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**Level 3 – 23rd December, 2020**

## World blocks UK over new mutant virus strain

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

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Forty countries have blocked air, sea and land travel to and from the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are among the countries. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is spreading around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this means it has changed from the original virus that started spreading at the beginning of the year. Some nations have blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries say they 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 government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent more infectious than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is "out of control". London and many other parts of the country are now in lockdown. The government has issued new rules about mixing with other people. This means most people will only be able to spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see any other family members or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled in the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE MUTANT VIRUS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the mutant virus. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

air / sea / land / countries / strain / coronavirus / mutant / transport / situation / government / infectious / original / out of control / lockdown / travel / family / food

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

**3. OVER:** Students A **strongly** believe the pandemic will be over in 2021; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. COVID-19:** Why are these ways to reduce the spread of the virus effective? How good are you at doing these? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why Are They Effective?	How Good Are You?
Hand washing		
Mask wearing		
Using alcohol spray		
Wiping commonly-used areas		
Social distancing		
Avoiding crowds		

**5. SEA:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "sea". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. POST-COVID:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do after COVID-19 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Stop wearing masks
- Go to restaurants
- Hug friends
- Go to events
- Stop worrying
- Travel
- Continue hand washing
- Party

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. land      | a. A variety or kind of a particular thing.   |
| 2. strain    | b. A means of contact, travel, or transport between two points or places.                 |
| 3. spreading | c. Officially stop people doing something.  |
| 4. links     | d. Getting larger or bigger over a wider and wider area.                                  |
| 5. at least  | e. Looking at something with the possibility or intention of making changes if necessary. |
| 6. reviewing | f. The part of the earth's surface that is not covered by water.                          |
| 7. ban       | g. Not less than.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. infectious     | h. No longer possible to manage.                               |
| 9. out of control | i. Making people stay in their houses because of an emergency. |
| 10. lockdown      | j. Became twice as much or as many.                            |
| 11. mixing        | k. The main political party not in office.                     |
| 12. opposition    | l. Meeting and talking to lots of other people.                |
| 13. disturbing    | m. Likely to spread a virus, disease, laughter...              |
| 14. doubled       | n. Causing anxiety; worrying.                                  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. The article says over 40 countries have blocked travel to the UK. **T / F**
- b. A new type of COVID-19 is spreading around the United Kingdom. **T / F**
- c. Some countries have blocked travel to the UK for two weeks. **T / F**
- d. The biggest problem for the UK is a travel ban from Spain. **T / F**
- e. The mutant virus is 70% more infectious than before. **T / F**
- f. The UK government says it has the mutant virus under control. **T / F**
- g. People in the UK can only spend Xmas with people they live with. **T / F**
- h. The UK leader said there might not be enough food. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>blocked</b>    | a. worrying          |
| 2. <b>reason</b>     | b. first             |
| 3. <b>strain</b>     | c. created           |
| 4. <b>original</b>   | d. cause             |
| 5. <b>caused</b>     | e. catching          |
| 6. <b>infectious</b> | f. sufficient        |
| 7. <b>issued</b>     | g. variety           |
| 8. <b>disturbing</b> | h. multiplied by two |
| 9. <b>doubled</b>    | i. released          |
| 10. <b>enough</b>    | j. barred            |

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

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Forty countries have blocked air,          | a. more infectious         |
| 2. a new strain of COVID-19 that is spreading | b. has nearly doubled      |
| 3. for at                                     | c. the English Channel     |
| 4. Many countries say they are                | d. new rules               |
| 5. A lot of the UK's food comes across        | e. around the UK           |
| 6. the mutant virus is 70 per cent            | f. sea and land travel     |
| 7. so fast-spreading that it is               | g. disturbing              |
| 8. The government has issued                  | h. "out of control"        |
| 9. deeply                                     | i. reviewing the situation |
| 10. The number of coronavirus cases           | j. least two weeks         |

# GAP FILL

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

Forty countries have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ air, sea and land travel to and from the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the countries. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this means it has changed from the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ virus that started spreading at the beginning of the year. Some nations have blocked transport (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to the UK for a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries say they are reviewing the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.

