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## **Level 5**

### **Japan girl group AKB48 attacked with saw**

**29th May, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140529-akb48.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/1405/140529-akb48.html>

Two members of Japanese pop group AKB48 were injured on Sunday. A fan attacked them with a saw at an event. The two singers, Rina Kawaei, 19, and Anna Iriyama, 18, were signing autographs for fans who had queued for hours to see them. A man suddenly rushed forward and slashed them with a saw. The pair were lucky not to have serious injuries. They were released from hospital a day later with cuts on their hands and head. A concert in Tokyo for Monday night was cancelled. The attacker got past poor security. He wanted to kill anyone. He had not targeted the women.

AKB48 are a pop culture phenomenon in Japan. They are hugely popular around Asia. They are everywhere in their home country - on TV, radio and in advertisements. They hold the Guinness record for being the world's largest pop group. The group started in 2005 in Tokyo's Akihabara district with 48 members. They now have 140 members. Annual competitions are held for new members when older members retire. There are strict rules to join the group. There is a total ban on dating. Their contract says that any band member falling in love is "forbidden".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-27572723>

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/05/26/national/crime-legal/akb48-singers-targeted-slasher/#.U4WX1i8uKHA>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140529-akb48.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A fan                      | a. rushed forward        |
| 2. signing                    | b. attacked them         |
| 3. queued                     | c. hospital a day later  |
| 4. A man suddenly             | d. have serious injuries |
| 5. slashed them               | e. autographs for fans   |
| 6. The pair were lucky not to | f. with a saw            |
| 7. They were released from    | g. the women             |
| 8. He had not targeted        | h. for hours             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. AKB48 are a pop culture           | a. world's largest pop group |
| 2. They are hugely popular           | b. to join the group         |
| 3. the Guinness record for being the | c. are held                  |
| 4. Annual competitions               | d. phenomenon in Japan       |
| 5. when older members                | e. ban on dating             |
| 6. There are strict rules            | f. love is "forbidden"       |
| 7. There is a total                  | g. around Asia               |
| 8. falling in                        | h. retire                    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140529-akb48.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ pop group AKB48 were injured on Sunday. A fan attacked them (2) \_\_\_\_\_ event. The two singers, Rina Kawai, 19, and Anna Iriyama, 18, were (3) \_\_\_\_\_ fans who had queued for hours to see them. A man suddenly rushed forward and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ saw. The pair were lucky not to have serious injuries. They were released from hospital a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on their hands and head. A concert in Tokyo for Monday night was cancelled. The attacker got past poor security. He (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He had not targeted the women.

AKB48 are a pop (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Japan. They are hugely popular around Asia. They are everywhere (8) \_\_\_\_\_ - on TV, radio and in advertisements. They hold the Guinness record for being the world's (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The group started in 2005 in Tokyo's Akihabara district with 48 members. They now have 140 members. Annual (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for new members when older members retire. There are strict rules to join the group. There is (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Their contract says that any band member (12) \_\_\_\_\_ "forbidden".

# POP GROUPS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140529-akb48.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pop groups 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Japan girl group AKB48 attacked with saw – 29th May, 2014*  
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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/1405/140529-akb48.html>

Write about **pop groups** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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