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Level 2 – 25th June, 2021

Mouse plague in Australia forces prison to close

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-2.html>

Millions of mice have been causing a lot of damage in Australia. One state is suffering its worst mouse plague in decades. Mice numbers started growing last year because of a big wheat harvest. The mice have been causing farmers a big headache for a year. They have now caused problems for a prison about 350km west of Sydney. It has evacuated 200 staff and 420 prisoners. They have been moved to other jails in the area because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days to clean the prison and to repair electric cables and woodwork.

Mice have damaged buildings all over the region. Their droppings are now a health hazard that has cost a lot of money to clean up. In addition, they have damaged electrical wiring. This is a danger to property and human life. A prisons spokesperson spoke about the cleaning and repairs. He said: "The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important for us to act now to carry out the vital repair work....We need to take this step now to ensure the site is thoroughly cleaned and...repaired." He will look at ways to protect against future plagues.

Sources: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7307607/nsw-jail-evacuated-because-of-mice-plague/>
<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/everywhere-s-bad-farmers-eye-long-campaign-against-mouse-plague-20210607-p57yor.html>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-06-23/bromadiolone-mouse-plague-poison-rejected-for-use/100218864>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. its worst mouse plague | a. and woodwork |
| 2. Mice numbers started | b. 200 staff |
| 3. because of a big wheat | c. growing last year |
| 4. causing farmers | d. to clean the prison |
| 5. It has evacuated | e. in decades |
| 6. because of health and | f. a big headache |
| 7. It will take 10 days | g. safety reasons |
| 8. repair electric cables | h. harvest |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Their droppings are now a | a. this step now |
| 2. they have damaged electrical | b. repair work |
| 3. The health, safety and | c. cleaned |
| 4. it's important for us | d. wellbeing of staff |
| 5. carry out the vital | e. health hazard |
| 6. We need to take | f. future plagues |
| 7. ensure the site is thoroughly | g. wiring |
| 8. ways to protect against | h. to act now |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-2.html>

Millions of mice have been causing a (1) _____ in Australia. One state is suffering its worst mouse plague in decades. Mice (2) _____ last year because of a big wheat harvest. The mice have been causing farmers (3) _____ for a year. They have now caused problems for a prison about 350km west of Sydney. It has (4) _____ and 420 prisoners. They have been moved to other jails in the area because of (5) _____ reasons. It will take 10 days to clean the prison and to (6) _____ and woodwork.

Mice have damaged buildings all (7) _____. Their droppings are now a (8) _____ has cost a lot of money to clean up. In addition, they have damaged electrical wiring. This is a (9) _____ and human life. A prisons spokesperson spoke about the cleaning and repairs. He said: "The health, safety and (10) _____ and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important for us to act now to carry out the (11) _____.We need to take this step now to ensure the site is thoroughly cleaned and...repaired." He will look at (12) _____ against future plagues.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-2.html>

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MICE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about mice 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) _____