*spreading*

*situation*

*links*

*blocked*

*ban*

*original*

*among*

*few*

The UK government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent more (9) \_\_\_\_\_ than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is "out of (10) \_\_\_\_\_". London and many other parts of the country are now in (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The government has issued new rules about (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with other people. This means most people will only be able to spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see any other family (13) \_\_\_\_\_ or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been (14) \_\_\_\_\_ disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would be (16) \_\_\_\_\_ food.

*members*

*control*

*enough*

*mixing*

*doubled*

*infectious*

*lockdown*

*deeply*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Forty countries have blocked air, sea \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. end land travel
  - b. sand land travel
  - c. land and travel
  - d. and land travel
- 2) The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. that is spread in
  - b. that is spread din
  - c. that is spread ding
  - d. that is spreading
- 3) blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. least two weeks
  - b. least two week
  - c. least too week
  - d. least to weeks
- 4) Many countries say they are reviewing \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the situation
  - b. the situate as on
  - c. the situate shun
  - d. the station
- 5) The biggest problems are being caused by \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a travels ban
  - b. a travel ban
  - c. a travellers ban
  - d. a travel band
- 6) The UK government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. more infectiously
  - b. more infections
  - c. more infectious
  - d. more infect shuns
- 7) the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. out in control
  - b. out on control
  - c. out by control
  - d. out of control
- 8) The government has issued new rules \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. about mix in
  - b. about mixing
  - c. about my sin
  - d. about mix sin
- 9) They cannot travel to see any other \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. family's members
  - b. family member
  - c. family members
  - d. familial members
- 10) The number of coronavirus cases has \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nearly double
  - b. nearly doubled
  - c. nearly doublet
  - d. nearly doubles

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Forty countries (1) \_\_\_\_\_, sea and land travel to and from the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia (2) \_\_\_\_\_ countries. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is spreading around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ has changed from the original virus that started spreading at the beginning of the year. Some nations have blocked transport links to the UK (4) \_\_\_\_\_ days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries say they are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems (5) \_\_\_\_\_ by a travel ban from France. A (6) \_\_\_\_\_ UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.

The UK government (7) \_\_\_\_\_ virus is 70 per cent more infectious than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is "(8) \_\_\_\_\_". London and many other parts of the country are (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The government has issued new rules about mixing with other people. This means most people will only be able to spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ family members or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would be enough food.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many countries blocked travel to and from the UK?
2. Where is a new strain of the coronavirus spreading?
3. What is the longest amount of time countries are blocking the UK?
4. What are many countries reviewing?
5. Where does a lot of the UK's food come from?
6. How much more infectious is the mutant virus?
7. What did the government say about the spread of the mutant virus?
8. Who can people in the UK spend Christmas with?
9. By how much have coronavirus cases increased in the last week?
10. What did the UK leader say there would be enough of?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1) How many countries blocked travel to and from the UK?

- a) 39
- b) 42
- c) 40
- d) 41

2) Where is a new strain of the coronavirus spreading?

- a) the UK
- b) France
- c) the World
- d) Europe

3) What is the longest amount of time countries are blocking the UK?

- a) five days
- b) a week
- c) a month
- d) 2 weeks

4) What are many countries reviewing?

- a) the virus
- b) the situation
- c) hospital beds
- d) visas

5) Where does a lot of the UK's food come from?

- a) Spain
- b) the USA
- c) France
- d) Australia

6) How much more infectious is the mutant virus?

- a) 80%
- b) 70%
- c) 60%
- d) 50%

7) What did the government say about the spread of the mutant virus?

- a) it's gradual
- b) it's under control
- c) not much
- d) it's out of control

8) Who can people in the UK spend Christmas with?

- a) friends
- b) people they live with
- c) anyone
- d) neighbours

9) By how much have coronavirus cases increased in the last week?

- a) they have doubled
- b) by half
- c) by 70%
- d) they trebled

10) What did the UK leader say there would be enough of?

