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Level 0 – 30th July 2026

France wildfires: City of Bordeaux faces evacuation

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

Europe is seeing record-breaking heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are out of control. The most serious one is 8 km from Bordeaux. Thousands of firefighters are fighting it. Thousands of people were evacuated from the city. A news website said the city looked worryingly like "the darkest days of the Covid-19 pandemic".

A firefighting boss said the kind of wildfire near Bordeaux has never been seen before in France. The extreme heat has created "fire clouds". These make their own winds. The boss said the wildfire "is shifting non-stop". He added: "We cannot fight it directly." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation.

Sources: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20260726-french-firefighters-face-pyrocumulonimbus-for-first-time>
<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20260727-i-spent-the-night-coughing-wildfire-smoke-leaves-bordeaux-residents-struggling-to-breathe>
<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/07/26/pedro-sanchez-the-scale-of-the-disaster-we-are-living-through-is-very-hard-to-accept>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Europe is seeing record-breaking | a. from Bordeaux |
| 2. deadly wildfires are out | b. website |
| 3. the most serious one is 8 km | c. of control |
| 4. firefighters are | d. of people |
| 5. thousands | e. pandemic |
| 6. evacuated from | f. heatwaves |
| 7. a news | g. the city |
| 8. the darkest days of the Covid-19 | h. fighting it |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. a firefighting | a. directly |
| 2. the kind of wildfire near | b. "fire clouds" |
| 3. never been seen before | c. Bordeaux |
| 4. the extreme heat has created | d. Goliath situation |
| 5. these make their own | e. in France |
| 6. the wildfire is | f. winds |
| 7. we cannot fight it | g. shifting non-stop |
| 8. in a David-versus- | h. boss |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

Europe (1) _____-breaking heatwaves.

Deadly wildfires are (2) _____. The most

(3) _____ 8 km from Bordeaux. Thousands

of firefighters (4) _____. Thousands of

people were (5) _____ city. A news website

said the city looked worryingly like "the

(6) _____ the Covid-19 pandemic".

A firefighting boss said the (7) _____ near

Bordeaux has (8) _____ before in France.

The (9) _____ created "fire clouds". These

make (10) _____. The boss said the wildfire

"is (11) _____". He added: "We cannot fight

it directly." He said his firefighters

(12) _____ David-versus-Goliath situation.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

Europe is seeing record-breaking heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are out of

control. The most serious one is 8 km from Bordeaux. Thousands of firefighters

are fighting it. Thousands of people were evacuated from the city.

A news website said the city looked worryingly like "the darkest days of the

COVID-19 pandemic". A firefighting boss said the kind of wildfire near B

ordeaux has never been seen before in France. The extreme heat has created

"fire clouds". These make their own winds. The boss said the wildfire "is

shifting non-stop". He added: "We cannot fight it directly." He said his fire

fighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation.

WILDFIRES

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wildfires 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/2607/260730-france-wildfires-0.html>

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

[illegible]