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## Level 6 – 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.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Roads in the U.K. are in such a dire condition that one village has decided to mock them by setting up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week near the remote Welsh community of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the thrills of driving along one of the UK's thousands of badly potholed roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added motorists will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to spoil the fun". Some of the potholes that scar the road 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 an alarming state of disrepair. It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to negotiate cratered roads, and thus risk damage to your car. A Pontfadog resident lamented that no repairs had been done to his village's roads in over five years. Another villager complained about repairs to her car. She said: "The cost to our cars is phenomenal." Parts of the road are almost impassable. The conditions are so atrocious that refuse collection drivers often refuse to drive to the village. The U.K. government has set aside £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to provide "immediate fixes" and 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. POTHOLES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about potholes. 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?

roads / village / community / thrills / promise / potholes / motorists / bomb craters / underinvestment / journey / car / resident / cost / refuse collection / government

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

**3. ROAD OR RAIL:** Students A **strongly** believe roads are better than rail; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. TRANSPORT:** What problems are there with these types of transport? How can we improve them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems	Improvements
Roads		
Railways		
Airports		
Ferries		
Subways		
Drones		

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

**6. ROADS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest problems at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Potholes
- Congestion
- Lack of markings
- Lack of drainage
- Pedestrians
- Unclear signs
- Uneven surfaces
- Poor lighting

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. dire        | a. To find your way to a place or through something.                         |
| 2. mock        | b. To make something worse or less good.                                     |
| 3. remote      | c. Very bad or serious.  |
| 4. navigate    | d. Large holes or dents in the ground, often caused by something hitting it. |
| 5. spoil       | e. To make fun of someone or something in a way that is not kind.            |
| 6. scar (verb) | f. Far away from other places.   |
| 7. craters     | g. To leave a mark or damage something in a way that is hard to fix.         |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. disrepair      | h. To say no or not agree to do something.                        |
| 9. negotiate      | i. The condition of something that is old and broken.             |
| 10. lamented      | j. Find a way over or through (an obstacle or difficult route).   |
| 11. phenomenal    | k. Very bad or awful.   |
| 12. atrocious     | l. Very amazing.  |
| 13. refuse (noun) | m. To feel sad about something that has happened.                 |
| 14. refuse (verb) | n. Things that are thrown away because they are no longer needed. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. Villagers in Wales started a theme park to celebrate its potholed roads. **T / F**
2. Visitors to Pothole Land can experience thrills on a jet-coaster. **T / F**
3. Some of the potholes in the theme park are nearly half a metre deep. **T / F**
4. A villager likened the potholes in his village to bomb craters. **T / F**
5. The article said the UK has not invested enough in roads for a century. **T / F**
6. A villager said his village had seen no road repairs in over five years. **T / F**
7. Garbage collectors never visit the village with potholed roads. **T / F**
8. The UK said it would repair seven million of its potholes over two years. **T / F**

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

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>dire</b>       | a. drivers      |
| 2. <b>setting up</b> | b. save         |
| 3. <b>remote</b>     | c. disturbing   |
| 4. <b>motorists</b>  | d. isolated     |
| 5. <b>scar</b>       | e. complained   |
| 6. <b>alarming</b>   | f. establishing |
| 7. <b>negotiate</b>  | g. damage       |
| 8. <b>lamented</b>   | h. garbage      |
| 9. <b>refuse</b>     | i. terrible     |
| 10. <b>set aside</b> | j. get round    |

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

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Roads in the U.K. are in such a dire | a. fun                |
| 2. near the remote                      | b. almost impassable  |
| 3. experience the thrills               | c. craters            |
| 4. spoil the                            | d. underinvestment    |
| 5. bomb                                 | e. Welsh community    |
| 6. Decades of                           | f. condition          |
| 7. in an alarming                       | g. roads              |
| 8. having to negotiate cratered         | h. drivers            |
| 9. Parts of the road are                | i. of driving         |
| 10. refuse collection                   | j. state of disrepair |

# GAP FILL

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

Roads in the U.K. are in such a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ condition that one village has decided to mock them by setting up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week near the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Welsh community of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of driving along one of the UK's thousands of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ potholed roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added (5) \_\_\_\_\_ will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the fun". Some of the potholes that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the road are almost 50 cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, they're bomb (8) \_\_\_\_\_".

