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Level 2 – 8th May 2025

Donald Trump may reopen Alcatraz as a prison

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-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/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-2.html>

Donald Trump wants to reopen the famous prison Alcatraz. The prison is an island in San Francisco Bay. It was in use between 1934 and 1963. Prisoners who stayed there included the gangster Al Capone. Officially, no one ever escaped alive from the prison. In 1973, Alcatraz opened to the public. It became a tourist attraction. President Trump wants it to return to keeping dangerous criminals. He 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 likes the idea of reopening Alcatraz. He said it could be "an option for significant public safety threats". However, some people think it should not become a prison again. A former head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons disagreed with the idea. He 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 "literally 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The prison is an island in | a. of law and order |
| 2. Prisoners who stayed there included | b. from the prison |
| 3. no one ever escaped alive | c. offenders |
| 4. It became a tourist | d. criminals |
| 5. return to keeping dangerous | e. San Francisco Bay |
| 6. He said Alcatraz was a symbol | f. plagued |
| 7. America has been | g. the gangster Al Capone |
| 8. repeat criminal | h. attraction |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. The USA's head of border control | a. and start over |
| 2. an option for significant public | b. become a prison |
| 3. some people think it should not | c. upgrades |
| 4. It's not realistic to think you | d. safety threats |
| 5. You'd have to tear it up | e. like that |
| 6. some buildings were literally falling | f. can repair it |
| 7. There are no security | g. apart |
| 8. You can't run a prison | h. likes the idea |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-2.html>

Donald Trump wants to reopen (1) _____ Alcatraz. The prison is an island in San Francisco Bay. It was (2) _____ 1934 and 1963. Prisoners who stayed there (3) _____ Al Capone. Officially, no one ever escaped alive from the prison. In 1973, Alcatraz opened to the public. It became (4) _____. President Trump wants it to return to keeping dangerous criminals. He said Alcatraz was a (5) _____ and order. He added: "America has been plagued by vicious, violent, (6) _____ offenders."

The USA's head of (7) _____ the idea of reopening Alcatraz. He said it could be "(8) _____ significant public safety threats". However, some people think it should not become a prison again. A (9) _____ the Federal Bureau of Prisons disagreed with the idea. He said: "It's not (10) _____ you can repair it. You'd have to tear it up and start over." He said some buildings were "literally falling apart". He (11) _____ of the problems. He said: "There are no security upgrades. No cameras. No fencing. You (12) _____ prison [like that]."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-2.html>

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eras. No fencing. You can't run a prison [like that]."

PRISON SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250508-alcatraz-prison-2.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) _____

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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) _____

