

**BBC World Service**

**The story**

Commuters have been warned to expect major disruption this morning as snow and arctic temperatures sweep across the UK.

The Met Office has issued amber warnings for large parts of eastern England with up to 15 cm of snow predicted in some places.

Some rail companies have issued revised time tables.

**Vocabulary**

**braces**

prepares for something unpleasant

**relentless**

never stopping

**engulfs**

covers completely

**Language challenge**

'Commuters have been warned to expect major disruption this morning as snow and arctic temperatures sweep across the UK'. Which word from this extract from today's a BBC Radio 4 news bulletin can complete these three popular idioms?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ someone off their feet
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ something under the carpet
- c) make a clean \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer**

- a) **sweep** someone off their feet  
completely overwhelm someone (often romantically)
  
- b) **sweep** something under the carpet  
avoid dealing with an issue
  
- c) make a clean **sweep**  
completely change something