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**Level 4 – 15th July 2024**

## **UK prisons facing serious overcrowding crisis**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-4.html>

The UK is dealing with a crisis in its prison system. The government is releasing thousands of prisoners. Some have served just 40 per cent of their sentence. UK leader Sir Keir Starmer said the mess in the prison service was because of a decade of neglect and underinvestment by the Conservative Party, which had been in power for 14 years. Inmates are being released early to accommodate newly-sentenced criminals.

UK justice secretary Shabana Mahmood warned of a "total breakdown in law and order" if prisons reached capacity. She said: "Prisons are on the point of collapse". She warned of "looters running amok...robbing shops and setting neighbourhoods alight". She blamed former prisons ministers for a "dereliction of duty" and for decimating the system. She called them: "The guilty men who put their political careers ahead of the safety...of our country."

Sources: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/12/world/europe/uk-prisons-early-release.html>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/jul/12/thousands-prisoners-released-early-avoid-total-breakdown-law-order>  
<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uks-new-justice-secretary-set-outline-emergency-measures-111872660>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The UK is dealing with     | a. their sentence     |
| 2. releasing thousands        | b. power for 14 years |
| 3. served just 40 per cent of | c. of prisoners       |
| 4. the mess in the            | d. criminals          |
| 5. because of a decade        | e. a crisis           |
| 6. been in                    | f. released early     |
| 7. Inmates are being          | g. prison service     |
| 8. newly-sentenced            | h. of neglect         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a total breakdown in          | a. ministers      |
| 2. She warned of looters running | b. of our country |
| 3. setting neighbourhoods        | c. of duty        |
| 4. She blamed former prisons     | d. law and order  |
| 5. a dereliction                 | e. careers        |
| 6. The guilty                    | f. amok           |
| 7. political                     | g. alight         |
| 8. the safety                    | h. men            |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-4.html>

The UK (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a crisis in its prison system. The government (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of prisoners. Some have served just 40 per cent (3) \_\_\_\_\_. UK leader Sir Keir Starmer said the mess in the prison service was because of a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and underinvestment by the Conservative Party, which had (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for 14 years. Inmates are being (6) \_\_\_\_\_ accommodate newly-sentenced criminals.

UK justice secretary Shabana Mahmood warned of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in law and order" if prisons reached capacity. She said: "Prisons are on the (8) \_\_\_\_\_". She warned of "looters running amok...robbing (9) \_\_\_\_\_ neighbourhoods alight". She blamed former prisons ministers for a "(10) \_\_\_\_\_" and for decimating the system. She called them: "The (11) \_\_\_\_\_ put their political careers ahead of the safety...(12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-4.html>

The UK is dealing with a crisis in its prisons system. The government is releasing thousands of prisoners. Some have served just 40 percent of their sentence. UK leader Sir Keir Starmer said the mess in the prisons service was because of a decade of neglect and underinvestment by the Conservative Party, which had been in power for 14 years. Inmates are being released early to accommodate newly-sentenced criminals. UK justice secretary Shabana Mahmood warned of a "total breakdown in law and order" if prisons reached capacity. She said: "Prisons are on the point of collapse". She warned of "looters running amok... robbing shops and setting neighbourhoods alight". She blamed former prisons ministers for a "dereliction of duty" and for decimating the system. She called them: "The guilty men who put their political careers ahead of the safety... of our country."

# PRISONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about prisons 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) \_\_\_\_\_

