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**Level 5 – 2nd March 2026**

## UK stores locking up chocolate to stop theft

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-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/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-5.html>

Shops in the UK are going to extreme lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. Stores are locking chocolate bars in plastic security boxes. Customers must ask a member of staff to unlock the box if they want to buy one. One leading supermarket said it has begun using "boxes on products which are regularly targeted" by thieves. Another popular store, the Co-op, said chocolate theft was a "massive issue". It said: "In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." It added that some shoplifters "literally swipe the whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. A convenience store association said chocolate is being stolen by "prolific offenders" and then sold on the black market. A spokesman said only alcohol was stolen more often in 2025. Another association said: "Chocolate is now a target, deemed to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-theft devices." There were more than 5.5 million reported incidents of shoplifting in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these ended up in the courts. Sadly, there are 1,600 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

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

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Chocolate is the latest target        | a. a target          |
| 2. chocolate is being stolen by prolific | b. shop workers      |
| 3. sold on the black                     | c. more often        |
| 4. only alcohol was stolen               | d. theft devices     |
| 5. Chocolate is now                      | e. of criminal gangs |
| 6. retailers have installed anti-        | f. market            |
| 7. 5.5 million reported incidents        | g. offenders         |
| 8. violent attacks against               | h. of shoplifting    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-5.html>

Shops in the UK are going to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. Stores are locking chocolate (2) \_\_\_\_\_ security boxes. Customers must ask a member of staff (3) \_\_\_\_\_ box if they want to buy one. One leading supermarket said it has begun using "boxes on products which are regularly (4) \_\_\_\_\_". Another popular store, the Co-op, said chocolate theft was (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." It added that some shoplifters "literally (6) \_\_\_\_\_ shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target (7) \_\_\_\_\_. A convenience store association said chocolate is being stolen (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and then sold on the black market. A spokesman said only (9) \_\_\_\_\_ more often in 2025. Another association said: "Chocolate is now a target, deemed to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed (10) \_\_\_\_\_." There were more than 5.5 million reported incidents of shoplifting in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the courts. Sadly, there are 1,600 (12) \_\_\_\_\_ shop workers every day.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting-5.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) \_\_\_\_\_

