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**Level 2 – 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-2.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, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-2.html>

Tens of thousands of old books are in danger. They are being eaten by beetles. The books are hundreds of years old. They are in a library in a medieval abbey in Hungary. The abbey was founded in the year 996. 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 in the 15th century. Library staff are putting the books in wooden boxes. The boxes are being sealed in large plastic bags. The oxygen has been removed 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 wheat, flour and spices. The bugs like to eat the gelatin and glue that are used to make books. Librarians understood something was wrong when they found lots of dust on the bookshelves. They also found holes in the books. These were from the beetles chewing through the paper. A librarian said: "We've never encountered such a degree of infection before." 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-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Tens of                             | a. from the 13th century  |
| 2. They are being                      | b. in large plastic bags  |
| 3. They are in a library in a medieval | c. eaten by beetles       |
| 4. The abbey was founded in            | d. printing press         |
| 5. One of the books is a Bible         | e. without oxygen         |
| 6. before the invention of the         | f. abbey in Hungary       |
| 7. The boxes are being sealed          | g. thousands of old books |
| 8. six weeks                           | h. the year 996           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The insect eating the books is   | a. was wrong               |
| 2. It usually eats dried food, like | b. responsibility          |
| 3. Librarians understood something  | c. through the paper       |
| 4. they found lots of dust          | d. been lost               |
| 5. They also found holes            | e. wheat, flour and spices |
| 6. from the beetles chewing         | f. on the bookshelves      |
| 7. She felt a lot of                | g. the drugstore beetle    |
| 8. a piece of culture has           | h. in the books            |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-2.html>

Tens of thousands of old books (1) \_\_\_\_\_. They are being eaten by beetles. The books are hundreds of years old. They are in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a medieval abbey in Hungary. The abbey (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the year 996. One of the books is a Bible from the 13th century. There are also (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from before the invention of the printing press in the 15th century. Library staff are putting the books in wooden boxes. The boxes (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in large plastic bags. The oxygen has been removed from the bags. After six (6) \_\_\_\_\_, the beetles should be dead.

The insect eating the books is the drugstore beetle. It usually (7) \_\_\_\_\_, like wheat, flour and spices. The bugs like to eat the gelatin (8) \_\_\_\_\_ are used to make books. Librarians understood something was wrong when they found (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on the bookshelves. They also found holes in the books. These were from the beetles (10) \_\_\_\_\_ paper. A librarian said: "We've never encountered such a degree of infection before." She felt a lot (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 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-2.html>

Tensofthousandsofoldbooksareindanger.Theyarebeingeatenbybeetles.Thebooksarehundredsofyearsold.TheyareinalibraryinamedievalabbeyinHungary.Theabbeywasfoundedintheyear996.OneofthebooksisaBiblefromthe13thcentury.Therearealsohundredsofdocumentsfrombeforetheinventionoftheprintingpressinthe15thcentury.Librarystaffareputtingthebooksinwoodenboxes.Theboxesarebeingsealedinlargeplasticbags.Theoxygenhasbeenremovedfromthebags.Aftersixweekswithoutoxygen,thebeetlessouldbedead.Theinsecteatingthebooksisthedrugstorebeetle.Itusuallyeatsdriedfood,likewheat,flourandspices.Thebugsliketoeatthegelatinandgluethatareusedtomakebooks.Librariansunderstoodsomethingwaswrongwhentheyfoundlotsofdustonthebookshelves.Theyalsofoundholesinthebooks.Thesewerfromthebeetleschewingthroughthepaper.Alibrariansaid:"We'veneverencounteredsuchadegreeofinfectionbefore."Shfeltalotofresponsibilityforsavingthebooks.Shesaidifabookisruined,"apieceofculturehasbeenlost".

# LIBRARY BOOKS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250717-library-book-beetle-2.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) \_\_\_\_\_

*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-2.html>

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

[illegible]