

### Bangkok floods – possible disease

**Bangkok** - Floodwater continues to pour into the Thai capital flooding outlying areas of the city, forcing many of its two million residents to evacuate. This has provoked intense anger from those living in the deluged districts. Residents in some suburbs feel their districts have been sacrificed to save the city centre. The government says efforts to protect the centre from the rising floodwaters have been largely successful. The threat of disease now looms for those having to wade through these floodwaters. The water in the outlying areas now has sewage, rubbish and dead animals in it. Charities working in the country warn about diarrhoea, dengue fever and malaria in the coming weeks. Immediate threats include mosquitoes that are breeding rapidly, and people are afraid of snakes and crocodiles in the waist high waters. Accumulated flood water caused by weeks of monsoon rain is still draining from the central provinces through channels in and around Bangkok to the sea. Officials are warning it will be many weeks before the situation stabilises.

So far, 370 people have died because of the floods. While Downtown Bangkok may have been spared, other districts have suffered a heavy toll. The government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra appears to have bowed to pressure from angry residents in the east of the city who demanded a local sluice gate be opened to allow more water to flow out of their flooded neighbourhood. This has led to renewed tension with the Bangkok city authorities who fear the move might put the Bang Chan Industrial Estate at risk. Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra said the needs of all residents had to be balanced. Hundreds of factories have had to close because of the floods, putting tens of thousands of people out of work. Supply chains have been badly disrupted. A shortage of parts has forced Japanese car maker Honda, to halve production at its north American operations. As well as the economic cost of the crisis, humanitarian organisations are warning that affected communities will need regular supplies of aid for weeks to come.

UNICEF is providing 20,000 mosquito nets. The Red Cross has handed out 130,000 relief kits and 120,000 packs of bottled water. Many people in outlying areas have been cut off for weeks without any aid, supplies or food. The flooding is expected to last another month.

**Category: Thailand / Bangkok / Flooding**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. Bangkok floods:** Think of three things you know about the recent Bangkok floods? Go round the room swapping details with others.

**2. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**3. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**4. Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

**5. The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

**6. Geography: Bangkok:** What region of the world is Bangkok in? What country is it in? Where is Bangkok located on the map of the country? What sea lies off it? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

**7. Bangkok floods:** In pairs think of five things you know about the recent Bangkok floods. Then add five ways charities can help the people in need. Write them below. Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

Bangkok floods	Ways charities can offer help
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

**8. Let's roleplay 1: Radio Bangkok:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio Bangkok* studio. Today's interview is about: *Bangkok floods*.

1	Yourself	3	Bangkok Governor
2	A tourist in Thailand	4	Thai Prime Minister

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

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9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Bangkok**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in a bar in Bangkok. One of you is a local who has had to leave your home. The other is a tourist from another country. You both speak English. Discuss together what you have seen in the city that is flooded waist high in places. *5-minutes*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the capital.
- 2) Name the Prime Minister.
- 3) Name the Governor.
- 4) Name the industrial estate.
- 5) UNICEF is providing what?

**Student B**

- 1) What is the Red Cross handing out?
- 2) What are the immediate threats?
- 3) Name the car maker.
- 4) How many people have died?
- 5) What is a sluice gate?

12. **Bangkok:** Think of five things you know about Bangkok. Add five things you know about Thailand. Write them below. Discuss together with your partner.

Bangkok	Thailand
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **Bangkok**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

14. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Bangkok floods**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Bangkok \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The floods \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Thailand \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Regarding the flooding in Bangkok - what suggestions would you give the Thai government?
- 3) Do you think there might be many crocodiles and snakes in the waters in and around Bangkok where it is flooded?
- 4) If you were wading through the water in Bangkok and you saw a crocodile or snake in the water near you what would you do?
- 5) Why does Bangkok not have emergency tunnels to drain the flood waters through?
- 6) Do you think the Thai government will now rethink their emergency city plan?
- 7) Would you like to live in Bangkok?
- 8) How is industry affected in Bangkok?
- 9) Has your home ever been flooded? If yes, explain.
- 10) How does Bangkok stop the flooding?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) Have you ever been to Bangkok? If yes, briefly explain.
- 4) Would you like to go to Bangkok (again)? Explain.
- 5) What economic issues might there be in Bangkok now?
- 6) How is tourism affected by the floods?
- 7) Would you like to be a tourist in Bangkok right now?
- 8) What do you associate with Bangkok?
- 9) What might the Thai government do now and in the future to combat any possible future floods?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Bangkok flooding

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

<b>Bangkok flooding</b>
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The teacher can moderate the session

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

Floodwater continues to pour into the Thai capital flooding outlying areas of the city, forcing many of its two million (1)\_\_\_\_\_ to (2)\_\_\_\_\_. This has provoked intense (3)\_\_\_\_\_ from those living in the deluged districts. Residents in some suburbs feel their districts have been sacrificed to save the city centre. The government says efforts to protect the centre from the rising (4)\_\_\_\_\_ have been largely successful. The threat of disease now looms for those having to wade through these floodwaters. The water in the outlying areas now has (5)\_\_\_\_\_, rubbish and dead animals in it. Charities working in the country warn about diarrhoea, dengue fever and malaria in the coming weeks. Immediate threats include mosquitoes that are breeding rapidly, and people are afraid of snakes and (6)\_\_\_\_\_ in the waist high waters. Accumulated flood water caused by weeks of (7)\_\_\_\_\_ rain is still draining from the central provinces through channels in and around Bangkok to the sea. Officials are warning it will be many weeks before the situation (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

