

Reading comprehension N°1

Nombre: _____ Curso: _____

I. Read the text and answer the questions. Lea el texto y responda las preguntas.

CORONAVIRUS

China's president, Xi Jinping, has made his first public appearance in weeks, as some people began to return to work following the lunar new year holiday, which was extended as authorities grappled (luchado) with the coronavirus outbreak.(brote)

Xi, who has been absent from public view as the crisis worsened,(empeoró) visited a neighbourhood in Beijing. The president had his temperature taken and greeted residents and workers, according to a brief (corto) video posted by state CCTV.

Members of the World Health Organization flew(voló) to China to help coordinate the response to the virus, which has infected more than 40,000 people and killed at least 908. The country reported 97 fatalities, its largest death toll in a single day since the outbreak was detected in December.

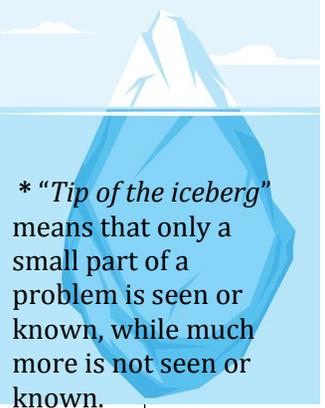
Meanwhile, a further 60 cases were confirmed on a cruise ship docked in Japan, and the UK declared that the virus constituted a serious and imminent threat to public health.

The WHO director, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said late on Sunday that recent cases of coronavirus patients who have never visited China could be the "tip of the iceberg *".

"There have been some concerning instances of the virus spreading from people with no travel history to [China]," Ghebreyesus tweeted. "The detection of a small number of cases may mean there is more widespread transmission in other countries; in short, we may only be seeing the tip of the iceberg."

More than 3,000 new cases were reported over the previous 24 hours, raising the number of infections to 40,171. The increase follows a sharp decline in new cases reported on Sunday - fewer than 2,700, which led to optimism that prevention methods such as strict quarantines were working.

Around China, workers began trickling back (contageando) to offices and factories as the government eased (mitigar) restrictions on work and travel. In Beijing, roads were busier than in recent weeks but normally packed trains remained virtually empty. The few commuters on the street or using public transport were wearing face masks. Many companies have asked their staff to work from home.



The epidemic has caused huge disruption (enorme ruotura) in China. Usually teeming cities (ciudades populosas) have become ghost towns during the past two weeks as Communist party (partidos comunistas) rulers ordered virtual lockdowns (cierres de emergencias), cancelled flights, closed factories and shut schools.

The southern city of Guangzhou said it would resume public transport from Monday. Hubei province, hardest hit by the crisis, remained in lockdown, with train stations and airports shut and roads sealed off (caminos cerrados). Schools in provinces across the country will be shut until the end of February.

Outside mainland China, more than 350 infections have been reported in nearly 30 places with two deaths: one in the Philippines and the other in Hong Kong.

British authorities said on Monday that four more patients had tested positive, bringing the total number of UK cases to eight. The development came as the government declared the outbreak a serious and imminent threat (amenaza) to public health (salud punlica), a step that gives authorities additional powers to fight the spread of the virus.

Now choose the **best** answer for the questions below:

1. Why is it news that China's president was seen out in public again?
 - a. He has been on holiday (vacation) for many weeks
 - b. He has been visiting other countries as part of his duties as President
 - c. He hasn't been seen out since the virus began to spread in China
 - d. He was busy working with authorities from the World Health Organization

2. What is the most likely reason the president had his temperature taken?
 - a. He is sick with the virus
 - b. He is giving an example to everyone, and showing support of health care workers
 - c. He just wants to make sure he is not infected
 - d. Everyone who comes to the clinic must have their temperature taken

3. Why did the World Health Organization (WHO) send some people to China?
 - a. They are working with Chinese officials to help control the spread of the illness

- b. They are looking for the tip of the iceberg
 - c. They came to punish China for starting such a deadly illness
 - d. They are taking samples from people that are sick to study how the virus works
4. What does the WHO director think will most likely happen in the immediate future?
- a. The quarantines will work and people will stop getting infected
 - b. Roads and trains in China will be busy again with lots of people
 - c. New cases of the virus will decline
 - d. The virus will likely spread and many more people outside of China will get sick
5. How has the virus affected everyday life in China?
- a. People are mostly staying home; they don't go out unless necessary.
 - b. The few people who are out in public wear face masks.
 - c. Over 40 thousand people are sick and many have died.
 - d. Children don't go to school and many people work from home.
 - e. All of the above