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Level 5 – 15th July 2024

UK prisons facing serious overcrowding crisis

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-5.html>

The UK is dealing with a serious crisis in its prison system. The new Labour government has decided to release thousands of prisoners before they have finished serving their sentence. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said the mess in Britain's 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 felons. Some have served just 40 per cent of their time. Mr Starmer said the problem was "pretty unforgivable".

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". If space runs out, there will be nowhere to put anyone arrested. Mahmood said there would be "looters running amok, smashing windows, robbing shops and setting neighbourhoods alight". She blamed the UK's former leader and prisons ministers for their "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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The UK is dealing with a serious | a. for 14 years |
| 2. release thousands | b. prisons service |
| 3. before they have finished serving | c. unforgivable |
| 4. the mess in Britain's | d. of prisoners |
| 5. because of a decade | e. released early |
| 6. in power | f. their sentence |
| 7. Inmates are being | g. of neglect |
| 8. pretty | h. crisis |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. justice | a. shops |
| 2. a total breakdown in law | b. of collapse |
| 3. if prisons reached | c. duty |
| 4. Prisons are on the point | d. and order |
| 5. there would be looters | e. men |
| 6. robbing | f. capacity |
| 7. their dereliction of | g. secretary |
| 8. guilty | h. running amok |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-5.html>

The UK is dealing with (1) _____ in its prison system. The new Labour government has (2) _____ thousands of prisoners before they have finished (3) _____. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said the mess in Britain's prisons service was because of a (4) _____ and underinvestment by the Conservative Party, which had been in power for 14 years. Inmates are being (5) _____ accommodate newly-sentenced felons. Some have served just 40 per cent of their time. Mr Starmer said the problem (6) _____.

UK justice secretary Shabana Mahmood warned of a "total breakdown in (7) _____" if prisons reached capacity. She said: "Prisons are on the (8) _____". If space runs out, there will be nowhere to put anyone arrested. Mahmood said there would be "(9) _____, smashing windows, robbing shops and setting neighbourhoods alight". She blamed the UK's former leader and prisons ministers for their "(10) _____" and for decimating the system. She called them: "(11) _____ who put their (12) _____ of the safety...of our country."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-5.html>

TheUKisdealingwithaseriouscrisisinitsprisonsystem.ThenewLabour governmenthasdecidedtoreleasethousandsofprisonersbeforetheyhavefinishedservingtheirsentence.PrimeMinisterSirKeirStarmersaidthemessinBritain'sprisonsservicewasbecauseofadecadeofneglectandunderinvestmentbytheConservativeParty,whichhadbeeninpowerfor14years.Inmatesarebeingreleasedearlytoaccommodatenewly-sentencedfelons.Somehaveservedjust40percentoftheirtime.MrStarmersaidtheproblemwas"prettyunforgivable".UKjusticesecretaryShabanaMahmoodwarnedofa"totalbreakdowninlawandorder"ifprisonsreachedcapacity.Shesaid:"Prisonsareonthepointofcollapse".Ifspace runsout,therewillbenowheretoputanyonearrested.Mahmoodsaidtherewouldbe"lootersrunningamok,smashingwindows,robbingshopsandsettingneighbourhoodsalight".SheblamedtheUK'sformerleaderandprisonsministersfortheir"derelictionofduty"andfordecimatingthesystem.Shecalledthem:"Theguiltymenwhoputtheirpoliticalcareersaheadofthesafety...ofourcountry."

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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/240715-overcrowded-prisons-5.html>

Write about **prisons** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
