

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.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 1 – 8th May 2025

Donald Trump may reopen Alcatraz as a prison

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-1.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 0, 2 and 3. 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/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-1.html>

Donald Trump wants to reopen the prison Alcatraz. The prison is in San Francisco Bay. It was used between 1934 and 1963. The famous gangster Al Capone stayed there. No one has ever escaped from the prison alive. In 1973, it opened to the public. It is now a tourist attraction. President Trump said Alcatraz was a symbol of law and order. He added: "America has been plagued by vicious, violent, and repeat criminal offenders."

The USA's head of border control like the idea of reopening Alcatraz. He said it could be good for public safety. However, some people disagree. A former head of the prisons service said: "It's not realistic to think you can repair it. You'd have to tear it up and start over." He said some buildings were "falling apart". He pointed out some of the problems. He said: "There are no security upgrades. No cameras. No fencing. You can't run a prison [like that]."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly5d9yzt7wo>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/05/05/us/trump-alcatraz-prison-history-hnk>
<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/05/nx-s1-5387239/trump-alcatraz-reopen>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Donald Trump wants to | a. attraction |
| 2. The prison is in | b. stayed there |
| 3. It was used between | c. offenders |
| 4. The famous gangster Al Capone | d. San Francisco Bay |
| 5. No one has ever escaped from | e. and order |
| 6. It is now a tourist | f. 1934 and 1963 |
| 7. a symbol of law | g. the prison alive |
| 8. criminal | h. reopen the prison |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The USA's head of border | a. you can repair it |
| 2. it could be good for | b. service |
| 3. some people | c. that |
| 4. A former head of the prisons | d. control |
| 5. It's not realistic to think | e. disagree |
| 6. You'd have to tear it up | f. apart |
| 7. some buildings were falling | g. public safety |
| 8. You can't run a prison like | h. and start over |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-1.html>

Donald Trump wants to (1) _____ Alcatraz. The prison is in San Francisco Bay. It was used between 1934 and 1963. (2) _____ Al Capone stayed there. No one has ever (3) _____ prison alive. In 1973, it opened to the public. It is now (4) _____. President Trump said Alcatraz was a (5) _____ and order. He added: "America has been plagued by vicious, violent, and (6) _____."

The USA's head (7) _____ likes the idea of reopening Alcatraz. He said it could be good (8) _____. However, some people disagree. A former head of the prisons service said: "It's (9) _____ think you can repair it. You'd have to (10) _____ and start over." He said some buildings were "falling apart". He pointed out some of the problems. He said: "There are (11) _____. No cameras. No fencing. You can't (12) _____ [like that]."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-1.html>

Donald Trump wants to reopen the prison Alcatraz. The prison is in San Francisco Bay. It was used between 1934 and 1963. The famous gangster Al Capone stayed there. No one has ever escaped from the prison alive. In 1973, it opened to the public. It is now a tourist attraction. President Trump said Alcatraz was a symbol of law and order. He said: "America has been plagued by vicious, violent, and repeat criminal offenders." The USA's head of border control likes the idea of reopening Alcatraz. He said it could be good for public safety. However, some people disagree. A former head of the prison's services said: "It's not realistic to think you can repair it. You'd have to tear it up and start over." He said some buildings were "falling apart". He pointed out some of the problems. He said: "There are no security upgrades. No cameras. No fencing. You can't run a prison [like that]."

PRISON SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about prison 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) _____

Donald Trump may reopen Alcatraz as a prison – 8th May 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) _____

