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**Level 1 – 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-1.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-1.html>

Thousands of old books are in danger. Beetles are eating them. The books are in a 1,000-year-old library in Hungary. One of the books is a Bible from the 13th century. There are also hundreds of documents from before the invention of the printing press. Library staff are putting the books in large plastic bags. They removed the oxygen from the bags. After six weeks without oxygen, the beetles should be dead.

The insect eating the books is the drugstore beetle. It usually eats dried food like flour. The bugs like to eat the gelatin that is used to make glue in books. Librarians found something was wrong when they saw dust on the bookshelves. They then found holes in the books. These were from the beetles chewing through the paper. A librarian said she felt a lot of responsibility for saving the books. 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-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Thousands of old books  | a. of documents           |
| 2. Beetles are             | b. 1,000-year-old library |
| 3. The books are in a      | c. from the bags          |
| 4. One of the books        | d. eating them            |
| 5. There are also hundreds | e. the printing press     |
| 6. before the invention of | f. are in danger          |
| 7. They removed the oxygen | g. oxygen                 |
| 8. After six weeks without | h. is a Bible             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. It usually eats dried food           | a. on the bookshelves |
| 2. used to make                         | b. has been lost      |
| 3. Librarians found something was       | c. glue in books      |
| 4. they saw dust                        | d. the books          |
| 5. They then found holes in             | e. like flour         |
| 6. the beetles chewing                  | f. saving the books   |
| 7. she felt a lot of responsibility for | g. wrong              |
| 8. a piece of culture                   | h. through the paper  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-1.html>

Thousands of old books (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Beetles are eating them. The books are in a 1,000-year-old library in Hungary. One of the books is a Bible from (2) \_\_\_\_\_. There are also (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from before the invention of (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Library staff are putting the books in large plastic bags. They (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from the bags. After six weeks without oxygen, the beetles (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ books is the drugstore beetle. It usually eats dried (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The bugs like to eat the gelatin that is used to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ books. Librarians found something was wrong when they (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the bookshelves. They then (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the books. These were from the beetles chewing through the paper. A librarian said she felt a lot of responsibility for saving the books. She said if a book is ruined, "a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ has been lost".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-1.html>

Thousandsofoldbooksareindanger.Beetlesareeatingthem.Thebooks  
areina1,000-year-oldlibraryinHungary.OneofthebooksisaBiblefro  
mthe13thcentury.Therearealsohundredsofdocumentsfrombeforeth  
einventionoftheprintingpress.Librarystaffareputtingthebooksinlarg  
eplasticbags.Theyremovedtheoxygenfromthebags.Aftersixweekswi  
thoutoxygen,thebeetlessouldbedead.Theinsecteatingthebooksist  
hedrugstorebeetle.Itusuallyeatsdriedfoodlikeflour.Thebugsliketoea  
tthegelatinthatisusedtomakeglueinbooks.Librariansfoundsomethin  
gwaswrongwhentheysawdustonthebookshelves.Theythenfoundhol  
esinthebooks.Thesewerefromthebeetleschewingthroughthepaper.  
Alibrariansaidshefeltalotofresponsibilityforsavingthebooks.Shesaid  
ifabookisruined,"apieceofculturehasbeenlost".

# LIBRARY BOOKS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-4.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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Library battles beetles to save 100,000 old books – 17th July 2025*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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-1.html>

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

[illegible]