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**Level 6 – 31st March, 2021**

## **Suez Canal reopens after stranded ship is freed**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

The Suez Canal is finally open again after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed to get wedged between both sides of the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent blockage disrupted global trade and international markets. Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million in lost revenue. The week-long jam means there is a backlog of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are anchored in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean near both ends of the canal. Authorities say they will try and double the daily average of 50 ships to pass through the channel to around 90 to 100 vessels.

There has been a monumental effort over the past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been clearing sand underneath it in an attempt to refloat it, and a flotilla of 30 tug boats worked to pull it away from the canal's banks. They were helped by a high tide in the final hours of the salvage operation. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort to refloat the ship. On social media, he said the refloating was successful despite there being "massive technical complexity". He added: "The world can now rest assured about the passage of goods through this pivotal shipping route. Egyptians today proved that they are always up to the challenge."

Sources: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/egypt/suez-canal-cleared-as-ever-given-gets-under-way-1.1192868>  
<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/massive-ship-blocking-suez-canal-freed>  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/29/ever-given-turned-80-percent-in-right-direction-live-news>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE SUEZ CANAL:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the Suez Canal. 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?

canal / vessel / container / waterway / global trade / revenue / backlog / average / dredger / sand / banks / effort / social media / technical / complexity / shipping

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

**3. SHIPPING:** Students A **strongly** believe shipping is the best method of transporting goods; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WATERWAYS:** How important are these waterways? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How important?	Why?
The Suez Canal		
The Panama Canal		
The Straits of Hormuz		
The Amazon River		
The River Nile		
The Bering Strait		

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

**6. VESSELS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Container ships
- Cruise ships
- Fishing boats
- Yachts
- Ferries
- Oil tankers
- Speed boats
- Aircraft carriers

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. vessel     | a. Secured a ship to the sea bottom or river bed.   |
| 2. wedged     | b. Relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests and the means of achieving them. |
| 3. strategic  | c. An obstruction which makes movement or flow difficult or impossible.                                       |
| 4. subsequent | d. A ship or boat.  |
| 5. blockage   | e. Interrupt an event, activity, or process by causing a disturbance or problem.                              |
| 6. disrupted  | f. Forced into a narrow space.  |
| 7. anchored   | g. Coming after something in time; following.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8. monumental  | h. Rescue a wrecked or disabled ship or its cargo from loss at sea.                   |
| 9. dredger     | i. A special floating crane designed for removing sand from rivers.                   |
| 10. flotilla   | j. Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else. |
| 11. salvage    | k. Great in importance, extent, or size.  |
| 12. bank       | l. The land alongside or sloping down to a river or lake.                             |
| 13. complexity | m. A large group of boats or ships.   |
| 14. pivotal    | n. The state or quality of being intricate or very difficult.                         |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

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

- a. The Suez Canal was blocked for over 10 days. **T / F**
- b. The container ship weighed over a quarter of a million tons. **T / F**
- c. Egypt lost over \$100 billion because the ship got stuck. **T / F**
- d. Over 450 ships are waiting to pass through the Suez Canal. **T / F**
- e. A flotilla of 30 tug boats helped to shift the container ship. **T / F**
- f. A low tide helped the boats to refloat the container ship. **T / F**
- g. Egypt's leader said the operation involved massive technical complexity. **T / F**
- h. Egypt's leader said Egyptians are always ready for a challenge. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>1. blocked</b>    | a. passage    |
| <b>2. wedged</b>     | b. pileup     |
| <b>3. forecast</b>   | c. crucial    |
| <b>4. backlog</b>    | d. stuck      |
| <b>5. channel</b>    | e. huge       |
| <b>6. monumental</b> | f. difficulty |
| <b>7. salvage</b>    | g. obstructed |
| <b>8. complexity</b> | h. showed     |
| <b>9. pivotal</b>    | i. predicted  |
| <b>10. proved</b>    | j. rescue     |

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

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. the giant vessel that had            | a. tide                   |
| 2. get wedged between both sides of the | b. disrupted global trade |
| 3. The subsequent blockage              | c. over the past week     |
| 4. The week-long jam means there        | d. average of 50 ships    |
| 5. double the daily                     | e. shipping route         |
| 6. There has been a monumental effort   | f. strategic waterway     |
| 7. a flotilla of                        | g. to the challenge       |
| 8. They were helped by a high           | h. is a backlog of ships  |
| 9. through this pivotal                 | i. 30 tug boats           |
| 10. they are always up                  | j. blocked it for a week  |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

The Suez Canal is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ open again after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed to get (2) \_\_\_\_\_ between both sides of the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent (3) \_\_\_\_\_ disrupted global trade and international markets. Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ revenue. The week-long jam means there is a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean near both (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the canal. Authorities say they will try and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the daily average of 50 ships to pass through the channel to around 90 to 100 vessels.

