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Level 3 – 16th January 2024

Los Angeles wildfires lead to sky-high rents

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

There are reports that landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people lost their homes in the fires. They now have nowhere to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. have doubled since the wildfires began. Trying to make a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging laws on January the 7th. This was after he declared a state of emergency.

The wildfires have shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires have destroyed large parts of some of the most exclusive areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the upmarket area of Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyonce, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually 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>

WARM-UPS

1. RENT: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rent. 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?

reports / landlords / communities / homes / wildfires / rent / profit / crisis / gouging / exclusive areas / Los Angeles / celebrities / beachfront properties / climate change

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

3. CLIMATE CHANGE: Students A **strongly** believe we turn tirm climate change around; Students B **strongly** believe we can't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PROPERTY LOCATION: What are the good and bad things about these property locations? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
Beachfront		
Inner city		
Mountain top		
Desert		
Riverside		
Countryside		

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

6. NATUTAL DISASTERS: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Wildfires
- Snow storms
- Hurricanes
- Floods
- Heatwaves
- Droughts
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic eruptions

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. landlord | a. Made two times bigger. |
| 2. profiting | b. Completely broken or ruined so it cannot be used anymore. |
| 3. destroyed | c. Getting money from something, especially by selling or renting things. |
| 4. communities | d. Officially said or announced something. |
| 5. doubled | e. A person who owns a house or apartment and rents it to other people. |
| 6. crisis | f. Groups of people living in the same place or area. |
| 7. declared | g. A very bad or difficult time. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. exclusive | h. Broken into very small pieces. |
| 9. celebrities | i. Saying that someone or something caused a problem. |
| 10. properties | j. A safe and quiet place where you feel happy or calm. |
| 11. shattered | k. Famous people, like actors, singers, or sports stars. |
| 12. sanctuary | l. Not having enough of something. |
| 13. blaming | m. Only for special people, rich people, or a small group -not for everyone. |
| 14. lack | n. Houses, apartments, or land that someone owns. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. The article says landlords across the USA are raising rents. **T / F**
2. Some landlords in Los Angeles have doubled their rent. **T / F**
3. Price gouging is when people make a profit out of a crisis. **T / F**
4. California introduced price-gouging laws and then a state of emergency. **T / F**
5. More than 150,000 people in L.A. had to leave their home. **T / F**
6. The Paris Hilton hotel donated money to people affected by the fires. **T / F**
7. Beyonce's mother lost her house in the wildfires. **T / F**
8. Los Angeles has been unusually dry. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. profiting | a. bring in |
| 2. raising | b. emergency |
| 3. crisis | c. broken |
| 4. introduce | d. homes |
| 5. declared | e. making money |
| 6. destroyed | f. shelter |
| 7. properties | g. announced |
| 8. shattered | h. chance |
| 9. sanctuary | i. increasing |
| 10. risk | j. wrecked |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. profiting | a. crisis |
| 2. rents in L.A. have | b. of emergency |
| 3. Trying to make a profit in a | c. climate change |
| 4. he would introduce price- | d. areas of Los Angeles |
| 5. This was after he declared a state | e. doubled |
| 6. some of the most exclusive | f. gouging laws |
| 7. celebrities have lost their | g. into a million pieces |
| 8. my heart has shattered | h. from the wildfires |
| 9. Many people are blaming | i. is high |
| 10. The risk of wildfires | j. beachfront properties |

GAP FILL

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

There are reports that landlords in Los Angeles are (1) _____ from the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people (2) _____ their homes in the fires. They now have nowhere to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to (3) _____. However, some landlords are suddenly (4) _____ their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. have (5) _____ since the wildfires began. Trying to make a (6) _____ in a crisis is called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would (7) _____ price-gouging laws on January the 7th. This was after he declared a (8) _____ of emergency.

raising
doubled
lost
profit
profiting
state
rent
introduce

The wildfires have (9) _____ America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires have destroyed large parts of some of the most (10) _____ areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront (11) _____. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the upmarket area of Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has (12) _____ into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyonce, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my (13) _____, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are (14) _____ climate change for the fires. A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually (15) _____. The risk of wildfires is (16) _____.

