

French farmers cut off Paris with tractors

1st February 2024



French farmers are angry with their government. They are blocking roads around France's capital city of Paris. There are many reasons for the farmers' anger. It is becoming more difficult for them to survive. Inflation in France is increasing because of

high energy prices. This is making food more expensive for farmers to produce. The war in Ukraine is causing higher prices, especially for fertilizers. The farmers are also angry because the government is not protecting them from cheaper food coming from other countries, especially those in Eastern Europe. Finally, they are furious with European Union climate measures, which are adding to red tape and the costs of doing business.

The farmers blocked major highways around Paris. They parked their tractors on main roads to stop traffic going in and out of the city. They also dumped smelly agricultural waste outside government offices. Farmer Christophe Rossignol told the Associated Press news agency: "We've come to defend French agriculture. We go from crisis to crisis." Another farmer said: "Parisians are going to be hungry. The goal is to starve Parisians." A large farmers union said: "Our objective is to put pressure on the government so that we can quickly find a solution for a way out of the crisis." Some tractors had messages on them that said: "No food without farmers" and "The end of us would mean famine for you."

Sources: foxnews.com / thehill.com / aljazeera.com

Writing

Countries should grow enough food to feed all of their people. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

farmers / government / capital city / anger / inflation / fertilizers / climate / red tape / tractors / main roads / news agency / crisis / hungry / pressure / solution / famine

True / False

- 1) The French government is angry with French farmers. T / F
- 2) Inflation in France is making it more difficult for farmers to survive. T / F
- 3) France's government is protecting farmers from cheap food imports. T / F
- 4) Blue tape is making the cost of doing business higher. T / F
- 5) Farmers used combine harvesters to block roads around Paris. T / F
- 6) Farmers put bad-smelling waste outside government offices. T / F
- 7) A farmer said his aim was to make people in Paris hungry. T / F
- 8) Some farmers said there would be famine if there were no farmers. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. angry | a. actions |
| 2. reasons | b. answer |
| 3. protecting | c. bureaucracy |
| 4. measures | d. food shortages |
| 5. red tape | e. furious |
| 6. blocked | f. disaster |
| 7. dumped | g. shielding |
| 8. solution | h. threw away |
| 9. crisis | i. causes |
| 10. famine | j. obstructed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What does your government do that makes you angry?
- c) What do you think of a farmer's life?
- d) What would you think if people stopped you getting to a major city?
- e) What should France do to help the farmers?
- f) How risky is it to be a farmer?
- g) What do you think of Paris?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the farmers?

Phrase Match

- French farmers are angry
- The war in Ukraine is causing
- cheaper food coming
- adding to red
- the costs of doing
- farmers blocked major highways
- We go from
- put pressure
- find a solution for a way
- The end of us would mean
- higher prices
- tape
- around Paris
- from other countries
- out of the crisis
- business
- famine for you
- crisis to crisis
- with their government
- on the government

Discussion – Student B

- When was the last time you were angry?
- What do you think of your capital city?
- How important are farmers?
- What do you think of inflation?
- How are higher prices affecting you?
- How easy or difficult is it for you to survive?
- Would you like to start your own business?
- What advice do you have for the farmers?

Spelling

- difficult for them to evvisur
- ntlfaoiin in France is increasing
- high neegy prices
- lecliaepys those in Eastern Europe
- they are usuirfo
- European Union climate m sesareu
- arjmo highways around Paris
- smelly grcruilutlaa waste
- put prsesuer on the government
- we can quickly find a ooulnsti
- a way out of the scsiri
- The end of us would mean eimafn

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. g	4. a	5. c
6. j	7. h	8. b	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the thing that causes the greatest anger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things do not cause such great anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to cause anger (and why): rude people, transport or family members.

Role B – Rude People

You think rude people are the cause of the greatest anger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things do not cause such great anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to cause anger (and why): money, transport or family members.

Role C – Transport

You think transport is the thing that causes the greatest anger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things do not cause such great anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to cause anger (and why): rude people, money or family members.

Role D – Family Members

You think family members are the causes of the greatest anger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things do not cause such great anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to cause anger (and why): rude people, transport or money.

Speaking – Anger

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that anger us most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Money
- Family
- Wifi
- Transport
- Rude people
- Shopping
- Our government
- Ourselves

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.