- a) vaccines
- b) hospital beds
- c) trains
- d) food

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Party**

You think the best thing to do after COVID-19 is to party. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these you will do last (and why): travel, hug friends or continue hand washing.

## **Role B – Travel**

You think the best thing to do after COVID-19 is to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these you will do last (and why): party, hug friends or continue hand washing.

## **Role C – Hug Friends**

You think the best thing to do after COVID-19 is to hug friends. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these you will do last (and why): travel, party or continue hand washing.

## **Role D – Continue Hand Washing**

You think the best thing to do after COVID-19 is to continue hand washing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these you will do last (and why): travel, hug friends or party.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

<b>mutant</b>	<b>virus</b>
---------------	--------------

- 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"><li>• land</li><li>• reason</li><li>• original</li><li>• links</li><li>• ban</li><li>• food</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70</li><li>• fast</li><li>• now</li><li>• spend</li><li>• news</li><li>• last</li></ul>
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# THE MUTANT VIRUS SURVEY

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

# THE MUTANT VIRUS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'world'?
3. What do you think of countries blocking travel to the UK?
4. How important is travel?
5. How has coronavirus affected your life?
6. What do you know about the new strain of coronavirus?
7. How worried are you about the new strain of coronavirus?
8. What problems will the travel bans cause the UK?
9. Would you like to go the UK right now?
10. Is the world beating the coronavirus?

*World blocks UK over new mutant virus strain – 23rd December, 2020*  
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# THE MUTANT VIRUS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'virus'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Are you worried the new strain is 70% more infectious?
15. How worrying is it the mutant virus is out of control?
16. Should people not travel this Christmas?
17. How is your country dealing with coronavirus?
18. What three adjectives best describe this story?
19. What happens if the UK cannot get enough food?
20. What questions would you like to ask the UK's leader?

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

Forty countries have blocked air, sea and land travel to and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the countries. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ is spreading around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this means it has changed from the original virus that started spreading at the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the year. Some nations have blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries say they are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.

The UK government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent more (7) \_\_\_\_\_ than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ fast-spreading that it is "out of control". London and many other parts of the country are now in lockdown. The government has issued new rules about (9) \_\_\_\_\_ with other people. This means most people will only be able to spend Christmas with the people they live (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They cannot travel to see any other family members or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been (11) \_\_\_\_\_ disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled in the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would be (12) \_\_\_\_\_ food.

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

- |     |               |              |               |                |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) form      | (b) for      | (c) fro       | (d) from       |
| 2.  | (a) between   | (b) among    | (c) adjacent  | (d) next       |
| 3.  | (a) what      | (b) that     | (c) where     | (d) such       |
| 4.  | (a) begins    | (b) began    | (c) beginning | (d) beginner   |
| 5.  | (a) reviewing | (b) reviews  | (c) reviewed  | (d) reviewer   |
| 6.  | (a) lot       | (b) loads    | (c) lots      | (d) allot      |
| 7.  | (a) infect    | (b) infected | (c) infection | (d) infectious |
| 8.  | (a) so        | (b) such     | (c) thus      | (d) though     |
| 9.  | (a) mixer     | (b) mixing   | (c) mixes     | (d) mixed      |
| 10. | (a) at        | (b) on       | (c) with      | (d) by         |
| 11. | (a) deeps     | (b) depth    | (c) deeply    | (d) deepen     |
| 12. | (a) sure      | (b) enough   | (c) cooking   | (d) freshly    |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. gamno the countries
2. indegspar around the UK
3. changed from the oinairlg virus
4. for at telas two weeks
5. they are reviewing the inatstiuo
6. being uecasd by a travel ban

## Paragraph 2

7. more uoisifecnt
8. out of onortcl
9. An ptioopsino leader
10. deeply dibsintrgu
11. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly beloudd
12. ssdaeur people that there would be enough

