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Level 4 – 2nd March 2026

UK stores locking up chocolate to stop theft

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-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/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-4.html>

Shops in the UK are taking extreme action to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. Stores are locking chocolate in plastic boxes. Customers must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One supermarket said it is using "boxes on products which are regularly targeted" by thieves. Another store said chocolate theft was a "massive issue" and costs thousands of pounds a week. It said some shoplifters "literally swipe the whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. A store association said "prolific offenders" are stealing chocolate and selling it on the black market. Only alcohol is stolen more often. Another association said chocolate was now a "high-value" target, so stores are installing anti-theft devices. There were more than 5.5 million reported incidents of shoplifting in the UK last year. Sadly, there are 1,600 of violent attacks against shop workers every day.

Sources: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15587441/Now-chocolate-bars-locked-shops-stop-thieves-stealing-order.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/shoplifting-chocolate-theft-dairy-milk-b2926378.html>
<https://www.aol.com/articles/chocolate-kept-anti-theft-boxes-103944140.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Shops in the UK are taking extreme | a. in plastic boxes |
| 2. stop shoplifters from | b. thieves |
| 3. locking chocolate | c. pounds a week |
| 4. Customers must ask | d. action |
| 5. regularly targeted by | e. the whole shelf |
| 6. chocolate theft was a massive | f. a member of staff |
| 7. thousands of | g. stealing chocolate |
| 8. shoplifters literally swipe | h. issue |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Chocolate is the latest target | a. theft devices |
| 2. prolific | b. value target |
| 3. stealing chocolate and selling it | c. of criminal gangs |
| 4. Only alcohol is | d. on the black market |
| 5. chocolate was now a high- | e. against shop workers |
| 6. stores are installing anti- | f. offenders |
| 7. reported incidents | g. stolen more often |
| 8. violent attacks | h. of shoplifting |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-4.html>

Shops in the UK are (1) _____ to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. Stores are locking chocolate (2) _____. Customers must ask a member of staff to (3) _____. One supermarket said it is using "boxes on products which (4) _____" by thieves.

Another store said chocolate theft was (5) _____ and costs thousands of pounds a week. It said some shoplifters "(6) _____ whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target (7) _____. A store association said (8) _____ stealing chocolate and selling it on (9) _____. Only alcohol is stolen more often. Another association said chocolate was now a (10) _____, so stores are installing anti-theft devices. There were more than 5.5 million (11) _____ shoplifting in the UK last year. Sadly, there are 1,600 (11) _____ against shop workers every day.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-4.html>

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CHOCOLATE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about chocolate 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) _____

