

El Niño proves it sets record global temperatures

B2+/C1 Vocabulary gap-fill cloze

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. fluctuations | F. shattered |
| B. calculations | G. underlying |
| C. emissions | H. gripped |
| D. combat | I. threshold |
| E. heatwave | J. instrumental |

Planet Earth's global average temperature has topped records this month, note researchers. July's 1._____ establishes a new record reaching into the decimal points of 17.18 degrees Celsius. Countries around the world have been 2._____ by the sudden warmth. Scientists identify a number of causes for this, one being the return of a weather pattern called El Niño.

In Spanish *El Niño* means *The Boy*, and is the term for when the surface water temperature of the Pacific Ocean rises. Because of this marine change, experts hint at even higher temperature 3._____. Climate researcher Leon Simons acknowledges the record is not encouraging. He warns it is "a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world", and that because of El Niño we are on the 4._____ of "a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years".

This July 5._____ the previous record temperature of 16.92C from August 2016. Data reveal that this was during the previous El Niño cycle. Other 6._____ by scientists propose that this July was the hottest in about 125,000 years.

What has also been 7._____ to the new record is the increase in carbon dioxide. Societies illustrate this 8._____ problem with their dependence on vehicles and the exhaust fumes they make. To 9._____ the problem and raise awareness, the phrase *net zero* is often used. This phrase puts forward the aim of no harmful 10._____ being made by society's actions.

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Answers

- 1E heatwave
- 2H gripped
- 3A fluctuations
- 4I threshold
- 5F shattered
- 6B calculations
- 7J instrumental
- 8G underlying
- 9D combat
- 10C emissions

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