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are among the countries. The reason
- ( ) two weeks. Many countries say they are reviewing the situation. The biggest problems are being caused
- ( ) year. Some nations have blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at least
- ( ) by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.
- ( ) able to spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see any other
- ( ) hours has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled in the last
- ( **1** ) Forty countries have blocked air, sea and land travel to and from the United Kingdom. Many European
- ( ) lockdown. The government has issued new rules about mixing with other people. This means most people will only be
- ( ) The UK government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent more infectious than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-
- ( ) family members or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24
- ( ) is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is spreading around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this
- ( ) spreading that it is "out of control". London and many other parts of the country are now in
- ( ) means it has changed from the original virus that started spreading at the beginning of the
- ( ) week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would be enough food.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. strain reason a COVID-19 . new of is The
2. virus . original from It has changed the
3. are countries situation . say Many reviewing the they
4. by being a travel Problems ban . caused are
5. across English UK's Channel . comes the The food
6. cent mutant is virus per The more infectious . 70
7. the fast-spreading . It said so mutant is strain
8. Parts are the now country of in lockdown .
9. They cannot family travel members . see to other
10. cases number of coronavirus nearly The has doubled .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Forty countries have blocked air, sea and land travel to and *fro / from* the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are *between / among* the countries. The *reasons / reason* is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is *spreading / spreadable* around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this *meaning / means* it has changed from the original virus *that / what* started spreading at the beginning of the year. Some nations have blocked transport *link / links* to the UK for a few days; others for at *least / last* two weeks. Many countries say they are *reviewing / reviewed* the situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from France. A lot of the UK's food *goes / comes* across the English Channel from France.

The UK government says the *mutant / militant* virus is 70 per cent more infectious than the *original / originally* coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is "*out / in* of control". London and many other parts of the country are now *on / in* lockdown. The government has issued new rules about mixing with other people. This means *much / most* people will only be able to *purchase / spend* Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see any other family *members / membranes* or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been *deeply / deep* disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly *twice / doubled* in the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would *be / do* enough food.

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

F\_rty c\_\_ntr\_\_s h\_v\_ bl\_ck\_d \_\_r, s\_\_ \_nd l\_nd tr\_v\_l  
t\_ \_nd fr\_m th\_ \_n\_t\_d K\_ngd\_m. M\_ny \_\_r\_p\_\_n  
c\_\_ntr\_\_s, C\_n\_d\_, \_r\_n, S\_\_d\_ \_r\_b\_\_, R\_ss\_\_, \_nd\_\_,  
\_nd C\_l\_mb\_\_ \_r\_ \_m\_ng th\_ c\_\_ntr\_\_s. Th\_ r\_\_s\_n \_s  
b\_c\_\_s\_ \_f \_ n\_w str\_\_n \_f C\_V\_D-19 th\_t \_s  
spr\_\_d\_ng \_r\_\_nd th\_ \_K. Th\_ n\_w c\_r\_n\_v\_r\_s \_s \_  
m\_t\_nt - th\_s m\_\_ns \_t h\_s chng\_d fr\_m th\_ \_r\_g\_n\_l  
v\_r\_s th\_t st\_rt\_d spr\_\_d\_ng \_t th\_ b\_g\_nn\_ng \_f th\_  
y\_\_r. S\_m\_ n\_t\_\_ns h\_v\_ bl\_ck\_d tr\_nsp\_rt l\_nks t\_ th\_  
\_K fr\_ \_ f\_w d\_ys; \_th\_rs fr\_ \_t l\_\_st tw\_ w\_\_ks.  
M\_ny c\_\_ntr\_\_s s\_y th\_y \_r\_ r\_v\_\_w\_ng th\_ s\_t\_\_t\_\_n.  
Th\_ b\_gg\_st pr\_bl\_ms \_r\_ b\_\_ng c\_\_s\_d by \_ tr\_v\_l  
b\_n fr\_m Fr\_nc\_. \_ l\_t \_f th\_ \_K's f\_\_d c\_m\_s \_cr\_ss  
th\_ \_ngl\_sh Ch\_nn\_l fr\_m Fr\_nc\_.

