

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – Intoxicated river (1'45 min)

You are going to hear a recording about the *New River* at the border of the US and Mexico near the town of *Calexico*.

I) Before listening, read the list of vocabulary and make sure that you understand the statement below:

Vocabulary:

highly polluted	full of dirt and toxic substances
waterway	river
to adversely impact	to have a negative effect on
<i>Imperial Valley</i>	an area at the Mexican-American border
undocumented	not registered
migrants	people who go through an area
prevent economic development	make it impossible for the economy to grow
agricultural runoff	the waste produced in farming
hazardous waste	very dangerous (chemical) substances
1 gallon	~ 3.8 liters
raw sewage	dirt water from toilets, households etc.
ingestion	(here:) drinking
dermal exposure	skin contact
to pose a threat	to be dangerous
scores of	very many
border patrol	officers guarding the border so that no illegal immigrants can pass
to spread contaminants	to distribute toxic substances amongst other people
brushy	full of bushes and high grass
a noxious odor	a terrible smell

Scores of undocumented migrants float north in the river to gain access to jobs in major cities like San Diego, Las Vegas and all over the United States.

II) Now listen to the recording twice; take notes while listening and then summarize the text, answering all the questions below IN YOUR SUMMARY:

1. What are the three negative effects of the polluted *New River* mentioned in the text?
 2. Which are the three sources polluting the river?
 3. Why is it so dangerous for illegal immigrants to swim through the river?
 4. Why do these illegal immigrants also pose a threat to other people?
 5. Do boarder patrol officers usually pick illegal immigrants out of the river?
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