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Level 1 – 23rd December, 2020

World blocks UK over new mutant virus strain

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-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/2012/201223-mutant-virus-1.html>

Forty countries have blocked travel to the United Kingdom. The reason is a new kind of COVID-19. The new coronavirus is a mutant - it changed from the original virus that started earlier this year. Some nations blocked links to the UK for a few days; others for two weeks. Many countries are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.

The UK says the new virus is 70% more infectious than the original one. It is fast-spreading and out of control. A lot of the UK is now in lockdown. There are new rules about mixing with other people. Most people can only spend Christmas with people they live with. They cannot travel to meet other people. A politician said the news was very bad. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled. The UK leader told people that there would be enough food.

Sources: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/coronavirus-latest-britain-cut-off-by-30-countries-as-mutant-covid-strain-out-of-control-1.1098247>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55391289>
<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-britain/wrapup-1-world-closes-borders-to-britain-as-new-coronavirus-strain-breeds-panic-idUSL1N2J10IW>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Forty countries have blocked | a. ban from France |
| 2. The reason is a new kind | b. the original virus |
| 3. The new coronavirus is a | c. across |
| 4. it changed from | d. travel |
| 5. Some nations blocked links | e. the situation |
| 6. Many countries are reviewing | f. of COVID-19 |
| 7. caused by a travel | g. to the UK |
| 8. A lot of the UK's food comes | h. mutant |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the new virus is 70% more | a. enough food |
| 2. the original | b. control |
| 3. out of | c. about mixing |
| 4. A lot of the UK is | d. they live with |
| 5. There are new rules | e. infectious |
| 6. spend Christmas with people | f. has nearly doubled |
| 7. The number of coronavirus cases | g. one |
| 8. there would be | h. now in lockdown |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-1.html>

Forty countries (1) _____ to the United Kingdom. The reason is (2) _____ of COVID-19. The new coronavirus is a mutant - it changed from (3) _____ that started earlier this year. Some nations blocked links to the UK for (4) _____; others for two weeks. Many countries are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are (5) _____ a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's (6) _____ the English Channel from France.

The UK says (7) _____ is 70% more infectious than (8) _____. It is fast-spreading and out of control. A lot of the UK is now in lockdown. There are new rules about (9) _____ people. Most people can only spend Christmas with people they live with. They cannot travel to (10) _____. A politician said the news was very bad. The number of coronavirus cases (11) _____. The UK leader told people that there would (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-1.html>

Forty countries have blocked travel to the United Kingdom. The reason is a new kind of COVID-19. The new coronavirus is a mutant - it changed from the original virus that started earlier this year. Some nations blocked links to the UK for a few days; others for two weeks. Many countries are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France. The UK says the new virus is 70% more infectious than the original one. It is fast-spreading and out of control. A lot of the UK is now in lockdown. There are new rules about mixing with other people. Most people can only spend Christmas with people they live with. They cannot travel to meet other people. A politician said the news was very bad. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled. The UK leader told people that there would be enough food.

THE MUTANT VIRUS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the mutant virus 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201223-mutant-virus-1.html>

Write about **the mutant virus** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