*blockage*  
*anchored*  
*double*  
*wedged*  
*backlog*  
*ends*  
*finally*  
*lost*

There has been a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ effort over the past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been (10) \_\_\_\_\_ sand underneath it in an attempt to refloat it, and a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of 30 tug boats worked to pull it away from the canal's (12) \_\_\_\_\_. They were helped by a high (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in the final hours of the salvage operation. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to refloat the ship. On social media, he said the refloating was successful despite there being "massive technical complexity". He added: "The world can now rest (15) \_\_\_\_\_ about the passage of goods through this pivotal shipping route. Egyptians today proved that they are always up to the (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*flotilla*  
*challenge*  
*tide*  
*monumental*  
*banks*  
*assured*  
*clearing*  
*effort*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

- 1) The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to get edged
  - b. to get wedged
  - c. to get ledged
  - d. to get fledged
- 2) the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent blockage \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. disrupt it global trade
  - b. disrupted globally trade
  - c. disrupted global trader
  - d. disrupted global trade
- 3) Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in lost revenue
  - b. on lost revenue
  - c. inn lost revenue
  - d. an lost revenue
- 4) to sail through the canal. More than 450 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. ships are anchor
  - b. ships are accorded
  - c. ships are anchor
  - d. ships are anchored
- 5) try and double the daily average of 50 ships to pass \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. though the channel
  - b. thorough the channel
  - c. thought the channel
  - d. through the channel
- 6) They were helped by a high tide in the final hours of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. savage operation
  - b. salvage operation
  - c. sausage operation
  - d. sail verge operation
- 7) Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. reef float the ship
  - b. reef load the ship
  - c. refloat the ship
  - d. real float the ship
- 8) refloating was successful despite there being massive \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. technical complexity
  - b. technical complex it
  - c. technical complex city
  - d. technical complexion
- 9) rest assured about the passage of goods through this \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. pivotal shipping route
  - b. pivot all shipping lout
  - c. pivotal shipping loot
  - d. pivot all shipping route
- 10) Egyptians today proved that they are always up \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tomb the challenge
  - b. two the challenge
  - c. to the challenge
  - d. true the challenge

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

The Suez Canal is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed (2) \_\_\_\_\_ between both sides of the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent blockage (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and international markets. Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million in lost revenue. The week-long jam means there (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are anchored in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the canal. Authorities say they will try (6) \_\_\_\_\_ daily average of 50 ships to pass through the channel to around 90 to 100 vessels.

There has been a monumental (7) \_\_\_\_\_ past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been clearing sand underneath it in an attempt (8) \_\_\_\_\_, and a flotilla of 30 tug boats worked to pull it away from the canal's banks. They were helped by a high tide in the final hours of (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort to (10) \_\_\_\_\_. On social media, he said the refloating was successful (11) \_\_\_\_\_ "massive technical complexity". He added: "The world can now rest assured about the passage of goods through this (12) \_\_\_\_\_. Egyptians today proved that they are always up to the challenge."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

1. How much does the Ever Given weigh?
2. How much money has Egypt lost because of the canal being blocked?
3. What did the ship disrupt besides global trade?
4. How many ships are waiting to pass through the canal?
5. How many ships do authorities want to pass through the canal?
6. How long is the ship?
7. How many tug boats were used to refloat the Ever Given?
8. What were the rescuers helped by?
9. Who thanked the rescuers?
10. What did Egypt's leader say Egyptians are always up to?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

- 1) How much does the Ever Given weigh?
  - a) 210,000 tons
  - b) 220,000 tons
  - c) 230,000 tons
  - d) 240,000 tons
- 2) How much money has Egypt lost because of the canal being blocked?
  - a) \$200 million
  - b) \$400 million
  - c) \$50 million
  - d) \$100 million
- 3) What did the ship disrupt besides global trade?
  - a) neighbourly relations
  - b) sand
  - c) international markets
  - d) the peace and quiet
- 4) How many ships are waiting to pass through the canal?
  - a) more than 450
  - b) less than 450
  - c) about 450
  - d) exactly 450
- 5) How many ships do authorities want to pass through the canal?
  - a) 80 to 90
  - b) 90 to 100
  - c) 50 to 60
  - d) a dozen or so
- 6) How long is the ship?
  - a) 400 metres
  - b) 300 metres
  - c) 200 metres
  - d) 100 metres
- 7) How many tug boats were used to refloat the Ever Given?
  - a) 12
  - b) 28
  - c) 30
  - d) 50
- 8) What were the rescuers helped by?
  - a) a high tide
  - b) an international team
  - c) perfect weather
  - d) special cranes
- 9) Who thanked the rescuers?
  - a) tug boat pilots
  - b) the ship's crew
  - c) the ship's captain
  - d) Egypt's president
- 10) What did Egypt's leader say Egyptians are always up to?
  - a) meeting targets
  - b) achieving success
  - c) the challenge
  - d) helping out

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

## **Role A – Container Ships**

You think container ships are the most important vessels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vessels. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): cruise ships, oil tankers or aircraft carriers.