high
exclusive
sanctuary
shocked
dry
shattered
blaming
properties

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) profiting from the wildfires that have _____
 - a. destroyed many community
 - b. destroyed many communities
 - c. destroyed many commune cities
 - d. destroyed many commune ties
- 2) Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a _____
 - a. house to lent
 - b. house torrent
 - c. house to rant
 - d. house to rent
- 3) Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in _____
 - a. L.A. have doubled
 - b. L.A. have doublet
 - c. L.A. have double
 - d. L.A. have dabbled
- 4) Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce _____
 - a. price-gorging laws
 - b. price-gouging laws
 - c. price-gauging laws
 - d. price-gagging laws
- 5) This was after he declared a _____
 - a. slate of emergency
 - b. stated of emergency
 - c. state of emergency
 - d. slates of emergency
- 6) More than 105,000 people had to _____
 - a. leave their homes
 - b. leaf their homes
 - c. heave their homes
 - d. lease their homes
- 7) The fires have destroyed large parts of some of the _____
 - a. most exclusive arenas
 - b. most exclusive areas
 - c. must exclusive areas
 - d. most exclusion areas
- 8) It feels like my heart has shattered into _____
 - a. a million piece is
 - b. a million peace is
 - c. a million species
 - d. a million pieces
- 9) It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my _____
 - a. scared happy place
 - b. say creed happy place
 - c. sacred happy place
 - d. sake red happy place
- 10) A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The risk of _____
 - a. wildfires is height
 - b. wildfires is nigh
 - c. wildfires is highly
 - d. wildfires is high

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

There are reports that landlords in Los Angeles (1) _____ the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people (2) _____ in the fires. They now have nowhere to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly (3) _____ by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. (4) _____ the wildfires began. Trying to make a profit in (5) _____ called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging laws on January the 7th. This was after he declared a (6) _____.

The wildfires have shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires have (7) _____ of some of the most exclusive areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have (8) _____ properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the (9) _____ Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart (10) _____ a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyonce, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my (11) _____. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The (12) _____ is high.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who does the article say is profiting from the wildfires?
2. How many people are looking for a place to rent?
3. Who said some rents in L.A. have doubled?
4. What is the name of trying to make a profit from a crisis?
5. What did California's governor declare?
6. How many people had to leave their homes?
7. What kind of properties did the article say celebrities had lost?
8. Whose mother lost her house in the fires?
9. What are people blaming for the wildfires?
10. What did a lack of rain do to Los Angeles?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Who does the article say is profiting from the wildfires?
 - a) locals
 - b) tourists
 - c) residents
 - d) landlords
- 2) How many people are looking for a place to rent?
 - a) dozens
 - b) tens of thousands
 - c) hundreds
 - d) hundreds of thousands
- 3) Who said some rents in L.A. have doubled?
 - a) a real estate agent
 - b) actors
 - c) local newspapers
 - d) Gavin Newsom
- 4) What is the name of trying to make a profit from a crisis?
 - a) price gouging
 - b) profiting
 - c) a scandal
 - d) terrible
- 5) What did California's governor declare?
 - a) defeat
 - b) victory
 - c) a state of emergency
 - d) a new beginning
- 6) How many people had to leave their homes?
 - a) around 105,000
 - b) more than 105,000
 - c) exactly 105,000
 - d) fewer than 105,000
- 7) What kind of properties did the article say celebrities had lost?
 - a) wooden ones
 - b) expensive ones
 - c) old ones
 - d) beachfront properties
- 8) Whose mother lost her house in the fires?
 - a) Beyonce
 - b) Paris Hilton
 - c) Gavin Newsom
 - d) Tina Knowles
- 9) What are people blaming for the wildfires?
 - a) the government
 - b) arsonists
 - c) climate change
 - d) the forestry department
- 10) What did a lack of rain do to Los Angeles?
 - a) It increased tourism.
 - b) It left it unusually dry.
 - c) It caused a drought.
 - d) It killed trees.

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Wildfires

You think wildfires are the worst natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disaster isn't as bad Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): hurricanes, floods or earthquakes.

Role B – Hurricanes

You think hurricanes are the worst natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disaster isn't as bad Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): wildfires, floods or earthquakes.

Role C – Floods

You think floods are the worst natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disaster isn't as bad Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): hurricanes, wildfires or earthquakes.

Role D – Earthquakes

You think earthquakes are the worst natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disaster isn't as bad Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): hurricanes, floods or wildfires.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'wildfire' and 'rent'.

rent	wildfire
-------------	-----------------

- 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">• reports• nowhere• suddenly• local• crisis• state	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• leave• properties• upmarket• million• happy• blaming
---	---

RENT SURVEY

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

RENT 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 'wildfire'?
3. What do you know about the L.A. wildfires?
4. What do you think about rent?
5. What are the good things about renting?
6. What are the bad things about renting?
7. What do you think of landlords who raise their rents in a crisis?
8. How important is your community to you?
9. Is it easy to rent a house where you live?
10. How can we stop wildfires?

