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Level 5

Internet damaging 20,000 U.K. stores

3rd September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130903-retail-chains-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130903-retail-chains-5.html>

The Internet has changed how we shop. More and more of us shop online instead of in "bricks and mortar" stores. In the United Kingdom, this is having terrible consequences for the traditional high-street store. A business leader has released a report containing worrying statistics on the future of U.K. retailing. CEO Bill Grimsey warns that 47 per cent of chain stores (20,000 shops) are "horribly stressed financially". He predicts a quarter of these will be gone within three years. Mr Grimsey also said the move away from traditional shopping has led to "ugly" town centres.

Mr Grimsey gave reasons for the decline of Britain's downtown areas. Over 40,000 shops are empty - 11 per cent of all retail space. Stores have not risen to meet challenges from the Internet. He said stores are stuck in the past and are not looking at the future. They need innovative ideas to bring customers back. He said companies were too "nostalgic". Another reason is that multinational companies are taking money away from local areas. He said it was difficult to keep local money within the local economy if "we are listening too much to big firms".

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/10278443/Half-of-high-street-retailers-in-danger-of-closing-down.html>
<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/news/article-2407852/Warning-20-000-high-street-shops-brink-collapse.html#ixzz2dchKcX2v>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/editorial-time-to-rethink-the-high-street-8792880.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130903-retail-chains-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. changed | a. issued |
| 2. consequences | b. troubling |
| 3. traditional | c. unattractive |
| 4. released | d. long-established |
| 5. worrying | e. transformed |
| 6. predicts | f. inside |
| 7. within | g. effects |
| 8. ugly | h. forecasts |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. reasons | a. neighbourhood |
| 2. decline | b. sentimental |
| 3. empty | c. degeneration |
| 4. risen | d. vacant |
| 5. innovative | e. causes |
| 6. nostalgic | f. companies |
| 7. local | g. responded |
| 8. firms | h. fresh |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130903-retail-chains-5.html>

The Internet has (1) _____. More and more of us shop online instead of in "bricks and mortar" stores. In the United Kingdom, this is having (2) _____ for the traditional high-street store. A business leader has released a report containing (3) _____ (4) _____. CEO Bill Grimsey warns that 47 per cent of chain stores (20,000 shops) (5) _____ financially". He predicts a quarter of these will be gone within three years. Mr Grimsey also said the move away from traditional shopping (6) _____ town centres.

Mr Grimsey gave reasons (7) _____ Britain's downtown areas. Over 40,000 shops are empty - 11 per cent of all retail space. Stores have (8) _____ challenges from the Internet. He said stores are (9) _____ are not looking at the future. They need innovative ideas to (10) _____. He said companies were too "nostalgic". Another reason is that (11) _____ are taking money away from local areas. He said it was difficult to keep local money (12) _____ if "we are listening too much to big firms".

SHOPS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130903-retail-chains-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about shops 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/1309/130903-retail-chains-5.html>

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