

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Iceland volcano shuts down Euro airspace

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

16th April, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

A volcano in Iceland has shut down a lot of Europe's airspace. A giant ash cloud from the volcano means it is too dangerous for airplanes to fly. The ash gets into the airplane's engines and can cause great damage. The volcano erupted on Wednesday and has caused travel chaos all over the world. Thousands of flights could not take off in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium and Scandinavia. People across the world with flights to these countries cannot travel until the cloud disappears. Scientists do not know when the ash will clear.

A weather forecaster from Iceland's meteorological office said the situation would continue for days, or even weeks. He pointed out that the same volcano erupted in 1821 and continued for two years. It is difficult to imagine what would happen if no planes could fly to most of Europe until 2012. Ferry and train companies would be very busy, and happy. Other people who are happy at the moment are sunset watchers. The ash in the sky is creating beautiful and spectacular sunsets. The whole world is watching this ash cloud.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. shut down a lot of | a. on Wednesday |
| 2. it is too dangerous | b. all over the world |
| 3. The volcano erupted | c. for airplanes to fly |
| 4. caused travel chaos | d. not know |
| 5. Thousands of flights could | e. Europe's airspace |
| 6. Scientists do | f. not take off |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A weather | a. erupted in 1821 |
| 2. the situation would | b. is watching |
| 3. the same volcano | c. spectacular sunsets |
| 4. It is difficult | d. forecaster |
| 5. creating beautiful and | e. to imagine |
| 6. The whole world | f. continue for days |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

A volcano in Iceland _____ of Europe's airspace. A giant ash cloud from the volcano means it is too dangerous for airplanes to fly. _____ airplane's engines and can cause great damage. The volcano erupted on Wednesday and has _____ over the world. Thousands of flights could not take off in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium and Scandinavia. People _____ flights to these countries cannot travel until the cloud disappears. Scientists do _____ will clear.

A weather forecaster from Iceland's meteorological office said the _____ for days, or even weeks. He pointed out that the same volcano erupted in 1821 and continued for two years. It is _____ what would happen if no planes _____ of Europe until 2012. Ferry and train companies would be very busy, and happy. Other people who are _____ are sunset watchers. The ash in the sky is creating beautiful and spectacular sunsets. The whole _____ this ash cloud.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

A volcano in Iceland has shut down a lot of Europe's airspace. A (1) _____ ash cloud from the volcano means it is too dangerous for airplanes to fly. The ash (2) _____ into the airplane's engines and can cause great damage. The volcano erupted on Wednesday and has caused travel (3) _____ all over the world. Thousands of flights could not take (4) _____ in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium and Scandinavia. People across the world with flights to these countries cannot travel (5) _____ the cloud disappears. Scientists do not know when the ash will clear.

A weather (6) _____ from Iceland's meteorological office said the situation would continue for days, or even weeks. He pointed (7) _____ that the same volcano erupted in 1821 and continued for two years. It is difficult to imagine what would (8) _____ if no planes could fly to most of Europe until 2012. Ferry and train companies would be very busy, and happy. Other people who are happy at the (9) _____ are sunset watchers. The ash in the sky is creating beautiful and spectacular sunsets. The (10) _____ world is watching this ash cloud.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | (a) giant | (b) dwarf | (c) fairy |
| 2. | (a) got | (b) getting | (c) gets |
| 3. | (a) chaotic | (b) chaos | (c) chaotically |
| 4. | (a) off | (b) on | (c) up |
| 5. | (a) still | (b) until | (c) already |
| 6. | (a) guesser | (b) forecaster | (c) fortune teller |
| 7. | (a) up | (b) to | (c) out |
| 8. | (a) happen | (b) happening | (c) happens |
| 9. | (a) now | (b) immediately | (c) moment |
| 10. | (a) all | (b) whole | (c) every |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. A giant ash could
2. too uoagsdnre
3. cause great gmdaae
4. The volcano pdteeur on Wednesday
5. fgslhti to these countries
6. the ash will aclre

Paragraph 2

7. the situation would entiunoc
8. He tinodep out that...
9. difficult to naeigmi
10. train apneomcis
11. beautiful and spectacular susetns
12. The ewloh world is watching

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100416-volcanoes.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () creating beautiful and spectacular sunsets. The whole world is watching this ash cloud.
- () A weather forecaster from Iceland's meteorological office said the situation would continue for days,
- () it is too dangerous for airplanes to fly. The ash gets into the airplane's engines and can cause great
- () damage. The volcano erupted on Wednesday and has caused travel chaos all over the world. Thousands of
- () flights could not take off in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium and Scandinavia. People across the world
- () years. It is difficult to imagine what would happen if no planes could fly to most of Europe until 2012. Ferry and train companies would be very busy, and
- (**1**) A volcano in Iceland has shut down a lot of Europe's airspace. A giant ash cloud from the volcano means
- () with flights to these countries cannot travel until the cloud disappears. Scientists do not know when the ash will clear.
- () or even weeks. He pointed out that the same volcano erupted in 1821 and continued for two
- () happy. Other people who are happy at the moment are sunset watchers. The ash in the sky is

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. Europe's of lot a down Shut airspace.

2. dangerous for It airplanes is to too fly.

3. the world Caused . travel chaos all over

4. take not could flights of Thousands off.

5. when not will the Scientists clear know do ash.

6. situation continue days The would for.

7. out that the same volcano erupted in 1821 He pointed.

8. would difficult happen to imagine It what is.

9. be busy Train would very companies.

10. ash world cloud is watching The this whole.

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. _____

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 ash cloud from the Iceland volcano. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about volcanoes. Include imaginary interviews with two people who are waiting at airports unable to fly. 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 a volcanologist (a volcano expert). Ask him/her three questions about volcanoes. Give him/her three of your opinions on volcanoes. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.