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RENT 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 'rent'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What images of the wildfires have you seen?
15. Is it better to rent or buy a house?
16. Where would you go if you suddenly had to leave your home?
17. How important is your house to you?
18. Where is your happy place?
19. Do you worry about climate change and natural disasters?
20. What questions would you like to ask a climate expert?

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/2501/250116-los-angeles-fires.html>

There are (1) _____ that landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people lost their homes (2) _____ the fires. They now have (3) _____ to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly raising their rents (4) _____ thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. have doubled since the wildfires began. Trying to make a profit in a (5) _____ is called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging laws on January the 7th. This was after he declared a (6) _____ of emergency.

The wildfires have shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to (7) _____ their homes. The fires have destroyed large parts of some of the most (8) _____ areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the (9) _____ area of Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has (10) _____ into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyonce, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is (11) _____." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The risk of wildfires is (12) _____.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) report | (b) reports | (c) reported | (d) reporting |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) of | (d) on |
| 3. | (a) whereabouts | (b) anywhere | (c) somewhere | (d) nowhere |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) critics | (b) crisis | (c) chaos | (d) charts |
| 6. | (a) area | (b) nation | (c) state | (d) province |
| 7. | (a) left | (b) lever | (c) leave | (d) leaving |
| 8. | (a) excludes | (b) exclude | (c) exclusive | (d) exclusion |
| 9. | (a) marketing | (b) market | (c) marketed | (d) upmarket |
| 10. | (a) shattered | (b) scattered | (c) shuttered | (d) stuttered |
| 11. | (a) gone | (b) come | (c) done | (d) been |
| 12. | (a) increase | (b) above | (c) high | (d) tall |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. ifoingptr from the wildfires
2. many ommciniutes
3. landlords are suddenly iagsrin their rents
4. rents in L.A. have ledubdo
5. in a icrssi
6. he declared a state of gmyreecne

Paragraph 2

7. The fires have setoeddry large parts
8. some of the most lcsiveuxe areas
9. beachfront peipoterrs
10. in the ptrkumea area of Malibu
11. people are mbglain climate change
12. allsunyuu dry

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The wildfires have shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires have
- () properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the upmarket area of Malibu. She wrote on
- () to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly
- () laws on January the 7th. This was after he declared a state of emergency.
- () my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A lack
- () raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. have
- () social media: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother
- () communities and thousands of homes. Many people lost their homes in the fires. They now have nowhere
- () destroyed large parts of some of the most exclusive areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront
- () of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The risk of wildfires is high.
- () of Beyonce, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary,
- () doubled since the wildfires began. Trying to make a profit in a crisis is called price
- (**1**) There are reports that landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed many
- () gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. many The have communities . that wildfires destroyed
2. homes people lost Many in fires . their the
3. to to are trying houses find rent . People
4. Some rents . are their suddenly raising landlords
5. declared of After he state emergency . a
6. exclusive areas most Some of of the Los Angeles .
7. celebrities their lost have beachfront properties . Many
8. my like feels shattered . It heart has
9. fires . for change People are blaming climate the
10. dry . unusually of lack A left Los Angeles rain

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

There are reports *what / that* landlords in Los Angeles are profiting *of / from* the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people lost their homes in the fires. They now have *somewhere / nowhere* to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find *a / the* house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly *rising / raising* their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are *reports / reporting* that some rents in L.A. have *double / doubled* since the wildfires began. Trying to *make / fake* a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging *law / laws* on January the 7th. This was after he declared a *state / nation* of emergency.

