flowering...but it seems not to be the case." The most common flowers to open were daisies and dandelions. Britain's weather agency described the change in climate for last year. It said: "All months except August were warmer than average, and this was the warmest year on record for the UK. It was also wetter than average for many locations."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-30754443>
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2014/annual>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2904215/Wild-plants-defy-cold-numbers-flower-time-year-soaring-hundreds.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/2015/150112-flowers-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. In normal | a. bloom |
| 2. 20 and 30 types | b. ever in Britain |
| 3. 368 different flowers in | c. years |
| 4. Some are five months | d. climate change |
| 5. this record number is because of | e. amazed us |
| 6. Last year was the warmest year | f. ago |
| 7. Fifty years | g. of flowers and plants |
| 8. This year the total has | h. early |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. warmer weather and | a. than average |
| 2. the snow and | b. agency |
| 3. The most common | c. locations |
| 4. Britain's weather | d. hard frosts |
| 5. the change | e. mild winters |
| 6. All months except August were warmer | f. in climate |
| 7. the warmest year | g. flowers to open |
| 8. wetter than average for many | h. on record |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/2015/150112-flowers-2.html>

Scientists are amazed at how many flowers (1) _____ U.K. this winter. In normal years, between 20 and 30 types of flowers (2) _____. On New Year's Day, scientists found 368 different flowers in bloom. Some are (3) _____. Scientists say this record number is because of climate change. Last year (4) _____ year ever in Britain. A scientist told the BBC (5) _____ at the number of flowers. He said: "Fifty years ago, people looking for plants in flower at the start of the year found 20 species. This (6) _____ amazed us."

The scientist said warmer weather (7) _____ were changing when flowers open. He said: "(8) _____ fourth mild winter...We thought that the snow and hard frosts before Christmas would have (9) _____...but it seems not to be the case." The most common (10) _____ daisies and dandelions. Britain's weather agency described the change in climate for last year. It said: "All months except August were (11) _____, and this was the warmest year on record for the UK. It was also wetter than average (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/2015/150112-flowers-2.html>

Scientists are amazed at how many flowers there are in the U.K. this winter. In normal years, between 20 and 30 types of flowers and plants are open. On New Year's Day, scientists found 368 different flowers in bloom. Some are five months early. Scientists say this record number is because of climate change. Last year was the warmest year ever in Britain. A scientist told the BBC he was surprised at the number of flowers. He said: "Fifty years ago, people looking for plants in flower at the start of the year found 20 species. This year the total has amazed us." The scientist said warmer weather and mild winters were changing when flowers open. He said: "We are now in our fourth mild winter.... We thought that the snow and hard frosts before Christmas would have finished most flowering... but it seems not to be the case." The most common flowers to open were daisies and dandelions. Britain's weather agency described the change in climate for last year. It said: "All months except August were warmer than average, and this was the warmest year on record for the UK. It was also wetter than average for many locations."

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)

Record number of flowers bloom – 12th January, 2015
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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)

g)

h)
