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Level 3 – 25th June, 2021

Mouse plague in Australia forces prison to close

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Millions of mice have been creating havoc in Australia. The state of New South Wales is suffering from its worst mouse plague in decades. The mouse population started growing on farms in spring last year because of a bumper wheat harvest. The rodents have been causing farmers a major headache for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km west of Sydney, has been forced to evacuate. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to other jails in the region because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs to electric cables and woodwork to be carried out.

Mice have been causing damage to buildings throughout the region. Their droppings have become a health hazard that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. In addition, they have chewed through electrical wiring, which has become a danger to property and human life. Prisons spokesperson Peter Severin spoke about the cleaning and repair operations at Wellington. 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 infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at ways to protect against plagues in the future.

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>

WARM-UPS

1. MICE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about mice. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

millions / havoc / plague / decades / wheat / harvest / prison / evacuate / cables / damage / health hazard / thousands / repair / wellbeing / vital / infrastructure / future

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PRISONS: Students A **strongly** believe prisons are good; Students B **strongly** believe prisons are bad. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PESTS: What do you think of these pests? What damage do they do? How can we control them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Think	The Damage They Do	How to Control Them
Mice			
Locusts			
Rats			
Cockroaches			
Weeds			
Mosquitoes			

5. FARM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "farm". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. RODENTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting rodents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Mice
- Rats
- Squirrels
- Beavers
- Guinea pigs
- Prairie dogs
- Porcupines
- Hamsters

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. havoc | a. All of the crops grown and gathered in a season. |
| 2. decade | b. Widespread destruction. |
| 3. population | c. All the people of a particular town, area, or country. |
| 4. harvest | d. Remove someone from a place of danger to a safe place. |
| 5. rodent | e. A thick rope of wire or nonmetallic fiber, usually used for construction, tying up ships, and towing cars, or for transporting electricity. |
| 6. evacuate | f. A period of ten years. |
| 7. cable | g. A mammal that includes rats, mice, squirrels, hamsters, etc. with strong, large front teeth. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. throughout | h. Buildings and land that belong to someone. |
| 9. droppings | i. In a way that covers every detail. |
| 10. chew | j. Totally necessary or important; essential. |
| 11. property | k. Bite at something non-stop. |
| 12. wellbeing | l. The state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy. |
| 13. vital | m. In every part of. |
| 14. thoroughly | n. The solid waste of animals, such as mice, sheep, birds, and insects. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says 10 million mice are creating havoc in Australia. **T / F**
2. The numbers of mice increased due to the production of lots of wheat. **T / F**
3. The mice plague forced the permanent closure of a prison near Sydney. **T / F**
4. It will take less than two weeks to repair the prison's electric cables. **T / F**
5. It is costing millions of dollars to deal with mice droppings. **T / F**
6. Millions of mice died after chewing through electrical wiring. **T / F**
7. The wellbeing of staff is the prison's top priority. **T / F**
8. Staff are looking at ways to deal with future mouse plagues. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. havoc | a. crop |
| 2. decade | b. hazard |
| 3. harvest | c. area |
| 4. prison | d. gnawed |
| 5. transferred | e. ten years |
| 6. region | f. safeguard |
| 7. chewed | g. moved |
| 8. danger | h. chaos |
| 9. vital | i. jail |
| 10. protect | j. essential |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Millions of mice have been creating | a. evacuate |
| 2. causing farmers a major | b. a health hazard |
| 3. forced to | c. cables |
| 4. because of health and | d. throughout the region |
| 5. repairs to electric | e. headache |
| 6. causing damage to buildings | f. priority |
| 7. Their droppings have become | g. havoc in Australia |
| 8. a danger to property | h. wellbeing of staff |
| 9. The health, safety and | i. safety reasons |
| 10. our number one | j. and human life |

GAP FILL

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

Millions of mice have been creating (1) _____ in Australia. The state of New South Wales is suffering from its worst mouse plague in (2) _____. The mouse population started growing on farms in spring last year because of a (3) _____ wheat harvest. The rodents have been causing farmers a (4) _____ headache for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km west of Sydney, has been forced to (5) _____. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to other jails in the (6) _____ because of health and safety (7) _____. It will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs to electric (8) _____ and woodwork to be carried out.

bumper
region
cables
havoc
reasons
major
decades
evacuate

Mice have been causing damage to buildings (9) _____ the region. Their droppings have become a health (10) _____ that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. In addition, they have (11) _____ through electrical (12) _____, which has become a danger to property and human life. Prisons spokesperson Peter Severin spoke about the cleaning and repair operations at Wellington. He said: "The health, safety and (13) _____ of staff and inmates is our number one (14) _____, so it's important for us to act now to carry out the vital repair work....We need to take this step now to (15) _____ the site is thoroughly cleaned and infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at ways to (16) _____ against plagues in the future.

