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**Level 4** – 3rd March, 2021

## Dog theft on the rise worldwide

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-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/2103/210303-dog-theft-4.html>

There is a new crime that is worrying dog owners. Criminal gangs are engaged in the profitable but illegal business of dog theft. Last week, the dog walker of pop singer Lady Gaga was shot in the chest as thieves stole her two dogs. There is a sharp rise in dog theft in the UK. Lockdowns have led to a boom in pet sales. People bought "pandemic puppies" as companions. Criminals are now stealing dogs, often attacking their owners, and selling the canines.

Dog owners should not post pictures of their pets on social media. They should take their pets for a walk with a friend and not leave them alone. People should ask background questions when buying a dog online. A Change.org petition said the punishment for dog theft is the same as for a stolen smartphone. It said: "Dognapping has almost the same effect on a family as kidnapping....It is time the law reflected this in the sentencing of offenders."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/26/beware-social-media-warning-uk-dog-owners-thefts-rise>  
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-pet-thieves-dog-theft-pledge-b919636.html>  
<https://www.change.org/p/make-pet-theft-a-specific-crime-in-uk-law>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a new crime that is worrying | a. puppies as companions |
| 2. the profitable but           | b. two dogs              |
| 3. shot in                      | c. stealing dogs         |
| 4. thieves stole her            | d. in pet sales          |
| 5. There is a sharp             | e. the chest             |
| 6. Lockdowns have led to a boom | f. dog owners            |
| 7. People bought pandemic       | g. illegal business      |
| 8. Criminals are now            | h. rise in dog theft     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Dog owners should         | a. alone             |
| 2. take their pets           | b. reflected this    |
| 3. leave them                | c. dog online        |
| 4. background                | d. offenders         |
| 5. buying a                  | e. not post pictures |
| 6. Dognapping has almost the | f. questions         |
| 7. It is time the law        | g. same effect       |
| 8. the sentencing of         | h. for a walk        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-4.html>

There is a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ is worrying dog owners. Criminal gangs are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ profitable but illegal business of dog theft. Last week, the dog walker of pop singer Lady Gaga was shot in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ thieves stole her two dogs. There is a sharp rise in dog theft in the UK. Lockdowns have led to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pet sales. People bought "pandemic puppies" as companions. Criminals are (5) \_\_\_\_\_, often attacking their owners, and (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Dog owners should not (7) \_\_\_\_\_ their pets on social media. They should take their pets (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with a friend and not (9) \_\_\_\_\_. People should ask background questions (10) \_\_\_\_\_ dog online. A Change.org petition said the punishment for dog theft is the same as (11) \_\_\_\_\_ smartphone. It said: "Dognapping has almost the same effect on a family as kidnapping....It is time the law reflected this in the (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-4.html>

There is a new crime that is worrying dog owners. Criminal gangs are engaged in the profitable but illegal business of dog theft. Last week, the dog walker of pop singer Lady Gaga was shot in the chest as thieves stole her two dogs. There is a sharp rise in dog theft in the UK. Lockdowns have led to a boom in pet sales. People bought "pandemic puppies" as companions. Criminals are now stealing dogs, often attacking their owners, and selling the canines. Dog owners should not post pictures of their pets on social media. They should take their pets for a walk with a friend and not leave them alone. People should ask background questions when buying a dog online. Animal Welfare Organisations said the punishment for dog theft is the same as for a stolen smartphone. It said: "Dog napping has almost the same effect on a family as kidnapping.... It is time the law reflected this in the sentencing of offenders."

# DOG THEFT SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210303-dog-theft-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dog theft 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