## **Role B – Cruise Ships**

You think cruise ships are the most important vessels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vessels. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): container ships, oil tankers or aircraft carriers.

## **Role C – Oil Tankers**

You think oil tankers are the most important vessels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vessels. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): cruise ships, container ships or aircraft carriers.

## **Role D – Aircraft Carriers**

You think aircraft carriers are the most important vessels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their vessels. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): cruise ships, oil tankers or container ships.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

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

canal	ship

- 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>• finally</li><li>• between</li><li>• global</li><li>• cost</li><li>• 450</li><li>• double</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• past</li><li>• attempt</li><li>• pull</li><li>• thanked</li><li>• rest</li><li>• always</li></ul>
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# THE SUEZ CANAL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Suez Canal 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 SUEZ CANAL 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 'canal'?
3. What do you know about the Suez Canal?
4. What are the good and bad things about container ships?
5. How might the blockage disrupt international markets?
6. How could the ship have got stuck?
7. What harm does shipping do to the environment?
8. What would life be like as a sailor on a container ship?
9. What three adjectives best describe this story?
10. How important is the Suez Canal?

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# THE SUEZ CANAL 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 'ship'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How important are canals?
15. What are the differences between canals and rivers?
16. What canals are there in your country?
17. What do you think of Egypt?
18. What technical complexities would refloating the ship have?
19. How up to a challenge are you?
20. What questions would you like to ask the ship's captain?

# 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/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

The Suez Canal is finally open again after the giant (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that had blocked it for a week is refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given (2) \_\_\_\_\_ ship managed to get wedged between both sides of the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent blockage (3) \_\_\_\_\_ global trade and international markets. Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million (4) \_\_\_\_\_ lost revenue. The week-long jam means there is a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are anchored in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean near both ends of the canal. Authorities say they will try and double the daily average of 50 ships to pass through the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to around 90 to 100 vessels.

There has been a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ effort over the past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been clearing sand underneath it in an attempt to refloat it, and a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of 30 tug boats worked to pull it away from the canal's banks. They were helped by a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ tide in the final hours of the salvage operation. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort to refloat the ship. On social media, he said the refloating was successful despite (10) \_\_\_\_\_ being "massive technical complexity". He added: "The world can now rest assured about the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of goods through this pivotal shipping route. Egyptians today proved that they are always (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the challenge."

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

- |     |                |                 |               |               |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) vessel     | (b) vassal      | (c) wassail   | (d) vase      |
| 2.  | (a) contents   | (b) contentment | (c) container | (d) contains  |
| 3.  | (a) enraptured | (b) erupted     | (c) disrupted | (d) corrupted |
| 4.  | (a) by         | (b) as          | (c) on        | (d) in        |
| 5.  | (a) log        | (b) logger      | (c) backlog   | (d) logging   |
| 6.  | (a) Chunnel    | (b) channel     | (c) tunnel    | (d) groove    |
| 7.  | (a) moment     | (b) monumental  | (c) monument  | (d) momentary |
| 8.  | (a) espadrille | (b) flotilla    | (c) scintilla | (d) villa     |
| 9.  | (a) tall       | (b) up          | (c) high      | (d) increase  |
| 10. | (a) these      | (b) how         | (c) what      | (d) there     |
| 11. | (a) alleyway   | (b) road        | (c) corridor  | (d) passage   |
| 12. | (a) in         | (b) down        | (c) of        | (d) up        |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. the giant seelsv that had blocked it
2. The 220,000-ton Ever Given cnnoatrei ship
3. geewdd between both sides
4. The usugensebt blockage
5. \$100 million in lost rnueeev
6. ndhrocae in the Red Sea

## Paragraph 2

7. There has been a ntmlnuomea effort
8. a lltfiloa of 30 tug boats
9. the glvseaa operation
10. massive technical ipmyxolcte
11. rest deurssa
12. through this avtpiol shipping route

