

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210816-hottest-month-ever.html>

We hear about climate change pretty much every day now. We see pictures of floods, fires and heatwaves on TV news. Scientists have just announced that July was the hottest month ever recorded. The scientists are from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the USA. A spokesperson from NOAA said: "July is typically the world's warmest month of the year, but July 2021 outdid itself as the hottest July and hottest month ever." NOAA said Earth's land and ocean surface temperature in July was 0.93 degree Celsius higher than the 20th-century average of 15.8 degrees Celsius. The Northern Hemisphere was 1.54 degrees Celsius hotter than average.

The NOAA spokesperson said this new record was worrying. He said: "In this case, first place is the worst place to be." The announcement from NOAA comes a week after a 4,000-page report on climate change from the United Nations. Its report is from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It clearly stated that humans had changed the climate. It wrote: "It is [clear] that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land." A total of 234 scientists from 66 countries worked on the report. It warns that extreme weather will continue to get worse. It says "every region" will experience "multiple changes" in weather, like sweltering heat and flooding.

Sources: <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/13/1027521725/july-hottest-month-in-recorded-human-history>
<https://weather.com/science/environment/news/2021-08-13-hottest-month-on-earth-july>
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/july-2021-hottest-month-ugh_n_6116c197e4b07c140314d288

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. pretty much | a. Was more successful, bigger or greater than. |
| 2. flood | b. Said something in public about a fact, plan, event, etc. |
| 3. announced | c. Large amounts of water that cover the land and goes into houses. |
| 4. typically | d. How hot or cold something is in °C or °F. |
| 5. outdid | e. Almost |
| 6. surface | f. Usually; in most cases. |
| 7. temperature | g. The top (or top level) of something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. case | h. The power to change or affect something. |
| 9. climate change | i. Reaching a high or the highest degree; very great. |
| 10. clearly | j. One of the five huge areas of water on Earth that are larger than a sea. |
| 11. influence | k. The changes in weather patterns around the world. |
| 12. ocean | l. Having or involving several parts, elements, or members. |
| 13. extreme | m. Example; situation. |
| 14. multiple | n. Very easy to see and understand. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210816-hottest-month-ever.html>

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

1. The article said we see floods on TV almost every day. **T / F**
2. The agency NOAA is from the USA. **T / F**
3. Earth's land and ocean surface temperature was 0.93 degree higher. **T / F**
4. The Southern Hemisphere was 1.54 degrees hotter than average. **T / F**
5. A NOAA spokesperson wasn't worried about the new record. **T / F**
6. The UN published a 5,000-page report on climate change. **T / F**
7. A total of 66 scientists helped to write a climate change report. **T / F**
8. The UN report said many regions would experience sweltering heat. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. pretty much | a. area |
| 2. announced | b. usually |
| 3. typically | c. boiling |
| 4. outdid | d. normal |
| 5. average | e. made it known |
| 6. worrying | f. severe |
| 7. influence | g. disturbing |
| 8. extreme | h. almost |
| 9. region | i. effect |
| 10. sweltering | j. exceeded |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. pretty | a. world's warmest month |
| 2. pictures of floods, fires | b. continue to get worse |
| 3. July is typically the | c. hotter than average |
| 4. Earth's land and ocean | d. the atmosphere |
| 5. 1.54 degrees Celsius | e. heat |
| 6. first place is the | f. and heatwaves |
| 7. human influence has warmed | g. changes in weather |
| 8. extreme weather will | h. surface temperature |
| 9. experience multiple | i. worst place to be |
| 10. sweltering | j. much every day |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210816-hottest-month-ever.html>

- 1) Where do we see pictures of floods pretty much every day?
 - a) on TV
 - b) the Internet
 - c) in magazines
 - d) on the streets
- 2) Which month is usually the warmest?
 - a) September
 - b) June
 - c) July
 - d) August
- 3) Which country is NOAA from?
 - a) Pakistan
 - b) the USA
 - c) Norway
 - d) Switzerland
- 4) How much hotter than average were temperatures in July?
 - a) 0.90 degree Celsius
 - b) 0.91 degree Celsius
 - c) 0.92 degree Celsius
 - d) 0.93 degree Celsius
- 5) What was 1.54 degrees Celsius hotter than average?
 - a) the Northern Hemisphere
 - b) the Equator
 - c) the South Pole
 - d) deserts
- 6) Where did a NOAA spokesperson say was the worst place to be?
 - a) last place
 - b) the Sahara Desert
 - c) out of place
 - d) first place
- 7) How many pages did a U.N. report contain?
 - a) 3,000
 - b) 4,000
 - c) 5,000
 - d) 2,000
- 8) What did the IPCC say had changed the climate?
 - a) plastic
 - b) ozone
 - c) trees
 - d) human influence
- 9) How many scientists contributed to the IPCC report?
 - a) 432
 - b) 324
 - c) 234
 - d) 423
- 10) What kind of changes did the report say every region would experience?
 - a) big changes
 - b) multiple changes
 - c) serious changes
 - d) tiny changes

HOT WEATHER 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 'hot'?
3. What do you think of hot weather?
4. Do you prefer hot or cold weather?
5. What are the best things to do when it's hot?
6. How is the weather changing in your country?
7. How worried are you that July was the hottest weather?
8. What do you think is causing climate change?
9. How has climate change affected your life?
10. What do you do in a heatwave?

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HOT WEATHER 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 'climate'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why do many people say climate change is not happening?
15. What can you do to reduce the effects of climate change?
16. What does your country need to do about climate change?
17. How has human influence warmed the atmosphere?
18. How worried are you about extreme weather?
19. What extreme weather events have you seen on the news?
20. What questions would you like to ask the meteorologists?