

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5 – 3rd March 2025

Bricklayer shortage worsens UK housebuilding crisis

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-5.html>

A housing crisis in the UK is being made worse by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes so young people can get on the housing ladder. In addition, soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have increased rough sleeping. Successive governments have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government is being hindered by a lack of qualified bricklayers and skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to fulfil its promise to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK government has blamed the lack of workers on "years of underinvestment in skills". An official said the government was doing its best to build 300,000 new homes. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment." However, a housebuilding consultant called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training enough workers could take "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "drop in the ocean".

Sources: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/key-homelessness-policy-areas/housing/housing-supply/>
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1917971/bricklayer-shortage-threatens-general-election-housing-pledges>
<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/other/labour-s-1-5m-new-homes-pledge-at-risk-as-uk-short-of-25-000-bricklayers/ar-AA1zCrDh>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A housing crisis | a. sleeping |
| 2. made worse by a | b. in the UK |
| 3. get on the housing | c. qualified bricklayers |
| 4. soaring | d. ladder |
| 5. rough | e. its promise |
| 6. failed to meet their | f. shortage of bricklayers |
| 7. hindered by a lack of | g. housebuilding targets |
| 8. fulfil | h. rents |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The UK government has blamed | a. in the ocean |
| 2. years of underinvestment | b. lever to deliver |
| 3. the government was doing | c. the lack of workers |
| 4. build 300,000 | d. each year was "fanciful" |
| 5. We will pull every | e. its best |
| 6. training enough workers could | f. in skills |
| 7. 5,000 new apprenticeships | g. take a generation |
| 8. a drop | h. new homes |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-5.html>

A housing crisis in the UK is being (1) _____ a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes so young people can get on (2) _____. In addition, soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have (3) _____. Successive governments have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government is being (4) _____ lack of qualified bricklayers and skilled tradespeople. The UK (5) _____ 25,000 bricklayers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to (6) _____ to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK government has (7) _____ of workers on "years of underinvestment in skills". An official said the government was doing its (8) _____ 300,000 new homes. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every lever to (9) _____ commitment." However, a housebuilding consultant called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training enough workers could (10) _____. He added that the (11) _____ adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "drop (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-5.html>

A housing crisis in the UK is being made worse by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes so young people can get on the housing ladder. In addition, soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have increased rough sleeping. Successive governments have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government is being hindered by a lack of qualified bricklayers and skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to fulfil its promise to build 1.5 million new homes. The UK government has blamed the lack of workers on "years of underinvestment in skills". An official also said the government was doing its best to build 300,000 new homes. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment." However, a housebuilding consultant called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training enough workers could take "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "drop in the ocean".

BRICKLAYERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bricklayers 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) _____

Bricklayer shortage worsens UK housebuilding crisis – 3rd March 2025
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