Th\_ \_K g\_v\_rnm\_nt s\_ys th\_ m\_t\_nt v\_r\_s \_s 70 p\_r  
c\_nt m\_r\_ \_nf\_ct\_\_s th\_n th\_ \_r\_g\_n\_l c\_r\_n\_v\_r\_s. \_t  
s\_\_d th\_ m\_t\_nt str\_\_n \_s s\_ f\_st-spr\_\_d\_ng th\_t \_t \_s  
"\_\_t \_f c\_ntr\_l". L\_nd\_n \_nd m\_ny \_th\_r p\_rts \_f th\_  
c\_\_ntry \_r\_ n\_w \_n l\_ckd\_wn. Th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s  
\_ss\_\_d n\_w r\_l\_s \_b\_\_t m\_x\_ng w\_th \_th\_r p\_\_pl\_.  
Th\_s m\_\_ns m\_st p\_\_pl\_ w\_ll \_nly b\_ \_bl\_ t\_ sp\_nd  
Chr\_stm\_s w\_th th\_ p\_\_pl\_ th\_y l\_v\_ w\_th. Th\_y c\_nn\_t  
tr\_v\_l t\_ s\_\_ \_ny \_th\_r f\_m\_ly m\_mb\_rs \_r fr\_\_nds. \_n  
\_pp\_s\_t\_\_n l\_\_d\_r s\_\_d: "Th\_ n\_ws \_v\_r th\_ l\_st 24  
h\_\_rs h\_s b\_\_n d\_\_ply d\_st\_r\_b\_ng. Th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f  
c\_r\_n\_v\_r\_s c\_s\_s h\_s n\_\_rly d\_\_bl\_d \_n th\_ l\_st  
w\_\_k." Th\_ \_K Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r B\_r\_s J\_hns\_n \_ss\_r\_d  
p\_\_pl\_ th\_t th\_r\_ w\_\_ld b\_ \_n\_\_gh f\_\_d.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

forty countries have blocked air sea and land travel to and from the united kingdom many european countries canada iran saudi arabia russia india and colombia are among the countries the reason is because of a new strain of covid19 that is spreading around the uk the new coronavirus is a mutant this means it has changed from the original virus that started spreading at the beginning of the year some nations have blocked transport links to the uk for a few days others for at least two weeks many countries say they are reviewing the situation the biggest problems are being caused by a travel ban from france a lot of the uks food comes across the english channel from france

the uk government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent more infectious than the original coronavirus it said the mutant strain is so fastspreading that it is out of control london and many other parts of the country are now in lockdown the government has issued new rules about mixing with other people this means most people will only be able to spend christmas with the people they live with they cannot travel to see any other family members or friends an opposition leader said the news over the last 24 hours has been deeply disturbing the number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled in the last week the uk prime minister boris johnson assured people that there would be enough food

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Forty countries have blocked air, sea and land travel to and from the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are among the countries. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is spreading around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this means it has changed from the original virus that started spreading at the beginning of the year. Some nations have blocked transport links to the UK for a few days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries say they 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 government says the mutant virus is 70 percent more infectious than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is "out of control". London and many other parts of the country are now in lockdown. The government has issued new rules about mixing with other people. This means most people will only be able to spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see any other family members or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled in the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would be enough food.







# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE MUTANT VIRUS:** Make a poster about the mutant virus. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. LOCKDOWN:** Write a magazine article about putting the world in lockdown for two weeks to slow down the spread of the virus. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 the mutant virus. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stop it spreading. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. f    2. a    3. d    4. b    5. g    6. e    7. c  
8. m    9. h    10. i    11. l    12. k    13. n    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b T    c T    d F    e T    f F    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. j	2. d	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. e	7. i	8. a	9. h	10. f

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Forty
- The UK
- Two weeks
- The situation
- France
- 70 per cent
- It's out of control
- People they live with
- They have doubled
- Food

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- The reason is a new strain of COVID-19.
- It has changed from the original virus.
- Many countries say they are reviewing the situation.
- Problems are being caused by a travel ban.
- The UK's food comes across the English Channel.
- The mutant virus is 70 per cent more infectious.
- It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading.
- Parts of the country are now in lockdown.
- They cannot travel to see other family members.
- The number of coronavirus cases has nearly doubled.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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