priority
hazard
protect
throughout
chewed
ensure
wellbeing
wiring

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Millions of mice have been creating _____
 - a. hake in Australia
 - b. haddock in Australia
 - c. havoc in Australia
 - d. halibut in Australia
- 2) The state of New South Wales is suffering from its worst mouse _____
 - a. plague on decades
 - b. plague in decades
 - c. plague on decade
 - d. plague in decodes
- 3) started growing on farms in spring last year because of a _____
 - a. bump per wheat harvest
 - b. bum per wheat harvest
 - c. bum pair wheat harvest
 - d. bumper wheat harvest
- 4) The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km west of Sydney, has been _____
 - a. forced to evacuate
 - b. force to evacuate
 - c. forced too evacuate
 - d. forced two evacuate
- 5) It will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs _____
 - a. to electric key balls
 - b. to electric cay balls
 - c. to electric cab bales
 - d. to electric cables
- 6) Mice have been causing damage to buildings _____
 - a. through want the region
 - b. threw outer region
 - c. though out the region
 - d. throughout the region
- 7) In addition, they have chewed _____
 - a. through electrical wring
 - b. through electrical why ring
 - c. through electrical whey ring
 - d. through electrical wiring
- 8) The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our _____
 - a. number win priority
 - b. number once priority
 - c. number one priority
 - d. number won priority
- 9) so it's important for us to act now to carry out the _____
 - a. bite all repair work
 - b. by tall repair work
 - c. bite tall repair work
 - d. vital repair work
- 10) now to ensure the site is thoroughly cleaned and _____
 - a. infrastructure as repaired
 - b. infrastructure is repaired
 - c. infrastructures repaired
 - d. infrastructure is reap paired

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Millions of mice have been (1) _____ Australia. The state of New South Wales is (2) _____ worst mouse plague in decades. The mouse population started growing on farms in spring last year because of a bumper wheat harvest. The (3) _____ causing farmers a major headache for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km west of Sydney, has (4) _____ evacuate. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to other jails (5) _____ because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for (6) _____ cables and woodwork to be carried out.

Mice have been causing (7) _____ throughout the region. Their droppings have become (8) _____ that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. In addition, they have chewed through electrical wiring, which has become a (9) _____ and human life. Prisons spokesperson Peter Severin spoke about the cleaning and repair operations at Wellington. 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 infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at (12) _____ against plagues in the future.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What Australian state is the mice plague in?
2. What was there a bumper harvest of?
3. How far west of Sydney is the prison in the article?
4. How many prisoners were transferred to other prisons?
5. How long will the cleaning of the prison take?
6. What does the article say is a health hazard?
7. What have mice chewed through?
8. Who is Peter Severin?
9. Who is the number one priority of the prison?
10. What will prison staff hope to safeguard against in the future?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What Australian state is the mice plague in?
 - a) Tasmania
 - b) Victoria
 - c) New South Wales
 - d) Queensland
- 2) What was there a bumper harvest of?
 - a) wheat
 - b) corn
 - c) apples
 - d) rice
- 3) How far west of Sydney is the prison in the article?
 - a) 350km
 - b) 380km
 - c) 250km
 - d) 280km
- 4) How many prisoners were transferred to other prisons?
 - a) 400
 - b) 420
 - c) 450
 - d) 480
- 5) How long will the cleaning of the prison take?
 - a) 40 days
 - b) 30 days
 - c) 20 days
 - d) 10 days
- 6) What does the article say is a health hazard?
 - a) repair operations
 - b) mice droppings
 - c) bumper wheat
 - d) wellbeing
- 7) What have mice chewed through?
 - a) electrical wiring
 - b) cheese
 - c) sacks of wheat
 - d) metal
- 8) Who is Peter Severin?
 - a) a prisoner
 - b) a mouse expert
 - c) the prison spokesperson
 - d) a repair person
- 9) Who is the number one priority of the prison?
 - a) Peter Severin
 - b) repair people
 - c) nurses and doctors
 - d) staff and inmates
- 10) What will prison staff hope to safeguard against in the future?
 - a) plagues
 - b) floods
 - c) natural disasters
 - d) electrical fires

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Mice

You think mice are the most interesting rodents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rodents aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): squirrels, hamsters or beavers.

Role B – Squirrels

You think squirrels are the most interesting rodents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rodents aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): mice, hamsters or beavers.

Role C – Hamsters

You think hamsters are the most interesting rodents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rodents aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): squirrels, mice or beavers.

