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Half of India in power cuts

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

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1st August, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Hundreds of millions of people across India had no power on Tuesday in one of the world's worst ever power cuts. It was the second time in two days the country's power supply failed. The blackout caused huge problems for about half the country. Hospitals were left in the dark, train passengers were stuck on trains, and the capital Delhi saw thousands of traffic jams after traffic lights stopped working. The outage has angered many Indians and damaged India's image as a world power.

India's government has talked a lot about updating the power system, but so far has failed to meet its promises. Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse on some states using more than their share of electricity, but Uttar Pradesh's top energy official blamed old power lines. Delhi shop assistant Anu Chopra, 21, said: "I can understand this happening once in a while but how can one allow such a thing to happen two days in a row? It just shows our [system] is in a complete mess."

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hundreds of millions of people | a. ever power cuts |
| 2. the world's worst | b. jams |
| 3. the country's power supply | c. across India |
| 4. caused huge | d. failed |
| 5. traffic | e. many Indians |
| 6. The outage has angered | f. problems |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. updating the | a. a while |
| 2. failed to meet | b. a row |
| 3. using more than | c. mess |
| 4. happening once in | d. power system |
| 5. two days in | e. their share |
| 6. in a complete | f. its promises |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Hundreds (1) _____ people across India had no power on Tuesday in one of the world's (2) _____ cuts. It was the second time in two days the country's power supply failed. The blackout (3) _____ for about half the country. Hospitals were (4) _____, train passengers were stuck on trains, and the capital Delhi saw thousands (5) _____ after traffic lights stopped working. The outage (6) _____ Indians and damaged India's image as a world power.

India's government has talked (7) _____ updating the power system, but so far has (8) _____ its promises. Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse on some states using (9) _____ of electricity, but Uttar Pradesh's (10) _____ blamed old power lines. Delhi shop assistant Anu Chopra, 21, said: "I can understand this happening (11) _____ but how can one allow such a thing to happen (12) _____? It just shows our [system] is in a complete mess."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Hundreds of millions of people (1) _____ India had no power on Tuesday in one of the world's worst ever power cuts. It was the second time (2) _____ two days the country's power supply (3) _____. The blackout caused huge problems for about half the country. Hospitals were (4) _____ in the dark, train passengers were (5) _____ on trains, and the capital Delhi saw thousands of traffic jams after traffic lights stopped working. The outage has (6) _____ many Indians and damaged India's image as a world power.

India's government has talked a lot about (7) _____ the power system, but so far has failed to (8) _____ its promises. Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse (9) _____ some states using more than their (10) _____ of electricity, but Uttar Pradesh's top energy official blamed old power lines. Delhi shop assistant Anu Chopra, 21, said: "I can understand this happening once in a (11) _____ but how can one allow such a thing to happen two days in a (12) _____? It just shows our [system] is in a complete mess."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) across | (b) crossed | (c) crossover |
| 2. | (a) on | (b) an | (c) in |
| 3. | (a) failure | (b) failed | (c) failing |
| 4. | (a) left | (b) right | (c) middle |
| 5. | (a) sticking | (b) sticks | (c) stuck |
| 6. | (a) angered | (b) angry | (c) angrily |
| 7. | (a) outdated | (b) updating | (c) dating |
| 8. | (a) meet | (b) greet | (c) tweet |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) by | (c) on |
| 10. | (a) equal | (b) share | (c) divide |
| 11. | (a) when | (b) which | (c) while |
| 12. | (a) bow | (b) row | (c) tow |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. Hundreds of omnsilli
2. the country's power plypsu
3. train nerpgsases
4. tficfar jams
5. raengde many Indians
6. India's gmeia as a world power

Paragraph 2

7. uaitdngp the power system
8. failed to meet its perssimo
9. more than their eashr
10. top energy cffoliia
11. happening once in a eihwl
12. a ptlecome mess

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () India's government has talked a lot about updating the power system, but so far has failed
- () in the dark, train passengers were stuck on trains, and the capital Delhi saw thousands of traffic
- (**1**) Hundreds of millions of people across India had no power on Tuesday in one of the world's worst
- () many Indians and damaged India's image as a world power.
- () jams after traffic lights stopped working. The outage has angered
- () in a while but how can one allow such a thing to happen two days in
- () failed. The blackout caused huge problems for about half the country. Hospitals were left
- () a row? It just shows our [system] is in a complete mess."
- () lines. Delhi shop assistant Anu Chopra, 21, said: "I can understand this happening once
- () more than their share of electricity, but Uttar Pradesh's top energy official blamed old power
- () to meet its promises. Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse on some states using
- () ever power cuts. It was the second time in two days the country's power supply

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. Hundreds India across people of millions of.

2. of ever One worst world's cuts the power.

3. two the days second time It in was.

4. of capital traffic Delhi jams saw thousands The.

5. outage angered Indians The has many.

6. updating Talked the a power lot system about.

7. their States share using of more electricity than.

8. a I this in understand once while can happening.

9. allow thing one a happen can such to How?

10. shows is complete just system a It our in mess.

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. _____

WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120801-india.html>

Write about electricity 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. POWER CUTS: Search the Internet and find more information about the power cuts in India. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the power cuts. Include an imaginary interview with someone affected by them. 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 electricity expert. Ask him/her three questions about electricity. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.