*remote*

*badly*

*craters*

*dire*

*spoil*

*thrills*

*scar*

*motorists*

Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in an (9) \_\_\_\_\_ state of disrepair. It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ cratered roads, and thus risk damage to your car. A Pontfadog resident (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that no repairs had been done to his village's roads in over five years. Another villager (12) \_\_\_\_\_ about repairs to her car. She said: "The cost to our cars is (13) \_\_\_\_\_." Parts of the road are almost impassable. The conditions are so (14) \_\_\_\_\_ that refuse collection drivers often (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to drive to the village. The U.K. government has set (16) \_\_\_\_\_ £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to provide "immediate fixes" and to repair seven million potholes.

*complained*

*negotiate*

*refuse*

*lamented*

*aside*

*atrocious*

*alarming*

*phenomenal*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Roads in the U.K. are in such \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a dire conditions
  - b. a dry condition
  - c. a dial conditions
  - d. a dire condition
- 2) one village has decided \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to mock them
  - b. to mock then
  - c. tomb mock them
  - d. tomb ok them
- 3) Pothole Land opened last week near the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. remotely Welsh community
  - b. remote Welsh community
  - c. remote Welsh commune natty
  - d. demote Welsh community
- 4) two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. spoil the fan
  - b. spill the fun
  - c. spoil a fun
  - d. spoil the fun
- 5) One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. they're womb crater
  - b. they're bomb craters
  - c. they're tomb crater
  - d. they're comb craters
- 6) Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in an alarming \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. straight of disrepair
  - b. state off disrepair
  - c. state of disrepair
  - d. states of disrepair
- 7) It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. negotiated cratered roads
  - b. negotiate craters roads
  - c. negotiate cratered roads
  - d. negotiates cratered roads
- 8) She said: "The cost to our \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. cars is phenomenal
  - b. cars are phenomenal
  - c. cars be phenomenal
  - d. cars is phenom and all
- 9) The conditions are so atrocious that refuse collection \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. drivers often refuse
  - b. drivers often reused
  - c. drivers often refuge
  - d. drivers often recluse
- 10) £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. provider "immediate fixes"
  - b. provide "immediately fixes"
  - c. provide "immediate fix its"
  - d. provide "immediate fixes"

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Roads in the U.K. are in such a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ one village has decided to mock them by setting up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Welsh community of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the thrills of driving along one of the UK's thousands (3) \_\_\_\_\_ roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added motorists will (4) \_\_\_\_\_ "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to (5) \_\_\_\_\_". Some of the potholes that scar the road are almost 50 cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of disrepair. It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having (8) \_\_\_\_\_ roads, and thus risk damage to your car. A Pontfadog (9) \_\_\_\_\_ no repairs had been done to his village's roads in over five years. Another villager complained about repairs to her car. She said: "The cost to our (10) \_\_\_\_\_." Parts of the road are almost impassable. The conditions are so atrocious that (11) \_\_\_\_\_ often refuse to drive to the village. The U.K. government has set aside £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and to repair seven million potholes.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What kind of condition are roads in the U.K. in?
2. What did villagers in a village in Wales decide to mock?
3. How long is the potholed road that motorists can drive along?
4. How deep are some of the potholes?
5. What did a villager joke the potholes were?
6. For how long has there been underinvestment in the UK's roads?
7. In how long did a villager say his village had seen no road repairs?
8. What did a villager say about the cost of the potholes to cars?
9. Who often refuses to drive to the village because of the potholes?
10. How many potholes has the UK government said it would repair?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What kind of condition are roads in the U.K. in?
  - a) a pretty good condition
  - b) a dire condition
  - c) a fair condition
  - d) pristine condition
- 2) What did villagers in a village in Wales decide to mock?
  - a) a theme park
  - b) their cars
  - c) potholes in its roads
  - d) Pothole Land
- 3) How long is the potholed road that motorists can drive along?
  - a) 5 km
  - b) 4 km
  - c) 3 km
  - d) 2 km
- 4) How deep are some of the potholes?
  - a) just over 50 cm
  - b) almost 50 cm
  - c) around 50 cm
  - d) exactly 50 cm
- 5) What did a villager joke the potholes were?
  - a) bomb craters
  - b) nothing to worry about
  - c) fun
  - d) part of nature
- 6) For how long has there been underinvestment in the UK's roads?
  - a) decades
  - b) centuries
  - c) generations
  - d) years
- 7) In how long did a villager say his village had seen no road repairs?
  - a) exactly five years
  - b) around five years
  - c) just under five years
  - d) over five years
- 8) What did a villager say about the cost of the potholes to cars?
  - a) It's unbearable.
  - b) It's manageable.
  - c) It's phenomenal.
  - d) It's not funny.
- 9) Who often refuses to drive to the village because of the potholes?
  - a) pothole repairers
  - b) postal workers
  - c) villagers
  - d) refuse collectors
- 10) How many potholes has the UK government said it would repair?
  - a) 700,000
  - b) 7,000,000
  - c) 17,000,000
  - d) 770,000

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Potholes**

You think potholes are the biggest problem with / on roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): congestion, pedestrians and cyclists, or poor lighting.

