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**Level 0 – 8th May 2025**

## **Donald Trump may reopen Alcatraz as a prison**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

Donald Trump wants to reopen the prison Alcatraz. The prison was used between 1934 and 1963. It is now a tourist attraction. The famous gangster Al Capone stayed there. No one has ever escaped from the prison alive. President Trump said Alcatraz was a symbol of law and order.

The USA's head of border control said Alcatraz could be good for public safety. However, a former head of the prisons service said: "It's not realistic to think you can repair it. You'd have to tear it up and start over." He said security was poor. There are no cameras and fences. He said: "You can't run a prison [like that]."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly5d9yzt7wo>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/05/05/us/trump-alcatraz-prison-history-hnk>  
<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/05/nx-s1-5387239/trump-alcatraz-reopen>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Donald Trump wants to reopen  | a. gangster      |
| 2. The prison was used between   | b. stayed there  |
| 3. It is now a tourist           | c. order         |
| 4. The famous                    | d. attraction    |
| 5. Al Capone                     | e. was a symbol  |
| 6. No one has ever               | f. the prison    |
| 7. President Trump said Alcatraz | g. escaped       |
| 8. law and                       | h. 1934 and 1963 |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The USA's head of border     | a. repair it         |
| 2. Alcatraz could be good       | b. service           |
| 3. a former head of the prisons | c. like that         |
| 4. It's not                     | d. for public safety |
| 5. you can                      | e. it up             |
| 6. You'd have to tear           | f. control           |
| 7. He said security             | g. realistic         |
| 8. You can't run a prison       | h. was poor          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

Donald Trump (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the prison Alcatraz.

The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ between 1934 and 1963. It is

now (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The famous gangster Al

Capone stayed there. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ever

escaped from (5) \_\_\_\_\_. President Trump

said Alcatraz was a symbol of (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The USA's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ control said Alcatraz

could be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ safety. However, a

former (9) \_\_\_\_\_ prisons service said: "It's

not realistic to think you (10) \_\_\_\_\_. You'd

have to tear it up and start over." He said security was poor.

There are no (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "You can't

run a (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

Donald Trump wants to reopen the prison Alcatraz. The prison was used between 1934 and 1963. It is now a tourist attraction. The famous gangster Al Capone stayed there. No one has ever escaped from the prison alive. President Trump said Alcatraz was a symbol of law and order. The USA's head of border control said Alcatraz could be good for public safety. However, a former head of the prison's services said: "It's not realistic to think you can repair it. You'd have to tear it up and start over." He said security was poor. There are no cameras and fences. He said: "You can't turn a prison [like that] into a tourist attraction."

# PRISON SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about prison 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/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-0.html>

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

[illegible]