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Level 5 – 30th September 2024

Activists jailed for soup attack on Van Gogh painting

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-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/2409/240930-van-gogh-5.html>

The U.K. has jailed two climate activists for throwing soup at Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers painting. The protestors are from the environmental group Just Stop Oil. This highlights the issue of climate change caused by fossil fuels. One activist received a two-year prison sentence. The other will serve 20 months. In October 2022, the protestors threw tomato soup over Van Gogh's priceless painting. They then knelt beneath the iconic work of art and glued their hands to the wall. The soup did not harm the painting. However, it caused over \$13,000 of damage to the frame.

The court judge called the Van Gogh painting a "cultural treasure". He said it could have been "seriously damaged or even destroyed". The judge told the activists: "You couldn't have cared less if the painting was damaged or not. You had no right to do what you did....You clearly think your beliefs give you the right to commit crimes when you feel like it." In their defence, the protestors said that before throwing the soup, they checked to see if the painting was protected by glass. Museum staff worried the soup could have dripped through the glass.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly7zy3d3exo>
<https://www.newsweek.com/climate-activists-prison-throwing-soup-van-gogh-sunflowers-1960549>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/09/27/climate/just-stop-oil-climate-activists-prison-van-gogh-soup-intl/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The U.K. has jailed | a. of art |
| 2. The protestors are from the | b. prison sentence |
| 3. highlights the issue | c. frame |
| 4. a two-year | d. of climate change |
| 5. the iconic work | e. the painting |
| 6. glued their hands | f. environmental group |
| 7. The soup did not harm | g. two climate activists |
| 8. damage to the | h. to the wall |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the court | a. crimes |
| 2. a cultural | b. protected by glass |
| 3. You had no right to do | c. you the right |
| 4. your beliefs give | d. the glass |
| 5. commit | e. throwing the soup |
| 6. before | f. judge |
| 7. the painting was | g. what you did |
| 8. dripped through | h. treasure |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-5.html>

The U.K. (1) _____ climate activists for throwing soup at Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers painting. The protestors are from (2) _____ Just Stop Oil. This highlights (3) _____ climate change caused by fossil fuels. One activist received a two-year prison sentence. The (4) _____ 20 months. In October 2022, the protestors threw tomato soup over Van Gogh's priceless painting. They then knelt (5) _____ work of art and glued their hands to the wall. The soup did not harm the painting. However, (6) _____ \$13,000 of damage to the frame.

The court judge called the Van Gogh painting (7) _____. He said it could have been "seriously damaged (8) _____. The judge told the activists: "You couldn't have (9) _____ the painting was damaged or not. You had no right to do what you did...You clearly think (10) _____ you the right to commit crimes when you feel like it." In their defence, the protestors said that before throwing the soup, they checked to see if the (11) _____ by glass. Museum staff worried the soup could have (12) _____ glass.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-5.html>

The U.K. has jailed two climate activists for throwing soup at Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers painting. The protestors are from the environmental group Just Stop Oil. This highlights the issue of climate change caused by fossil fuels. One activist received a two-year prison sentence. The other will serve 20 months. In October 2022, the protestors threw tomato soup over Van Gogh's priceless painting. They then knelt beneath the iconic work of art and glued their hands to the wall. The soup did no harm to the painting. However, it caused over \$13,000 of damage to the frame. The court judge called the Van Gogh painting a "cultural treasure". He said it could have been "seriously damaged or even destroyed". The judge told the activists: "You couldn't have cared less if the painting was damaged or not. You had no right to do what you did.... You clearly think your beliefs give you the right to commit crimes when you feel like it." In their defence, the protestors said that before throwing the soup, they checked to see if the painting was protected by glass. Museum staff worried the soup could have dripped through the glass.

PROTESTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Protests 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) _____