Role D – Beavers

You think beavers are the most interesting rodents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rodents aren't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): squirrels, hamsters or mice.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'mouse' and 'plague'.

mouse	plague
--------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• havoc• spring• major• forced• reasons• carried	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• causing• droppings• chewed• wellbeing• number• protect
---	---

MICE SURVEY

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

MICE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'mouse'?
3. What do you think of mice?
4. What would you do if you saw thousands of mice?
5. What good do mice do?
6. What headaches do mice cause farmers?
7. What problems could mice cause a prison?
8. Why are mice called pests?
9. What others things cause farmers headaches?
10. What things in life cause you headaches?

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MICE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'plague'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why are some people afraid of mice?
15. Have you ever had mice in your house?
16. What is the best way to get rid of mice in your house?
17. How could mice affect the wellbeing of people?
18. Do mice make good pets?
19. How can we stop plagues of mice in the future?
20. What questions would you like to ask the head of the prison?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Millions of mice have been creating havoc (1) ____ Australia. The state of New South Wales is suffering from its worst mouse plague in (2) _____. The mouse population started growing on farms in spring last year because of a bumper wheat (3) _____. The rodents have been causing farmers a major (4) _____ for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km west of Sydney, has been forced to (5) _____. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to other jails in the region because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs to electric cables and woodwork to be carried (6) _____.

Mice have been causing damage to buildings (7) _____ the region. Their droppings have become a health (8) _____ that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. In addition, they have chewed through electrical wiring, which has become a danger (9) _____ property and human life. Prisons spokesperson Peter Severin spoke about the cleaning and repair operations at Wellington. He said: "The health, safety and (10) _____ of staff and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important (11) _____ 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 infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at ways to protect (12) _____ plagues in the future.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) to | (d) by |
| 2. | (a) times | (b) year | (c) century | (d) decades |
| 3. | (a) sew | (b) harvest | (c) progress | (d) seed |
| 4. | (a) painful | (b) throb | (c) headache | (d) tractor |
| 5. | (a) evacuate | (b) rattle | (c) elevate | (d) project |
| 6. | (a) out | (b) up | (c) of | (d) in |
| 7. | (a) course | (b) area | (c) inner | (d) throughout |
| 8. | (a) hazard | (b) blizzard | (c) gizzard | (d) wizard |
| 9. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) by | (d) as |
| 10. | (a) beginning | (b) well | (c) wellbeing | (d) wells |
| 11. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) for | (d) up |
| 12. | (a) so | (b) against | (c) for | (d) over |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. mice have been creating hoavc
2. its worst mouse plague in saeddec
3. because of a bumper wheat svrahte
4. forced to tcueaaev
5. other jails in the rgnioe
6. repairs to electric cslaeb

Paragraph 2

7. a health arzahd
8. they have wheced through electrical wiring
9. a danger to yterropp
10. The health, safety and bllgnewei of staff
11. carry out the lvtia repair work
12. ensure the site is ohghuytolr cleaned

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () west of Sydney, has been forced to evacuate. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have
- () from its worst mouse plague in decades. The mouse population started growing on farms in spring last
- (**1**) Millions of mice have been creating havoc in Australia. The state of New South Wales is suffering
- () been transferred to other jails in the region because of health and safety reasons. It will take
- () out the vital repair work....We need to take this step now to ensure the site is
- () Mice have been causing damage to buildings throughout the region. Their droppings have become
- () thoroughly cleaned and infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at ways to protect against plagues in the future.
- () wellbeing of staff and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important for us to act now to carry
- () a health hazard that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. In addition, they have chewed
- () 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs to electric cables and woodwork to be carried out.
- () about the cleaning and repair operations at Wellington. He said: "The health, safety and
- () through electrical wiring, which has become a danger to property and human life. Prisons spokesperson Peter Severin spoke
- () headache for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km
- () year because of a bumper wheat harvest. The rodents have been causing farmers a major

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. mice Australia . created have Millions of havoc in
2. mouse its in Suffering plague from decades . worst
3. have major farmers a headache . Rodents been causing
4. plague The for a problems has prison . caused
5. the days to It'll clean 10 prison . take
6. damage buildings . Mice to causing been have
7. droppings health become a hazard . have Their
8. electrical chewed they wiring . have through addition, In
9. for important It now . is to us act
10. future . to Ways plagues the in against protect

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Millions of mice have been creating *hammock / havoc* in Australia. The state of New South Wales is suffering from its *bad / worst* mouse plague in decades. The mouse population started *growing / grown* on farms in spring last year because of a *bump / bumper* wheat harvest. The rodents have been causing farmers a major *backache / headache* for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350km west of Sydney, has been forced to *excavate / evacuate*. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to *other / another* jails in the region because of health and *safe / safety* reasons. It will take 10 days for the prison to be *cleanse / cleaned* and for repairs to electric cables and woodwork to be carried *in / out*.