## **Role B – Congestion**

You think congestion is the biggest problem with / on roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): potholes, pedestrians and cyclists, or poor lighting.

## **Role C – Pedestrians and Cyclists**

You think pedestrians and cyclists are the biggest problem with / on roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): congestion, potholes or poor lighting.

## **Role D – Poor Lighting**

You think poor lighting is the biggest problem with / on roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): congestion, pedestrians and cyclists, or potholes.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

pot	hole

- 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>• dire</li><li>• remote</li><li>• thrills</li><li>• promise</li><li>• added</li><li>• scar</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• alarming</li><li>• journey</li><li>• five</li><li>• cost</li><li>• drivers</li><li>• fixes</li></ul>
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# ROADS SURVEY

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

# ROADS 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 'road'?
3. What are roads like in your country?
4. What do you think of a pothole-themed park?
5. What damage can potholes do?
6. What's your favourite theme park?
7. How important are smooth, well-maintained roads?
8. What do you think of driving?
9. Do you know of any bad roads?
10. What advice do you have for motorists negotiating potholes?

*U.K. village makes theme park from its potholed roads – 20th January 2025*  
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# ROADS 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 'theme park'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why do you think the UK has not invested in its roads?
15. What damage do poor roads do to an economy?
16. Are potholed roads a signal that we should abandon our cars?
17. Should we cycle instead of drive?
18. Would you like to drive in the UK?
19. Why do you think the UK has over seven million potholes?
20. What questions would you like to ask the theme park?

# 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/2501/250120-pothole-land.html>

Roads in the U.K. are in such a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ condition that one village has decided to mock them by setting up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week near the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Welsh community of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of driving along one of the UK's thousands of badly potholed roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added motorists will get to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the fun". Some of the potholes that scar the road are almost 50 cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, they're bomb (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in an (7) \_\_\_\_\_ state of disrepair. It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to negotiate cratered roads, and thus risk damage (8) \_\_\_\_\_ your car. A Pontfadog resident lamented that no repairs had been done to his village's roads in over five years. Another (9) \_\_\_\_\_ complained about repairs to her car. She said: "The cost to our cars is phenomenal." Parts of the road are almost (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The conditions are so atrocious that refuse collection drivers often (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to drive to the village. The U.K. government has set aside £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to provide "immediate (12) \_\_\_\_\_" and to repair seven million potholes.

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

- |     |              |               |                |                |
|-----|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) dire     | (b) dirt      | (c) dare       | (d) dart       |
| 2.  | (a) demote   | (b) mote      | (c) remote     | (d) smote      |
| 3.  | (a) shrills  | (b) chills    | (c) thrills    | (d) quills     |
| 4.  | (a) grade    | (b) remove    | (c) ameliorate | (d) navigate   |
| 5.  | (a) spoil    | (b) stack     | (c) water      | (d) tar        |
| 6.  | (a) squabs   | (b) craters   | (c) bullets    | (d) detonate   |
| 7.  | (a) unending | (b) enhancing | (c) unearthing | (d) alarming   |
| 8.  | (a) at       | (b) of        | (c) to         | (d) as         |
| 9.  | (a) hamlet   | (b) commune   | (c) villager   | (d) townsfolk  |
| 10. | (a) dreamt   | (b) prized    | (c) scooped    | (d) impassable |
| 11. | (a) litter   | (b) rubbish   | (c) trash      | (d) refuse     |
| 12. | (a) pushes   | (b) fixes     | (c) tickets    | (d) chevrons   |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. in such a ider condition
2. the remote Welsh tmiconuym
3. experience the lhlsir of driving
4. Park sacofiifl
5. tsirosmot will get to navigate two kilometres
6. bomb tecasrr

## Paragraph 2

7. saceedd of underinvestment
8. an alarming state of rearsdipi
9. having to iotngetea cratered roads
10. The cost to our cars is aponnlmeeh
11. conditions are so irotoasuc
12. seurf collection