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

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

- ( ) sides of the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent blockage disrupted global trade and international
- ( ) or in the Mediterranean near both ends of the canal. Authorities say they will try and double the daily
- ( ) of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are anchored in the Red Sea
- ( ) refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed to get wedged between both
- ( ) markets. Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million in lost revenue. The week-long jam means there is a backlog
- ( ) clearing sand underneath it in an attempt to refloat it, and a flotilla of 30 tug boats worked to pull
- ( ) average of 50 ships to pass through the channel to around 90 to 100 vessels.
- ( ) There has been a monumental effort over the past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been
- ( ) shipping route. Egyptians today proved that they are always up to the challenge."
- ( **1** ) The Suez Canal is finally open again after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is
- ( ) it away from the canal's banks. They were helped by a high tide in the final hours of the salvage
- ( ) complexity". He added: "The world can now rest assured about the passage of goods through this pivotal
- ( ) operation. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort
- ( ) to refloat the ship. On social media, he said the refloating was successful despite there being "massive technical

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

1. had that vessel blocked The it . giant
2. between to both get wedged It sides . managed
3. forecast \$100 has it Analysts Egypt million . cost
4. through . of backlog ships waiting to A sail
5. average . the will daily and It try double
6. effort the past A monumental over week .
7. tide by hours . the Helped in the final
8. participated who Sisi thanked everyone the in effort .
9. of The this route . goods through passage shipping
10. challenge . are the to Proved always up they

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

The Suez Canal is *finally* / *finale* open again after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed to get *widgit* / *wedged* between both sides of the *strategy* / *strategic* waterway last week. The *subsequent* / *subsequently* blockage disrupted global trade and international markets. *Analysts* / *Analysis* forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million *on* / *in* lost revenue. The week-long *preserve* / *jam* means there is a *log* / *backlog* of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are anchored in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean near both ends of the canal. Authorities say they will try and *twice* / *double* the daily average of 50 ships to pass through the *channel* / *tunnel* to around 90 to 100 vessels.

There has been a *monument* / *monumental* effort over the past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been clearing sand underneath it *in* / *on* an attempt to refloat it, and a flotilla of 30 *hug* / *tug* boats worked to pull it away from the canal's *banks* / *bankers*. They were helped by a *high* / *tall* tide in the final hours of the salvage operation. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi thanked everyone who took *party* / *part* in the effort to refloat the ship. On social media, he said the refloating was successful *spiteful* / *despite* there being "massive technical complexity". He added: "The world can now rest *assured* / *sure* about the passage of goods through this *pivotal* / *pivot* shipping route. Egyptians today proved that they are always *down* / *up* to the challenge."

**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/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

Th\_ S\_\_z C\_n\_l \_s f\_n\_lly \_p\_n \_g\_\_n \_ft\_r th\_ g\_\_nt  
v\_ss\_l th\_t h\_d bl\_ck\_d \_t f\_r \_ w\_\_k \_s r\_fl\_\_t\_d.  
Th\_ 220,000-t\_n \_v\_r G\_v\_n c\_nt\_\_n\_r sh\_p m\_n\_g\_d  
t\_ g\_t w\_dg\_d b\_tw\_\_n b\_th s\_d\_s \_f th\_ str\_t\_g\_c  
w\_t\_rw\_y l\_st w\_\_k. Th\_ s\_bs\_q\_\_nt bl\_ck\_g\_ d\_sr\_pt\_d  
gl\_b\_l tr\_d\_ \_nd \_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l m\_rk\_ts. \_n\_lysts  
f\_r\_c\_st \_t h\_s c\_st \_gypt \$100 m\_ll\_\_n \_n l\_st  
r\_v\_n\_\_\_. Th\_ w\_\_k-l\_ng j\_m m\_\_ns th\_r\_ \_s \_ b\_ckl\_g  
\_f sh\_ps w\_\_t\_ng t\_ s\_\_l thr\_\_gh th\_ c\_n\_l. M\_r\_ th\_n  
450 sh\_ps \_r\_ \_nch\_r\_d \_n th\_ R\_d S\_\_ \_r \_n th\_  
M\_d\_t\_rr\_n\_\_n \_n\_r b\_th \_nds \_f th\_ c\_n\_l.  
\_\_th\_r\_t\_\_s s\_y \_t w\_ll try \_nd d\_\_bl\_ th\_ d\_\_ly  
\_v\_r\_g\_ \_f 50 sh\_ps t\_ p\_ss thr\_\_gh th\_ ch\_nn\_l t\_  
\_r\_\_nd 90 t\_ 100 v\_ss\_ls.