Mice have been causing damage to buildings *thoroughly / throughout* the region. Their droppings have become a *health / healthy* hazard that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean *down / up*. In addition, they have chewed through electrical *wring / wiring*, which has become a danger *to / at* property and human life. Prisons spokesperson Peter Severin spoke about the cleaning and *prepare / repair* operations at Wellington. He said: "The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our *numeral / number* one priority, so it's important for us to act now to carry out the *virtual / vital* repair work....We need to take this step now to *sure / ensure* the site is thoroughly cleaned and infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at ways *to / for* protect against plagues in the future.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

M__ll__ns __f m__c__ h__v__ b__n cr__t__ng h__v__c __n __str__l__. Th__ st__t__ __f N__w S__th W__l__s __s s__ff__r__ng fr__m __ts w__rst m__s__ pl__g__ __n d__c__d__s. Th__ m__s__ p__p__l__t__n st__rt__d gr__w__ng __n f__rms __n spr__ng l__st y__r b__c__s__ __f __ b__mp__r wh__t h__rv__st. Th__ r__d__nts h__v__ b__n c__s__ng f__rm__rs __ m__j__r h__d__ch__ f__r __v__r __ y__r. Th__ pl__g__ __ h__s n__w c__s__d pr__bl__ms f__r __ pr__s__n. Th__ W__ll__ngt__n C__rr__ct__n__l C__ntr__, __b__t 350km w__st __f Syd__n__y, h__s b__n f__rc__d t__ __v__c__t__. __p__t__ 200 st__ff __nd 420 pr__s__n__rs h__v__ b__n tr__nsf__rr__d t__ __th__r j__ls __n th__ r__g__n b__c__s__ __f h__lth __nd s__f__ty r__s__ns. __t w__ll t__k__ 10 d__ys f__r th__ pr__s__n t__ b__ cl__n__d __nd f__r r__p__rs t__ __l__ctr__c c__bl__s __nd w__dw__rk t__ b__ c__rr__d __t.

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PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

millions of mice have been creating havoc in australia the state of new south wales is suffering from its worst mouse plague in decades the mouse population started growing on farms in spring last year because of a bumper wheat harvest the rodents have been causing farmers a major headache for over a year the plague has now caused problems for a prison the wellington correctional centre about 350km west of sydney has been forced to evacuate up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to other jails in the region because of health and safety reasons it will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs to electric cables and woodwork to be carried out

mice have been causing damage to buildings throughout the region their droppings have become a health hazard that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up in addition they have chewed through electrical wiring which has become a danger to property and human life prisons spokesperson peter severin spoke about the cleaning and repair operations at wellington he said the health safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our number one priority so its important for us to act now to carry out the vital repair workwe need to take this step now to ensure the site is thoroughly cleaned and infrastructure is repaired staff will also look at ways to protect against plagues in the future

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Millions of mice have been creating havoc in Australia. The state of New South Wales is suffering from its worst mouse plague in decades. The mouse population started growing on farms in spring last year because of a bumper wheat harvest. The rodents have been causing farmers a major headache for over a year. The plague has now caused problems for a prison. The Wellington Correctional Centre, about 350 km west of Sydney, has been forced to evacuate. Up to 200 staff and 420 prisoners have been transferred to other jails in the region because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days for the prison to be cleaned and for repairs to electrical cables and woodwork to be carried out. Mice have been causing damage to buildings throughout the region. Their droppings have become a health hazard that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. In addition, they have chewed through electrical wiring, which has become a danger to property and human life. Prison spokesperson Peter Severin spoke about the cleaning and repair operations at Wellington. 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 infrastructure is repaired." Staff will also look at ways to protect against plagues in the future.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **mice** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MICE: Make a poster about mice. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PESTS: Write a magazine article about doing more to cut the numbers of pests like mice. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on mice. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stop mice becoming a problem. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. f 3. c 4. a 5. g 6. d 7. e
8. m 9. n 10. k 11. h 12. l 13. j 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. g
6. c	7. d	8. b	9. j	10. f

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. New South Wales
2. Wheat
3. 350km
4. 420
5. Ten days
6. Mice droppings
7. Electrical wiring
8. The prison's spokesperson
9. Staff and inmates
10. Plagues

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Millions of mice have created havoc in Australia.
2. Suffering from its worst mouse plague in decades.
3. Rodents have been causing farmers a major headache.
4. The plague has caused problems for a prison.
5. It'll take 10 days to clean the prison.
6. Mice have been causing damage to buildings.
7. Their droppings have become a health hazard.
8. In addition, they have chewed through electrical wiring.
9. It is important for us to act now.
10. Ways to protect against plagues in the future.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)