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) phenomenal." Parts of the road are almost impassable. The conditions are so atrocious that refuse collection
- ( **1** ) Roads in the U.K. are in such a dire condition that one village has decided to mock them by setting
- ( ) of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the thrills of driving along one of the UK's thousands of badly
- ( ) disrepair. It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to negotiate cratered roads, and thus risk
- ( ) Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in an alarming state of
- ( ) will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to spoil
- ( ) joked that, "they're not potholes, they're bomb craters".
- ( ) damage to your car. A Pontfadog resident lamented that no repairs had been done to his village's roads in
- ( ) up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week near the remote Welsh community
- ( ) over the next two years to provide "immediate fixes" and to repair seven million potholes.
- ( ) the fun". Some of the potholes that scar the road are almost 50 cm deep. One villager
- ( ) drivers often refuse to drive to the village. The U.K. government has set aside £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion)
- ( ) potholed roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added motorists
- ( ) over five years. Another villager complained about repairs to her car. She said: "The cost to our cars is

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. such a roads UK in are dire condition .
2. a them starting Mock theme by park . pothole
3. to driving . get thrills of experience Visitors the
4. of kilometres Motorists to potholes . have two navigate
5. road . the scar that potholes the Some of
6. of Roads state in an alarming are disrepair .
7. to having A cratered roads . journey without negotiate
8. roads . to had repairs done No the been
9. are roads that Conditions are atrocious impassable . so
10. collection refuse Refuse to drive drivers often there .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Roads in the U.K. are in such a *dire / fire* condition that one village has decided to *sock / mock* them by setting up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week near the *remote / remoted* Welsh community of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the *shrills / thrills* of driving *longing / along* one of the UK's thousands of *badly / worst* potholed roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added *motors / motorists* will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to *spoil / spill* the fun". Some of the potholes that *scar / stitch* the road are almost 50 cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, they're bomb *creatures / craters*".

Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in an *alarming / disarming* state of disrepair. It is almost impossible to go *in / on* a journey without having to *negotiate / negotiated* cratered roads, and thus risk damage to your car. A Pontfadog resident *cemented / lamented* that no repairs had been done to his village's roads in over five years. Another villager complained about repairs to her car. She said: "The *cost / price* to our cars is phenomenal." Parts of the road are almost *passe / impassable*. The conditions are so atrocious that *refute / refuse* collection drivers often *refute / refuse* to drive to the village. The U.K. government has *set / let* aside £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to provide "*immediately / immediate* fixes" and to repair seven million potholes.

**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/2501/250120-pothole-land.html>

R\_\_ds \_n th\_ \_\_K. \_r\_ \_n s\_ch \_ d\_r\_ c\_nd\_t\_\_n th\_t  
\_n\_ v\_ll\_g\_ h\_s d\_c\_d\_d t\_ m\_ck th\_m by s\_ttng \_p  
\_ "p\_th\_l\_ th\_m\_ p\_rk". P\_th\_l\_ L\_nd \_p\_n\_d l\_st  
w\_\_k n\_\_r th\_ r\_m\_t\_ W\_lsh c\_mm\_n\_ty \_f P\_ntf\_d\_g.  
V\_s\_t\_rs t\_ th\_ p\_rk g\_t t\_ \_xp\_r\_\_nc\_ th\_ thr\_lls \_f  
dr\_v\_ng \_l\_ng \_n\_ \_f th\_ \_K's th\_\_s\_nds \_f b\_dly  
p\_th\_l\_d r\_\_ds. P\_rk \_ff\_c\_\_ls pr\_m\_s\_ th\_ p\_rk's  
p\_th\_l\_s \_r\_ "th\_ d\_\_p\_st, l\_ng\_st \_nd w\_d\_st \_n  
W\_l\_s". Th\_y \_dd\_d m\_t\_r\_sts w\_ll g\_t t\_ n\_v\_g\_t\_  
"tw\_ k\_l\_m\_tr\_s \_f p\_th\_l\_s, w\_th v\_ry l\_ttl\_ \_ct\_\_l  
r\_\_d t\_ sp\_\_l th\_ f\_n". S\_m\_ \_f th\_ p\_th\_l\_s th\_t  
sc\_r th\_ r\_\_d \_r\_ \_lm\_st 50 cm d\_\_p. \_n\_ v\_ll\_g\_r  
j\_k\_d th\_t, "th\_y'r\_ n\_t p\_th\_l\_s, th\_y'r\_ b\_mb  
cr\_t\_rs".

