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Level 5 – 3rd March, 2021

Dog theft on the rise worldwide

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-5.html>

A disturbing new crime is emerging that should concern dog owners. Criminal gangs are engaged in the lucrative but illicit business of dog theft. One case in the USA last week was global news as the dog walker of pop singer Lady Gaga was shot in the chest as thieves stole her two dogs. There is a sharp rise in dog theft in the UK. Coronavirus lockdowns have led to a boom in pet sales. People bought "pandemic puppies" for solace and companionship. Criminals are now stealing dogs, often attacking their owners, and selling the canines for up to \$9,000.

Dog owners must take extreme care online and in parks. They should not post pictures of their pets on social media. They should also take their dogs for a walk with a friend and not leave them unattended. The organisation DogLost said people are buying dogs online without asking background questions. A Change.org petition said the punishment for dog theft is the same as for a stolen smartphone. It said: "Dognapping has almost the same effect on a family as kidnapping, as pets are seen as family members. It is time the law reflected this in the sentencing of offenders."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/26/beware-social-media-warning-uk-dog-owners-thefts-rise>
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-pet-thieves-dog-theft-pledge-b919636.html>
<https://www.change.org/p/make-pet-theft-a-specific-crime-in-uk-law>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A disturbing new crime | a. stealing dogs |
| 2. criminal | b. but illicit business |
| 3. engaged in the lucrative | c. boom in pet sales |
| 4. There is a sharp rise | d. gangs |
| 5. lockdowns have led to a | e. up to \$9,000 |
| 6. People bought pandemic puppies | f. is emerging |
| 7. Criminals are now | g. in dog theft |
| 8. selling the canines for | h. for solace |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Dog owners must take extreme | a. reflected this |
| 2. They should not | b. for dog theft |
| 3. leave them | c. offenders |
| 4. asking background | d. unattended |
| 5. the punishment | e. care online |
| 6. pets are seen | f. questions |
| 7. It is time the law | g. post pictures |
| 8. the sentencing of | h. as family members |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-5.html>

A disturbing new (1) _____ that should concern dog owners. Criminal gangs are engaged (2) _____ but illicit business of dog theft. One case in the USA last week was (3) _____ the dog walker of pop singer Lady Gaga was shot in the chest (4) _____ her two dogs. There is a sharp rise in dog theft in the UK. Coronavirus lockdowns have led to (5) _____ pet sales. People bought "pandemic puppies" for solace and companionship. Criminals are now stealing dogs, (6) _____ owners, and selling the canines for up to \$9,000.

Dog owners must (7) _____ online and in parks. They should (8) _____ of their pets on social media. They should also take their dogs for a walk with a friend and not (9) _____. The organisation DogLost said people are buying dogs online without asking background questions. A Change.org (10) _____ punishment for dog theft is the same as for a stolen smartphone. It said: "Dognapping has almost the (11) _____ a family as kidnapping, as pets are seen as family members. It is time the (12) _____ in the sentencing of offenders."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-5.html>

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DOG THEFT SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dog theft 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) _____

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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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-5.html>

Write about **dog theft** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