The wildfires have *shocking / shocked* America. More than 105,000 people had to leave *them / their* homes. The fires have destroyed large *part / parts* of some of the most exclusive *areas / arenas* of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton *lost / found* her house in the upmarket area of Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has *shuttered / shattered* into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyonce, also lost *her / hers* house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my *scared / sacred* happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A *luck / lack* of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The risk of wildfires *are / is* high.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_r_ _r_ r_p_rts th_t l_ndl_rds _n L_s _ng_l_s _r_ pr_f_t_ng fr_m th_ w_ldf_r_s th_t h_v_ d_str_y_d m_ny c_mm_n_t_s _nd th__s_nds _f h_m_s. M_ny p__pl_ l_st th__r h_m_s _n th_ f_r_s. Th_y n_w h_v_ n_w_h_r_ t_ l_v_. T_ns _f th__s_nds _f p__pl_ _r_ try_ng t_ f_nd _ h__s_ t_ r_nt. H_w_v_r, s_m_ l_ndl_rds _r_ s_dd_nly r__s_ng th__r r_nts by th__s_nds _f d_ll_rs. L_c_l n_wsp_p_rs _r_ r_p_rt_ng th_t s_m_ r_nts _n L__. h_v_ d__bl_d s_nc_ th_ w_ldf_r_s b_g_n. Try_ng t_ m_k_ _ pr_f_t _n _ cr_s_s _s c_ll_d pr_c_ g__g_ng. C_l_f_rn__ G_v_rn_r G_v_n N_ws_m s__d h_ w__ld _ntr_d_c_ pr_c_-g__g_ng l_ws _n J_n__ry th_ 7th. Th_s w_s _ft_r h_ d_cl_r_d _ st_t_ _f _m_rg_ncy.

Th_ w_ldf_r_s h_v_ sh_ck_d _m_r_c_. M_r_ th_n 105,000 p__pl_ h_d t_ l__v_ th__r h_m_s. Th_ f_r_s h_v_ d_str_y_d l_rg_ p_rts _f s_m_ _f th_ m_st _xcl_s_v_ _r__s _f L_s _ng_l_s. M_ny c_l_br_t__s h_v_ l_st th__r b__chfr_nt pr_p_rt__s. M_d_l, s_ng_r _nd _ctr_ss P_r_s H_lt_n l_st h_r h__s_ _n th_ _pm_rk_t _r__ _f M_l_b_. Sh_ wr_t_ _n s_c__l m_d__: "t f__ls l_k_ my h__rt h_s sh_tt_r_d _nt_ _ m_ll__n p__c_s." T_n_ Kn_wl_s, th_ m_th_r _f B_y_nc_, _ls_ l_st h_r h__s_. Sh_ wr_t_ _n _nst_gr_m: "t w_s my f_v__r_t_ pl_c_, my s_nct__ry, my s_cr_d h_ppy pl_c_. N_w _t _s g_n_." M_ny p__pl_ _r_ bl_m_ng cl_m_t_ ch_ng_ fr th_ f_r_s. _ l_ck _f r__n h_s l_ft L_s _ng_l_s _n_s__lly dry. Th_ r_sk _f w_ldf_r_s _s h_g_h.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

there are reports that landlords in los angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes many people lost their homes in the fires they now have nowhere to live tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent however some landlords are suddenly raising their rents by thousands of dollars local newspapers are reporting that some rents in la have doubled since the wildfires began trying to make a profit in a crisis is called price gouging california governor gavin newsom said he would introduce pricegouging laws on january the 7th this was after he declared a state of emergency

the wildfires have shocked america more than 105000 people had to leave their homes the fires have destroyed large parts of some of the most exclusive areas of los angeles many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties model singer and actress paris hilton lost her house in the upmarket area of malibu she wrote on social media it feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces tina knowles the mother of beyonce also lost her house she wrote on instagram it was my favourite place my sanctuary my sacred happy place now it is gone many people are blaming climate change for the fires a lack of rain has left los angeles unusually dry the risk of wildfires is high

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

There are reports that landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people lost their homes in the fires. They now have nowhere to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. have doubled since the wildfires began. Trying to make a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging law on January the 7th. This was after he declared a state of emergency. The wildfires have shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires have destroyed large parts of some of the most exclusive areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the upmarket area of Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyoncé, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The risk of wildfires is high.

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. RENT: Make a poster about rent. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NATURAL DISASTERS: Write a magazine article about moving communities to areas natural disasters cannot affect. 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 rent. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make rent fairer. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 F 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Landlords
2. Tens of thousands
3. Local newspapers
4. Price gouging
5. A state of emergency
6. More than 105,000
7. Beachfront properties
8. Beyonce
9. Climate change
10. Left it unusually dry

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The wildfires that have destroyed many communities.
2. Many people lost their homes in the fires.
3. People are trying to find houses to rent.
4. Some landlords are suddenly raising their rents.
5. After he declared a state of emergency.
6. Some of the most exclusive areas of Los Angeles.
7. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties.
8. It feels like my heart has shattered.
9. People are blaming climate change for the fires.
10. A lack of rain left Los Angeles unusually dry.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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