D\_c\_d\_s \_f \_nd\_r\_nv\_stm\_nt h\_v\_ l\_ft Br\_t\_sh r\_\_ds \_n  
\_n\_ \_l\_rm\_ng st\_t\_ \_f d\_sr\_p\_\_r. \_t\_ \_s\_ \_lm\_st  
\_mp\_ss\_bl\_ t\_ g\_ \_n\_ \_ j\_\_rn\_y w\_th\_\_t h\_v\_ng t\_  
n\_g\_t\_\_t\_ cr\_t\_r\_d r\_\_ds, \_nd th\_s r\_sk d\_m\_g\_ t\_  
y\_\_r c\_r. \_ P\_ntf\_d\_g r\_s\_d\_nt l\_m\_nt\_d th\_t n\_  
r\_p\_\_rs h\_d b\_\_n d\_n\_ t\_ h\_s v\_ll\_g\_'s r\_\_ds \_n \_v\_r  
f\_v\_ y\_\_rs. \_n\_th\_r v\_ll\_g\_r c\_mpl\_\_n\_d \_b\_\_t r\_p\_\_rs  
t\_ h\_r c\_r. Sh\_ s\_\_d: "Th\_ c\_st t\_ \_\_r c\_rs \_s  
ph\_n\_m\_n\_l." P\_rts \_f th\_ r\_\_d \_r\_ \_lm\_st \_mp\_ss\_bl\_.  
Th\_ c\_nd\_t\_\_ns \_r\_ s\_ \_tr\_c\_\_s th\_t r\_f\_s\_ c\_ll\_ct\_\_n  
dr\_v\_rs \_ft\_n r\_f\_s\_ t\_ dr\_v\_ t\_ th\_ v\_ll\_g\_. Th\_ \_\_K.  
g\_v\_rnm\_nt h\_s s\_t \_s\_d\_ £1.6 b\_ll\_\_n (\$1.95 b\_ll\_\_n)  
\_v\_r th\_ n\_xt tw\_ y\_\_rs t\_ pr\_v\_d\_ "\_mm\_d\_\_t\_ f\_x\_s"  
\_nd t\_ r\_p\_\_r s\_v\_n m\_ll\_\_n p\_th\_l\_s.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

roads in the uk are in such a dire condition that one village has decided to mock them by setting up a pothole theme park pothole land opened last week near the remote welsh community of pontfadog visitors to the park get to experience the thrills of driving along one of the uks thousands of badly potholed roads park officials promise the parks potholes are the deepest longest and widest in wales they added motorists will get to navigate two kilometres of potholes with very little actual road to spoil the fun some of the potholes that scar the road are almost 50 cm deep one villager joked that theyre not potholes theyre bomb craters

decades of underinvestment have left british roads in an alarming state of disrepair it is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to negotiate cratered roads and thus risk damage to your car a pontfadog resident lamented that no repairs had been done to his villages roads in over five years another villager complained about repairs to her car she said the cost to our cars is phenomenal parts of the road are almost impassable the conditions are so atrocious that refuse collection drivers often refuse to drive to the village the uk government has set aside 16 billion 195 billion over the next two years to provide immediate fixes and to repair seven million potholes.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Roads in the U.K. are in such a dire condition that one village has decided to mock them by setting up a "pothole theme park". Pothole Land opened last week near the remote Welsh community of Pontfadog. Visitors to the park get to experience the thrill of driving along one of the UK's thousands of badly potholed roads. Park officials promise the park's potholes are "the deepest, longest and widest in Wales". They added motorists will get to navigate "two kilometres of potholes, with very little actual road to spoil it for fun". Some of the potholes that scar the road are almost 50cm deep. One villager joked that, "they're not potholes, they're bomb craters". Decades of underinvestment have left British roads in an alarming state of disrepair. It is almost impossible to go on a journey without having to negotiate cratered roads, and thus risk damage to your car. A Pontfadog resident lamented that no repair had been done to his village's roads in over five years. Another villager complained about repairs to her car. She said: "The cost to our cars is phenomenal." Parts of the road are almost impassable. The conditions are so atrocious that refuse collection drivers often refuse to drive to the village. The U.K. government has set aside £1.6 billion (\$1.95 billion) over the next two years to provide "immediate fixes" and to repair seven million potholes.







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

**4. POTHOLES:** Write a magazine article about governments having to fix roads within a week of their being reported. 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 roads. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to improve roads. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Dire condition
2. Potholes in its roads
3. 2 km
4. Almost 50 cm
5. Bomb craters
6. Decades
7. Over five years
8. It's phenomenal
9. Refuse collectors
10. Seven million

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

1. UK roads are in such a dire condition.
2. Mock them by starting a pothole theme park.
3. Visitors get to experience the thrills of driving.
4. Motorists have to navigate two kilometres of potholes.
5. Some of the potholes that scar the road.
6. Roads are in an alarming state of disrepair.
7. A journey without having to negotiate cratered roads.
8. No repairs had been done to the roads.
9. Conditions are so atrocious that roads are impassable.
10. Refuse collection drivers often refuse to drive there.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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