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Level 4

U.S. city of Detroit goes bankrupt

21st July, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130721-bankruptcy-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130721-bankruptcy-4.html>

Detroit was once an engine of American industry. However, it is now the biggest U.S. city to go bust and bankrupt. Its emergency financial manager said the city couldn't pay its bills, and was \$20 billion in debt. He asked for financial help so it could continue to function. It owes money to big pension funds and 10,000 workers. City pensions are \$3.5 billion short of money. Police, firefighters and public service workers are worried about their future.

Fifty years ago, Detroit's car industry was an example of business success. It had the nickname "Motor City". It was middle-class but is now full of poor areas with empty houses and unemployment. Its busy factories have almost gone. Although important public services are continuing, street lights have been switched off. The city mayor said Detroit was not sustainable. It borrowed too much money and was late to pay pensions and bills. This led to its financial collapse.

Sources: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/07/19/detroit-files-thousands-pages-bankruptcy/2568393/>
<http://www.voanews.com/content/how-detroit-fell-into-bankruptcy/1705123.html>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/19/us/detroit-files-for-bankruptcy.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130721-bankruptcy-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. once an engine | a. short of money |
| 2. go bust | b. help |
| 3. \$20 billion | c. about their future |
| 4. He asked for financial | d. in debt |
| 5. \$3.5 billion | e. of American industry |
| 6. public service workers are worried | f. and bankrupt |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. It had the nickname | a. services |
| 2. poor areas with | b. too much money |
| 3. important public | c. collapse |
| 4. It borrowed | d. "Motor City" |
| 5. pay pensions | e. empty houses |
| 6. This led to its financial | f. and bills |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130721-bankruptcy-4.html>

Detroit (1) _____ of American industry. However, it is now the biggest U.S. (2) _____ and bankrupt. Its emergency financial manager said the city (3) _____, and was \$20 billion in debt. He asked (4) _____ it could continue to function. (5) _____ pension funds and 10,000 workers. City pensions are \$3.5 billion short of money. Police, firefighters and public service (6) _____ about their future.

Fifty years ago, Detroit's car industry (7) _____ business success. It had the nickname "Motor City". It (8) _____ is now (9) _____ with empty houses and unemployment. Its busy factories (10) _____. Although important public services are continuing, street lights have been switched off. The city mayor said Detroit (11) _____. It borrowed too much money and was late to pay pensions and bills. (12) _____ financial collapse.

BANKRUPTCY SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130721-bankruptcy-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bankruptcy in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130721-bankruptcy-4.html>

Write about **bankruptcy** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.
