

Speak confidently about topics related to the energy sector in English!

Energy-Sector English



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Introduction

This course will help you learn all the key words and expressions you need to talk about topics related to the energy sector.

This course is designed for Intermediate and above levels.

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Find out what you will learn in this course.

1. The future of bladeless turbines!
2. Colonial Pipeline! A catastrophic ransomware attack in the US!
3. Can carbon capture help fight climate change?
4. Should fracking be banned?
5. The importance of net zero emissions!
6. Mini wind turbines – are they worth it?
7. The Texas Big Freeze – what went wrong?
8. Why we need to cut emissions now!
9. Mining firm pays record \$2bn fine over Arctic oil spill
10. The companies generating their own energy
11. Britain generated more electricity from renewable sources than from fossil fuels for the first time in 2020!
12. Windfarms in Great Britain break record for clean power generation
13. Covid-19 drives record emissions drop in 2020!
14. Can the UK meet its climate change “nationally determined contribution” (NDC)?
15. Black turbine blade 'can cut bird deaths'
16. EU plans to increase offshore windfarm capacity by 250%
17. Solar efficiency breakthrough for flexible 'skin'



Should fracking be banned?

Source: BBC and The Guardian

Boris Johnson has abandoned a long-standing Tory policy on fracking in an **effort** to boost the party's green credentials. The controversial method of extracting gas from the earth will be put on hold after a report from the Oil and Gas Authority found it is not possible to **accurately predict** the **probability** or magnitude of **earthquakes** linked to fracking.

Johnson had previously called its critics' reactions to fracking as **'ludicrous'** and **'mad'**. But he has now backed down in the face of criticism over the Government's environmental record, saying he has **'very considerable anxieties'** about the process.

Johnson is likely to face opposition on the decision, which will see the country miss out on billions of pounds worth of energy **revenues**. Successive governments had hoped fracking could provide a new energy source for the UK. Very basically, fracking involves blasting water deep underground to crack **shale*** rocks and release the gas held inside them. The British Geological Survey believe there could be 1,300 trillion **cubic feet** of shale gas under the north of England. If 10% of this were extracted, it would provide Britain's energy needs for 40 years.

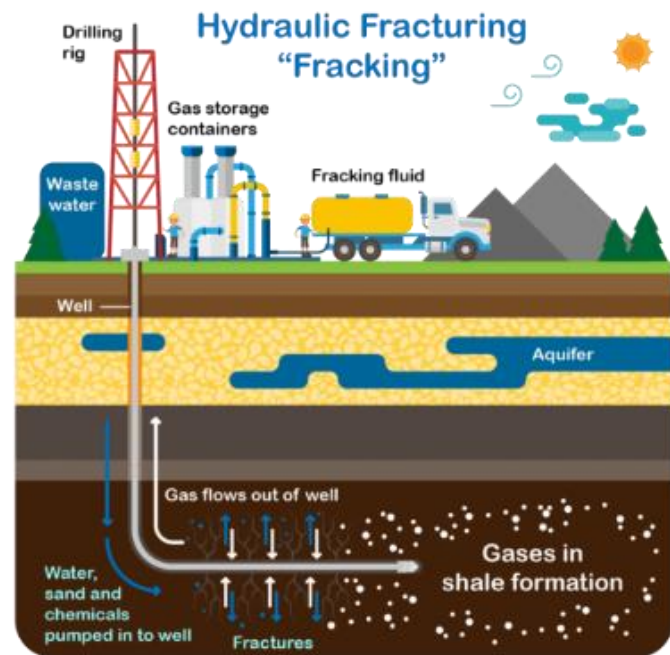
The Government said this depended on fracking being **'safe, sustainable and of minimal disturbance** to those living and working nearby'. But fracking operations at Cuadrilla Resources' Lancashire site have **repeatedly** resulted in **tremors** higher than those legally permitted. The Government said it was imposing **'a moratorium on fracking until compelling new evidence is provided'**.

In the US, fracking has turned the country into an energy superpower, cutting prices for consumers and creating thousands of jobs. Business and Energy Secretary Andrea Leadsom said: **'Whilst acknowledging** the huge potential of UK shale gas to provide a bridge to a zero-carbon future, I've also always been clear that shale gas exploration in the UK must be carried out safely.'

A recent report by the National Audit Office found that Government plans to establish the shale gas industry in the UK were taking longer than expected amid public concern over the effects of fracking on the **environment** and public health. Opposition to fracking has grown for some time. Protests have taken place at sites across the country against the controversial gas extraction. These are estimated to have cost public bodies at least £32.7 million since 2011. Fracking has also **attracted controversy** after reports of gas **polluting** local water supplies were **released**.

How does fracking work?

Fracking works by **injecting** huge volumes of water into the rocks surrounding a natural gas deposit or **hydrothermal** well. The water fractures the rocks, creating dozens of cracks through which gas and heat can escape to the **surface**. Fracking can cause earthquakes by introducing water to fault lines, making them more likely to slip. During the **earthquake** and afterward, the plates or blocks of rock start moving, and they continue to move until they get stuck again.



***Shale** is a rock that can be broken easily. =
El esquisto es una roca que se puede romper fácilmente.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9ui4JP7yNY>

Video: Fracking protests!

Watch the video and answer the questions.

1. What were the police doing to the protesters at the start?
2. What does the woman in the red hat say?
3. What are the rigs going to pump deep under the ground?
4. What do environmentalists say this could lead to as a result?
5. What does Henry on the platform want to do?
6. What does the Cuadrilla representative say about the operation?
7. When was the last time they did any fracking in the UK?



Speaking: Fracking debate!

Group 1 = you're in favour of fracking.

Group 2 = you're against fracking.

After being assigned your role in the debate, think of arguments to defend your position (even if it isn't your real position). Then, when you're ready, explain your arguments. After that, listen to the other arguments.

Finally, ask questions, or challenge the other viewpoints.