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Level 5 – 20th January 2025

U.K. village makes theme park from its potholed roads

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250120-pothole-land-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250120-pothole-land-5.html>

Roads in the U.K. are in a dire condition. A village has decided to mock them with a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week in a remote area of Wales. Park visitors get to experience the thrill of driving along one of the UK's thousands of badly potholed roads. The park promises its potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". Motorists will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to spoil the fun". Some of the potholes are almost 50 cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, they're bomb craters".

Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in a mess. It is almost impossible to drive without having to negotiate craters. This risks damage to the car. A resident complained that no repairs had been done to his village's roads in five years. Another villager complained about the "phenomenal" cost of car repairs because of potholes. Conditions are so bad that refuse collection drivers refuse to drive to one area. The U.K. government has set aside \$1.95 billion over the next two years to provide "immediate fixes" to repair seven million potholes.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c62q74xyq15o>
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/what-causes-potholes-why-uk-123458351.html>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/seven-million-more-potholes-to-be-filled-next-year-as-public-urged-to-report-roads-in-need-of-repair>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250120-pothole-land-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Roads in the U.K. are in a dire | a. potholed roads |
| 2. A village has decided to mock | b. craters |
| 3. in a remote | c. condition |
| 4. experience the thrill | d. two kilometres |
| 5. the UK's thousands of badly | e. area of Wales |
| 6. Motorists will get to navigate | f. the fun |
| 7. very little actual road to spoil | g. them |
| 8. they're bomb | h. of driving |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Decades of | a. aside \$1.95 billion |
| 2. left British roads | b. craters |
| 3. drive without having to negotiate | c. of car repairs |
| 4. complained that no | d. underinvestment |
| 5. the "phenomenal" cost | e. fixes |
| 6. refuse | f. repairs had been done |
| 7. The U.K. government has set | g. in a mess |
| 8. provide immediate | h. collection drivers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250120-pothole-land-5.html>

Roads in the U.K. are in (1) _____. A village has decided to (2) _____ a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week in a (3) _____ Wales. Park visitors get to experience the thrill of driving along one of the UK's (4) _____ potholed roads. The park promises its potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". Motorists will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with (5) _____ road to spoil the fun". Some of the potholes are almost 50 cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, (6) _____".

Decades of underinvestment have left British roads (7) _____. It is almost impossible to drive without having (8) _____. This risks damage to the car. A (9) _____ no repairs had been done to his village's roads in five years. Another villager complained about the (10) _____ car repairs because of potholes. Conditions are so bad that refuse collection drivers refuse to drive to one area. The U.K. government (11) _____ \$1.95 billion over the next two years to provide (12) _____ repair seven million potholes.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250120-pothole-land-5.html>

RoadsintheU.K. areinadirecondition. Avillagehasdecidedtomockthe
mwitha"potholethemepark". PotholeLandopenedlastweekinaremot
eareaofWales. Parkvisitorsgettoexperiencethethrillofdrivingalongon
eoftheUK'sthousandsofbadlypotholedroads. Theparkpromisesitspot
holesare"thedeep, longestandwidest inWales". Motoristswillgetto
navigate"twokilometresofpotholes, withverylittleactualroadto spoilt
hefun". Someofthepotholesarealmost50cmdeep. Onevillagerjokedth
at, "they'renotpotholes, they'rebombcraters". Decadesofunderinvest
menthaveleftBritishroadsinamess. Itisalmostimpossibletodrivewith
outhavingtonegotiatecraters. Thisrisksdamagetothe car. Aresidentco
mplainedthatnorepairshadbeendonetohisvillage'sroadsinfiveyears.
Anothervillagercomplainedaboutthe"phenomenal" costofcarrepairs
becauseofpotholes. Conditionsaresobadthatrefusecollectiondriversr
efusetodrivetoonearea. TheU.K. governmenthassetaside\$1.95billio
noverthenexttwoyearstoprovide"immediatefixes" torepairsevenmill
ionpotholes.

ROADS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250120-pothole-land-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about roads 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/2501/250120-pothole-land-5.html>

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