

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Mexico facing huge water shortage

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

### IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**8th September, 2009**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

Mexico City will soon face a huge water crisis. The city is now too big. There is not enough water for all the people who live there. The problem is that the city's system of collecting water is too old. A large percentage of rain water disappears into the ground. Water companies even have to pump water into the city from 130 kilometres away. The city's mayor Marcelo Ebrard recently said the water shortages will put people's health at risk. Another politician said the government must guarantee access to water because it's a basic human right.

Water shortages will be a big problem in the future. There are several reasons for this. One is that global warming is changing our weather. Another big reason is that too many people are living in cities. We all have gardens, we wash our cars twice a week and some of us have swimming pools. We are all using too much water. The world will soon have its first water war over access to water. It's time we all started to think more about how to save water. Our governments have to introduce campaigns to preserve this precious resource.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. face a huge water             | a. at risk            |
| 2. There is not enough water     | b. right              |
| 3. rain water disappears         | c. access to water    |
| 4. put people's health           | d. crisis             |
| 5. the government must guarantee | e. for all the people |
| 6. a basic human                 | f. into the ground    |

## Paragraph 2

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. There are several       | a. twice a week         |
| 2. global warming is       | b. save water           |
| 3. we wash our cars        | c. resource             |
| 4. war over access         | d. reasons for this     |
| 5. think more about how to | e. to water             |
| 6. preserve this precious  | f. changing our weather |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

Mexico City \_\_\_\_\_ huge water crisis. The city is now too big. There is not enough water for all the people who live there. The problem \_\_\_\_\_ system of collecting water is too old. A \_\_\_\_\_ of rain water disappears into the ground. Water companies \_\_\_\_\_ pump water into the city from 130 kilometres away. The city's mayor Marcelo Ebrard recently said the water shortages will put people's \_\_\_\_\_. Another politician said the government must guarantee access to water because it's \_\_\_\_\_ right.

Water shortages \_\_\_\_\_ problem in the future. There are several reasons for this. One is that global warming is changing our weather. Another \_\_\_\_\_ that too many people are living in cities. We all have gardens, we wash our cars twice a week \_\_\_\_\_ have swimming pools. We are all using too much water. The world will soon have its first water \_\_\_\_\_ to water. It's time we all started to think more about \_\_\_\_\_ water. Our governments have to introduce campaigns \_\_\_\_\_ precious resource.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

Mexico City will soon (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a huge water crisis. The city is now too big. There is not enough water for all the people who live there. The problem is that the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ system of collecting water is too old. A large percentage of rain water disappears into the ground. Water companies even have to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ water into the city from 130 kilometres away. The city's mayor Marcelo Ebrard recently said the water shortages will put people's health (4) \_\_\_\_\_ risk. Another politician said the government must guarantee access to water because it's a basic human (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

Water shortages will be a big problem in the future. There are several (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for this. One is that global warming is changing our weather. Another big reason is that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ many people are living in cities. We all have gardens, we (8) \_\_\_\_\_ our cars twice a week and some of us have swimming pools. We are all using too much water. The world will soon have its first water war (9) \_\_\_\_\_ access to water. It's time we all started to think more about how to save water. Our governments have to introduce campaigns to preserve this (10) \_\_\_\_\_ resource.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |              |              |               |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) face     | (b) head     | (c) skull     |
| 2.  | (a) cities   | (b) cities'  | (c) city's    |
| 3.  | (a) pump     | (b) push     | (c) pull      |
| 4.  | (a) by       | (b) at       | (c) to        |
| 5.  | (a) wrong    | (b) right    | (c) write     |
| 6.  | (a) reasons  | (b) reason   | (c) reasoning |
| 7.  | (a) to       | (b) two      | (c) too       |
| 8.  | (a) wash     | (b) washing  | (c) washed    |
| 9.  | (a) under    | (b) around   | (c) over      |
| 10. | (a) previous | (b) precious | (c) percent   |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. water isrisc
2. not ngoheu water
3. A large taegeencrp
4. disappears into the drongu
5. put people's hhetal at risk
6. a aiscb human right

## Paragraph 2

7. a big problem in the utefru
8. labgol warming
9. Another big onaser
10. swimming oplos
11. csaecs to water
12. precious oseecurr

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) warming is changing our weather. Another big reason is that too many people are living in cities. We all have gardens, we wash
- ( ) Mexico City will soon face a huge water crisis. The city is now too big. There is not enough water for all
- ( ) the government must guarantee access to water because it's a basic human right.
- ( ) first water war over access to water. It's time we all started to think more about how
- ( ) the people who live there. The problem is that the city's system of collecting water is too old. A large percentage of rain
- ( ) to save water. Our governments have to introduce campaigns to preserve this precious resource.
- ( ) water disappears into the ground. Water companies even have to pump water into the city from 130 kilometres
- ( **1** ) Water shortages will be a big problem in the future. There are several reasons for this. One is that global
- ( ) away. The city's mayor Marcelo Ebrard recently said the water shortages will put people's health at risk. Another politician said
- ( ) our cars twice a week and some of us have swimming pools. We are all using too much water. The world will soon have its

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. crisis City face water Mexico soon huge will a.

---

2. water enough Not people the all for.

---

3. disappears the water into ground Rain.

---

4. shortages at will risk put people's Water health.

---

5. to access guarantee must government The water.

---

6. the Shortages a in be problem future will big.

---

7. cities in living are people many Too.

---

8. We water much too using all are.

---

9. we more all started It's to time think.

---

10. Campaigns preserve precious to this resource.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © www.NewsEnglishLessons.com

---

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090908-mexico.html>

**Write about water for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# 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 more information about the water shortage in Mexico City. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about water. Include an imaginary interview with someone who has to walk 20 km a day to get water and that person's president. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. 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.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Mexico City's mayor. Ask him three questions about the water shortage. Give him three of your ideas on how to save water. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.