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Level 0 – 17th July 2025

Library battles beetles to save 100,000 old books

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-0.html>

Beetles are eating thousands of very old books. The books are in a 1,000-year-old library in Hungary. There is a Bible from the 13th century. There are many old documents. Library staff are putting the books in large plastic bags. They removed the oxygen from the bags. After six weeks without oxygen, the beetles will die.

The insect eating the books is the drugstore beetle. It usually eats dried food, but it also likes the glue in books. Librarians saw lots of dust on bookshelves. They found holes in the books. They knew beetles were chewing through the books. A librarian was worried. She said if a book is ruined, "a piece of culture has been lost".

Sources: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/hungary-oldest-library-fighting-save-045728506.html>
<https://www.foxnews.com/travel/destructive-bug-infestation-threatens-historic-1000-year-old-book-collection>
<https://sarajevotimes.com/hungarys-oldest-library-is-saving-100-000-books-from-a-bug-infestation/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Beetles are eating thousands | a. staff |
| 2. The books are in a 1,000- | b. the 13th century |
| 3. a Bible from | c. plastic bags |
| 4. There are many | d. without oxygen |
| 5. library | e. of very old books |
| 6. putting the books in large | f. from the bags |
| 7. They removed the oxygen | g. year-old library |
| 8. After six weeks | h. old documents |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The insect | a. the books |
| 2. It usually | b. in books |
| 3. it also likes the glue | c. dust on bookshelves |
| 4. Librarians saw lots of | d. been lost |
| 5. They found holes in | e. through the books |
| 6. beetles were chewing | f. worried |
| 7. A librarian was | g. eats dried food |
| 8. a piece of culture has | h. eating the books |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-0.html>

Beetles (1) _____ of very old books. The
(2) _____ a 1,000-year-old library in
Hungary. There is a Bible from (3) _____.
There are (4) _____. Library staff are
putting the books in (5) _____. They
removed the oxygen from the bags. After six
(6) _____, the beetles will die.

The (7) _____ books is the drugstore beetle.
It (8) _____ food, but it also
(9) _____ in books. Librarians saw
(10) _____ on bookshelves. They found holes
in the books. They knew beetles (11) _____
the books. A librarian was worried. She said if a book is ruined, "a
(12) _____ has been lost".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250515-carlo-ancelotti-0.html>

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LIBRARY BOOKS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about library books 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-0.html>

Write about **library books** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]