Th\_r\_ h\_s b\_\_n \_ m\_n\_m\_nt\_l \_ff\_rt \_v\_r th\_ p\_st  
w\_\_k t\_ fr\_\_ th\_ 400-m\_tr\_-l\_ng \_v\_r G\_v\_n. Dr\_dg\_rs  
h\_v\_ b\_\_n cl\_\_r\_ng s\_nd \_nd\_rn\_\_th \_t \_n \_n \_tt\_mpt  
t\_ r\_fl\_\_t \_t, \_nd \_ fl\_t\_ll\_ \_f 30 t\_g b\_\_ts w\_rk\_d  
t\_ p\_ll \_t \_w\_y fr\_m th\_ c\_n\_l's b\_nks. Th\_y w\_r\_  
h\_lp\_d by \_ h\_gh t\_d\_ \_n th\_ f\_n\_l h\_\_rs \_f th\_  
s\_lv\_g\_ \_p\_r\_t\_\_n. \_gypt's Pr\_s\_d\_nt \_bd\_l F\_tt\_h \_l  
S\_s\_ th\_nk\_d \_v\_ry\_n\_ wh\_ t\_\_k p\_rt \_n th\_ \_ff\_rt t\_  
r\_fl\_\_t th\_ sh\_p. \_n s\_c\_\_l m\_d\_\_, h\_ s\_\_d th\_  
r\_fl\_\_t\_ng w\_s s\_cc\_ssf\_l d\_sp\_t\_ th\_r\_ b\_\_ng "m\_ss\_v\_  
t\_chn\_c\_l c\_mpl\_x\_ty". H\_ \_dd\_d: "Th\_ w\_rld c\_n n\_w  
r\_st \_ss\_r\_d \_b\_\_t th\_ p\_ss\_g\_ \_f g\_\_ds thr\_\_gh th\_s  
p\_v\_t\_l sh\_pp\_ng r\_\_t. \_gypt\_\_ns t\_d\_y pr\_v\_d th\_t  
th\_y \_r\_ \_lw\_ys \_p t\_ th\_ ch\_ll\_ng\_."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

the suez canal is finally open again after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is refloated the 220000ton ever given container ship managed to get wedged between both sides of the strategic waterway last week the subsequent blockage disrupted global trade and international markets analysts forecast it has cost egypt 100 million in lost revenue the weeklong jam means there is a backlog of ships waiting to sail through the canal more than 450 ships are anchored in the red sea or in the mediterranean near both ends of the canal Authorities say they will try and double the daily average of 50 ships to pass through the channel to around 90 to 100 vessels there has been a monumental effort over the past week to free the 400metrelong ever given dredgers have been clearing sand underneath it in an attempt to refloat it and a flotilla of 30 tug boats worked to pull it away from the canals banks they were helped by a high tide in the final hours of the salvage operation egypt's president abdel fattah el sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort to refloat the ship on social media he said the refloating was successful despite there being massive technical complexity he added the world can now rest assured about the passage of goods through this pivotal shipping route egyptians today proved that they are always up to the challenge

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210331-suez-canal.html>

The Suez Canal is finally open again after the giant vessel that had blocked it for a week is refloated. The 220,000-ton Ever Given container ship managed to get wedged between both sides of the strategic waterway last week. The subsequent blockage disrupted global trade and international markets. Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million in lost revenue. The week-long jam means there is a backlog of ships waiting to sail through the canal. More than 450 ships are anchored in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean near both ends of the canal. Authorities say they will try and double the daily average of 50 ships to pass through the channel to around 90 to 100 vessels. There has been a monumental effort over the past week to free the 400-metre-long Ever Given. Dredgers have been clearing sand underneath it in an attempt to refloat it, and a flotilla of 30 tugboats worked to pull it away from the canal's banks. They were helped by a high tide in the final hour of the salvage operation. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi thanked everyone who took part in the effort to refloat the ship. On social media, he said the refloating was successful despite there being "massive technical complexity". He added: "The world can now rest assured about the passage of goods through this pivotal shipping route. Egyptians today proved that they are always up to the challenge."







# 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 SUEZ CANAL:** Make a poster about the Suez Canal. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. CANALS:** Write a magazine article about building more canals to help international shipping. 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 Suez Canal. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on international shipping. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 220,000 tons
- \$100 million
- International markets
- More than 450
- 90 to 100
- 400 metres
- Thirty
- A high tide
- Egypt's president
- The challenge

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- The giant vessel that had blocked it.
- It managed to get wedged between both sides.
- Analysts forecast it has cost Egypt \$100 million.
- A backlog of ships waiting to sail through.
- It will try and double the daily average.
- A monumental effort over the past week.
- Helped by the tide in the final hours.
- Sisi thanked everyone who participated in the effort.
- The passage of goods through this shipping route.
- Proved they are always up to the challenge.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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