*crocodiles*

*anger*

*evacuate*

*stabilises*

*sewage*

*monsoon*

*floodwaters*

*residents*

So far, 370 people have died because of the (1)\_\_\_\_\_. While Downtown Bangkok may have been spared, other districts have suffered a heavy toll. The government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra appears to have bowed to pressure from angry residents in the east of the city who demanded a local sluice gate be opened to allow more (2)\_\_\_\_\_ to flow out of their flooded neighbourhood. This has led to renewed (3)\_\_\_\_\_ with the Bangkok city authorities who fear the move might put the Bang Chan Industrial Estate at risk. Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra said the needs of all residents had to be balanced. Hundreds of (4)\_\_\_\_\_ have had to close because of the floods, putting tens of thousands of people out of work. Supply chains have been badly (5)\_\_\_\_\_. A (6)\_\_\_\_\_ of parts has forced Japanese car maker Honda, to (7)\_\_\_\_\_ production at its north American operations. As well as the economic cost of the crisis, humanitarian organisations are warning that affected communities will need regular supplies of (8)\_\_\_\_\_ for weeks to come.

*disrupted*

*halve*

*shortage*

*floods*

*water*

*aid*

*factories*

*tension*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Bangkok floods – possible disease

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## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Bangkok floods – possible disease

**Bangkok** - Floodwater continues to pour (1)\_\_\_ the Thai capital flooding outlying areas of the city, forcing many of its two million residents to evacuate. (2)\_\_\_ has provoked intense anger from those living in the deluged districts. Residents in (3)\_\_\_ suburbs feel their districts have been sacrificed to save the city centre. The government says efforts to protect the centre (4)\_\_\_ the rising floodwaters have been largely successful. The threat of disease now looms for (5)\_\_\_ having to wade through (6)\_\_\_ floodwaters. The water in the outlying areas now has sewage, rubbish and dead animals in it. Charities working in the country warn about diarrhoea, dengue fever and malaria in the coming weeks. Immediate threats include mosquitoes (7)\_\_\_ are breeding rapidly, and people are afraid of snakes and crocodiles in the waist high waters. Accumulated flood water caused by weeks of monsoon rain is (8)\_\_\_ draining from the central provinces through channels in and around Bangkok to the sea. Officials are warning it will be many weeks before the situation stabilises.

(1)\_\_\_ far, 370 people have died because of the floods. While Downtown Bangkok (2)\_\_\_ have been spared, other districts have suffered (3)\_\_\_ heavy toll. The government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra appears to have bowed to pressure from angry residents in the east of the city who demanded a local sluice gate be opened to allow more water to flow out (4)\_\_\_ their flooded neighbourhood. This has led to renewed tension with the Bangkok city authorities (5)\_\_\_ fear (6)\_\_\_ move might put the Bang Chan Industrial Estate at risk. Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra said the needs of all residents had to be balanced. Hundreds of factories have had to close because of the floods, putting tens of thousands of people out of work. Supply chains have been badly disrupted. A shortage of parts has forced Japanese car maker Honda, to halve production at (7)\_\_\_ north American operations. As well as the economic cost of the crisis, humanitarian organisations are warning that affected communities will need regular supplies of aid (8)\_\_\_ weeks to come.

**that**

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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	diarrhoea	11	through
2	mosquitoes	12	sluice gate
3	crocodiles	13	angry
4	floodwaters	14	tension
5	successful	15	disrupted
6	Bangkok	16	neighbourhood
7	intense	17	stabilises
8	rubbish	18	monsoon
9	dengue fever	19	intense
10	accumulated	20	toll

### LINKS

[http://edition.cnn.com/2011/10/31/world/asia/thailand-flood/index.html?hpt=ias\\_c1](http://edition.cnn.com/2011/10/31/world/asia/thailand-flood/index.html?hpt=ias_c1)  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-15533579>  
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-11-01/thai-floods-may-spare-inner-bangkok-as-drainage-efforts-succeed.html>  
<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2011-10-29/bangkok-thailand-floods/50989992/1>

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Bangkok floods – possible disease: **Bangkok** - Floodwater continues to pour into the Thai capital flooding outlying areas of the city, forcing many of its two million **residents** to **evacuate**. This has provoked intense **anger** from those living in the deluged districts. Residents in some suburbs feel their districts have been sacrificed to save the city centre. The government says efforts to protect the centre from the rising **floodwaters** have been largely successful. The threat of disease now looms for those having to wade through these floodwaters. The water in the outlying areas now has **sewage**, rubbish and dead animals in it. Charities working in the country warn about diarrhoea, dengue fever and malaria in the coming weeks. Immediate threats include mosquitoes that are breeding rapidly, and people are afraid of snakes and **crocodiles** in the waist high waters. Accumulated flood water caused by weeks of **monsoon** rain is still draining from the central provinces through channels in and around Bangkok to the sea. Officials are warning it will be many weeks before the situation **stabilises**.

So far, 370 people have died because of the **floods**. While Downtown Bangkok may have been spared, other districts have suffered a heavy toll. The government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra appears to have bowed to pressure from angry residents in the east of the city who demanded a local sluice gate be opened to allow more **water** to flow out of their flooded neighbourhood. This has led to renewed **tension** with the Bangkok city authorities who fear the move might put the Bang Chan Industrial Estate at risk. Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra said the needs of all residents had to be balanced. Hundreds of **factories** have had to close because of the floods, putting tens of thousands of people out of work. Supply chains have been badly **disrupted**. A **shortage** of parts has forced Japanese car maker Honda, to **halve** production at its North American operations. As well as the economic cost of the crisis, humanitarian organisations are warning that affected communities will need regular supplies of **aid** for weeks to come. (V2)

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