

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210215-oil-production.html>

The energy giant Royal Dutch Shell has announced it has passed its peak production of oil. The days of increasing oil production are over and the decline in output has started. Shell said in a press release that, "oil production peaked in 2019". The "high point" of Shell's oil production reached around 1.7 million barrels per day. It now expects an annual drop of up to two per cent per year. The fall comes a year ahead of Shell's initial forecasts. In 2015, the company predicted the peak of global oil demand would be in 2020. The announcement included news that Shell would reduce the number of its oil refineries from 14 sites to six. This means the loss of around 9,000 jobs, or more than 10 per cent of its workforce.

Shell said it is shifting its focus onto renewables and reducing its carbon footprint. It pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The company said it wants to diversify into becoming an energy provider rather than relying on fossil fuels. It has been actively exploring new, green technologies such as carbon capture. It has also been buying companies that provide electric vehicle charging stations. Shell CEO Ben van Beurden vowed to create half a million EV charging points by 2025. He said: "We must give our customers the products and services they want - products that have the lowest environmental impact. We will...grow in markets where demand for cleaner products and services is strongest."

Sources: [https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1131263\\_shell-admits-it-s-past-peak-oil-eyes-carbon-offsets-as-a-business-opportunity](https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1131263_shell-admits-it-s-past-peak-oil-eyes-carbon-offsets-as-a-business-opportunity)  
<https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-9250857/Oil-production-passed-peak-admits-Shell.html>  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-shell-results-idUSKBN27E119>

# WARM-UPS

**1. OIL PRODUCTION:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about oil production. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

energy / giant / peak / production / oil / decline / forecast / demand / oil refineries  
focus / renewables / net-zero / carbon emissions / fossil fuels / charging points

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. FOSSIL FUELS:** Students A **strongly** believe we should end the use of all fossil fuels by the end of this decade; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. RENEWABLES:** What do you know about these renewables? How good are they? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How Good They Are
Wind power		
Hydro power		
Solar energy		
Geothermal energy		
Bioenergy		
Tidal power		

**5. PRODUCTION:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "production". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. OIL PRODUCTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Soap
- Tyres
- Dyes
- Plastic bottles
- Combs
- Golf balls
- Shower curtains
- Water pipes

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. announced     | a. A large, cylindrical container used to store liquids like oil or beer.                     |
| 2. decline       | b. An official statement issued to newspapers giving information on a particular matter.      |
| 3. press release | c. A gradual and continuous loss of strength, numbers, quality, or value.                     |
| 4. expect        | d. An industrial factory-type building where a substance is developed and improved.           |
| 5. barrel        | e. Made a public declaration about a fact, occurrence, or intention.                          |
| 6. forecast      | f. Regard something as likely to happen.  |
| 7. refineries    | g. A prediction or estimate of future events, especially coming weather or a financial trend. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8. shifting        | h. The production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation.      |
| 9. renewables      | i. The process of trapping CO2 and storing it.                                  |
| 10. pledged        | j. Make or become more varied.  |
| 11. emissions      | k. Sources of energy that are not used up, such as water, wind, or solar power. |
| 12. diversify      | l. The action of one object coming forcibly into contact with another.          |
| 13. carbon capture | m. Changing, especially unpredictably.  |
| 14. impact         | n. Committed a person or organization by a big promise.                         |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210215-oil-production.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says the decline in oil production has started. **T / F**
- b. Shell said oil production peaked in 2019. **T / F**
- c. Shell forecast that oil production would drop by 2 per cent a year. **T / F**
- d. Shell will close 14 of its oil refineries. **T / F**
- e. Shell said it would change its focus to renewables. **T / F**
- f. Shell said it wants to have net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. **T / F**
- g. Shell wants to install over a million EV charging points by 2025. **T / F**
- h. Shell said it would focus on clearer, stronger products. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>peak</b>      | a. promised  |
| 2. <b>decline</b>   | b. yearly    |
| 3. <b>expects</b>   | c. changing  |
| 4. <b>annual</b>    | d. decrease  |
| 5. <b>workforce</b> | e. supply    |
| 6. <b>shifting</b>  | f. height    |
| 7. <b>relying</b>   | g. effect    |
| 8. <b>provide</b>   | h. personnel |
| 9. <b>vowed</b>     | i. supposes  |
| 10. <b>impact</b>   | j. depending |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. it has passed its peak                | a. on fossil fuels      |
| 2. The days of increasing oil production | b. its workforce        |
| 3. a press                               | c. stations             |
| 4. the company predicted the peak        | d. onto renewables      |
| 5. more than 10 per cent of              | e. are over             |
| 6. it is shifting its focus              | f. energy provider      |
| 7. diversify into becoming an            | g. of global oil demand |
| 8. rather than relying                   | h. production of oil    |
| 9. provide electric vehicle charging     | i. environmental impact |
| 10. products that have the lowest        | j. release              |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210215-oil-production.html>

1. What is the full name of the Shell oil company?
2. When did Shell say it had passed peak production?
3. How many barrels a day did Shell produce at its peak?
4. In what year did Shell expect to hit peak demand?
5. How many oil refineries will Shell close?
6. What does Shell want to shift its focus to?
7. By when does Shell want to achieve net-zero carbon emissions?
8. What does Shell hope to do with carbon?
9. How many EV charging points does Shell want to create?
10. What does Shell want to have the lowest impact on?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210215-oil-production.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'oil' and 'production'.

oil	production

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• giant</li><li>• over</li><li>• 2019</li><li>• 1.7</li><li>• 2015</li><li>• 14</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• focus</li><li>• 2050</li><li>• fossil</li><li>• capture</li><li>• give</li><li>• grow</li></ul>
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## OIL PRODUCTION DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'peak'?
3. What do you know about the company Shell?
4. How important do you think oil is?
5. What do you think of oil production being past its peak.
6. What do we need oil for?
7. How would the world change if we didn't use oil?
8. What damage has oil done to the world?
9. What can Shell's workforce do once they lose their jobs?
10. What do you know about the uses of oil?

*Shell says it is past peak oil production - 15th February, 2021*  
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## OIL PRODUCTION DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'oil'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about renewables?
15. What are you doing to reduce your carbon footprint?
16. What is your country doing to reduce its carbon footprint?
17. How can we achieve net-zero carbon emissions?
18. What do you think of electric cars?
19. What clean energies are best?
20. What questions would you like to ask the Shell CEO?