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**Level 1** – 25th May, 2019

## Japanese city asks tourists to stop 'sand graffiti'

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190525-tottori-sand-dunes-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190525-tottori-sand-dunes-1.html>

A Japanese city has a graffiti problem. Not spray-can on walls graffiti, but graffiti in sand. City officials are asking tourists to stop writing messages and drawing pictures on the city's sand dunes. Graffiti damages the dunes. It ruins the pleasure people get in looking at them. There were more than 3,300 cases of 'sand graffiti' at the tourist hotspot in the past ten years. In January, two tourists had to erase a 25-metre-long birthday message.

The Tottori sand dunes are famous across Japan for their beauty. They are Japan's largest and longest dunes. The biggest is 50 metres high. They are 16 kilometres long. They are part of a scenic coastal park on the Sea of Japan. Tottori officials will put signs up to ask people to respect the dunes. The officials are worried tourists will not follow the rules. They said: "We want to continue to protect views of the beautiful sand dunes."

Sources: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190520/p2a/00m/0na/018000c>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/21/against-the-grain-anger-grows-at-spike-in-sand-graffiti-by-tourists-in-japan>  
<https://www.insider.com/sand-graffiti-japan-angry-at-tourists-for-writing-messages-into-dunes-2019-5>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190525-tottori-sand-dunes-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A Japanese city has a            | a. city's sand dunes  |
| 2. officials are asking tourists to | b. ten years          |
| 3. drawing pictures on the          | c. stop writing       |
| 4. It ruins the pleasure            | d. message            |
| 5. more than 3,300 cases            | e. graffiti problem   |
| 6. at the tourist                   | f. of 'sand graffiti' |
| 7. in the past                      | g. people get         |
| 8. a 25-metre-long birthday         | h. hotspot            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. sand dunes are famous      | a. continue             |
| 2. Japan's largest and        | b. signs up             |
| 3. They are part of a scenic  | c. longest dunes        |
| 4. Tottori officials will put | d. beautiful sand dunes |
| 5. ask people to respect      | e. rules                |
| 6. follow the                 | f. coastal park         |
| 7. We want to                 | g. the dunes            |
| 8. views of the               | h. across Japan         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190525-tottori-sand-dunes-1.html>

A Japanese city has (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Not spray-can on walls graffiti, but graffiti in sand. City (2) \_\_\_\_\_ tourists to stop writing messages and drawing pictures on the city's sand dunes. Graffiti (3) \_\_\_\_\_. It ruins the pleasure people get (4) \_\_\_\_\_ them. There were more than 3,300 cases of 'sand graffiti' at (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the past ten years. In January, two tourists had (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 25-metre-long birthday message.

The Tottori sand dunes (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Japan for their beauty. They are Japan's (8) \_\_\_\_\_ dunes. The biggest is 50 metres high. They are 16 kilometres long. They are part of a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sea of Japan. Tottori officials will put signs up to ask people (10) \_\_\_\_\_ dunes. The officials are worried tourists will not (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They said: "We want to continue to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the beautiful sand dunes."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190525-tottori-sand-dunes-1.html>

A Japanese city has a graffiti problem. Not spray-canon walls graffiti, but graffiti in sand. City officials are asking tourists to stop writing messages and drawing pictures on the city's sand dunes. Graffiti damages the dunes. It ruins the pleasure people get in looking at them. There were more than 3,300 cases of 'sand graffiti' at the tourist hotspot in the past ten years. In January, two tourists had to erase a 25-metre-long birthday message. The Tottori sand dunes are famous across Japan for their beauty. They are Japan's largest and longest dunes. The biggest is 50 metres high. They are 16 kilometres long. They are part of a scenic coastal park on the Sea of Japan. Tottori officials will put signs up to ask people to respect the dunes. The officials are worried tourists will not follow the rules. They said: "We want to continue to protect views of the beautiful sand dunes."

# SAND DUNES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190525-tottori-sand-dunes-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Sand dunes 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Japanese city asks tourists to stop 'sand graffiti' – 25th May, 2019*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

