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Level 2 – 16th January 2024

Los Angeles wildfires lead to sky-high rents

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

Some landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed thousands of homes. Tens of thousands of L.A. residents now have nowhere to live. They are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers say some rents in L.A. have doubled after the wildfires began. Making a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. The California governor introduced a price-gouging law on January the 7th. This was after he declared a state of emergency.

The wildfires shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires destroyed large parts of some of LA's most exclusive areas. Many celebrities lost their beachfront houses. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house in upmarket Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." The mother of Beyonce also lost her house. She wrote: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. Little rain left Los Angeles very dry. The risk of wildfires is high.

Sources: <https://www.newsweek.com/la-renters-pride-gouging-los-angeles-wildfires-2013645>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/los-angeles-wildfire-evacuees-price-gouging-predatory-businesses-landlords/>
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hundreds-of-la-landlords-hike-rents-to-capitalize-on-desperate-fire-evacuees-202317417.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. destroyed | a. in a crisis |
| 2. Tens of thousands of L.A. | b. a house to rent |
| 3. have nowhere | c. of emergency |
| 4. They are trying to find | d. have doubled |
| 5. some rents in L.A. | e. residents |
| 6. Making a profit | f. law |
| 7. a price-gouging | g. thousands of homes |
| 8. he declared a state | h. to live |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. some of LA's most | a. climate change |
| 2. celebrities lost their beachfront | b. has shattered |
| 3. It feels like my heart | c. is high |
| 4. into a | d. houses |
| 5. It was my favourite | e. million pieces |
| 6. people are blaming | f. very dry |
| 7. Little rain left Los Angeles | g. place |
| 8. The risk of wildfires | h. exclusive areas |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

Some landlords in Los Angeles (1) _____ the wildfires that have destroyed thousands of homes. (2) _____ of L.A. residents now have nowhere to live. They are trying to find a (3) _____. However, some landlords are raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers say some rents in L.A. (4) _____ the wildfires began. Making a profit (5) _____ is called price gouging. The California governor introduced a price-gouging law on January the 7th. This was after he declared a (6) _____.

The wildfires shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to (7) _____. The fires destroyed large parts of some of LA's most exclusive areas. Many (8) _____ beachfront houses. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house in upmarket Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels (9) _____ has shattered into a million pieces." The mother of Beyonce also lost her house. She wrote: "It was (10) _____, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many (11) _____ climate change for the fires. Little rain left Los Angeles very dry. The risk of (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

SomelandlordsinLosAngelesareprofitingfromthewildfiresthathavedestroyedthousandsofhomes.TensofthousandsofL.A.residentsnowhavenowheretolive.Theyaretryingtofindahousetorent.However,somelandlordsareraisingtheirrentsbythousandsofdollars.LocalnewspaperssaysomerentsinL.A.havedoubledafterthewildfiresbegan.Makingaprofitinacrisisiscalledpricegouging.TheCaliforniagovernorintroducedaprice-gouginglawonJanuarythe7th.Thiswasafterhedecaredastateofemergency.ThewildfireshockedAmerica.Morethan105,000peoplehadtoleavetheirhomes.ThefiresdestroyedlargepartsofsomeofL.A.'smostexclusiveareas.Manycelebritieslosttheirbeachfronthouses.ActressParisHiltonlostherhouseinupmarketMalibu.Shewroteonsocialmedia:"Itfeelslikemyheartshatteredintoamillionpieces."ThemothertofBeyoncealsolostherhouse.Shewrote:"Itwasmyfavouriteplace,mysanctuary,mysacredhappyplace.Nowitisgone."Manypeopleareblamingclimatechangeforthefires.LittlerainleftLosAngelesverydry.The riskofwildfiresishigh.

RENT SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rent 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/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires-2.html>

Write about **rent** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
