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Level 1 – 30th July 2026

France wildfires: City of Bordeaux faces evacuation

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-1.html>

Europe is experiencing record-breaking temperatures and heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are out of control. The most serious of these is near the city of Bordeaux. The huge wildfire is just 8 km from the city. Thousands of firefighters are fighting it. On Monday, 17,000 residents were evacuated from the city. Tens of thousands more might have to leave. A news site 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 in France before. He said the extreme heat has created "fire clouds". These make their own winds, which make the fires suddenly spread. The boss said the fire-cloud wildfire was very hard to put out. He said: "It is shifting non-stop. We cannot fight it directly." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation. Bordeaux locals are worrying about their future.

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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. record-breaking | a. have to leave |
| 2. Deadly wildfires are out | b. is near the city |
| 3. The most serious of these | c. Covid-19 pandemic |
| 4. The huge wildfire is just | d. evacuated |
| 5. Thousands of firefighters are | e. temperatures |
| 6. 17,000 residents were | f. 8 km from the city |
| 7. thousands more might | g. of control |
| 8. the darkest days of the | h. fighting it |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. the kind of wildfire | a. "fire clouds" |
| 2. the extreme heat has created | b. own winds |
| 3. These make their | c. about their future |
| 4. make the fires suddenly | d. to put out |
| 5. the fire-cloud wildfire was very hard | e. near Bordeaux |
| 6. It is shifting non- | f. Goliath situation |
| 7. a David-versus- | g. spread |
| 8. locals are worrying | h. stop |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-1.html>

(1) _____ record-breaking temperatures and heatwaves. Deadly wildfires are (2) _____. The most serious (3) _____ near the city of Bordeaux. The huge wildfire is just 8 km from the city. Thousands of firefighters (4) _____. On Monday, 17,000 residents were evacuated from the city. Tens of thousands more (5) _____ leave. A news site said the city looked worryingly like "the (6) _____ the Covid-19 pandemic".

A firefighting boss said (7) _____ wildfire near Bordeaux has never been seen in France before. He said the (8) _____ created "fire clouds". These make their own winds, which make the (9) _____. The boss said the fire-cloud wildfire was very hard (10) _____. He said: "It is shifting non-stop. We cannot (11) _____." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation. Bordeaux locals are worrying (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-1.html>

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Deadly wildfires are out of control. The most serious of these is near the city of Bordeaux. The huge wildfire is just 8 km from the city. Thousands of firefighters are fighting it. On Monday, 17,000 residents were evacuated from the city. Tens of thousands more might have to leave. A news site 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 in France before. He said the extreme heat has created "fire clouds". These make their own winds, which make the fire suddenly spread. The boss said the fire-cloud wildfire was very hard to put out. He said: "It is shifting non-stop. We cannot fight it directly." He said his firefighters were in a David-versus-Goliath situation. Bordeaux locals are worrying about their future.

WILDFIRES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260730-france-wildfires-4.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-1.html>

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

[illegible]