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**Level 1 – 25th December 2025**

## **'Santa's reindeer' are being hunted by wolves**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-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/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-1.html>

Reindeer in Finland help Santa Claus to deliver presents to children all over the world. However, the animals are in danger. More and more reindeer are being killed by wolves. A group of reindeer owners said wolves killed 1,950 reindeer this year. That is a 70 per cent increase from last year. A reindeer owner is worried about his animals. He said the increase in the number of wolves has upset the natural balance between reindeer and wolves.

The reindeer owner joked about his animals, even though he is worried. He said: "These are Santa's reindeer. We are really lucky because Santa needs them for only one day, so we can fly them for 364 days." Many people believe the Ukraine War is why there are more wolves. Many hunters in Russia have gone to fight in Ukraine. More wolves are moving from Russia to Finland. This means there are fewer wolf hunters.

Sources: <https://www.nordicvisitor.com/blog/in-focus-laplands-reindeer-culture/>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/12/22/europe/finland-reindeer-russia-wolves>  
<https://mezha.net/eng/bukvy/wolf-attacks-threaten-reindeer-herds-in-finland-s-lapland/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. help Santa Claus to deliver       | a. from last year       |
| 2. the animals are in                | b. presents to children |
| 3. A group of                        | c. number of wolves     |
| 4. wolves killed 1,950 reindeer      | d. danger               |
| 5. That is a 70 per cent increase    | e. reindeer owners      |
| 6. A reindeer owner is worried       | f. reindeer and wolves  |
| 7. the increase in the               | g. about his animals    |
| 8. upset the natural balance between | h. this year            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The reindeer owner joked    | a. gone to fight     |
| 2. even though he              | b. are more wolves   |
| 3. We are really               | c. hunters           |
| 4. Santa needs them for        | d. lucky             |
| 5. why there                   | e. about his animals |
| 6. Many hunters in Russia have | f. from Russia       |
| 7. More wolves are moving      | g. only one day      |
| 8. there are fewer wolf        | h. is worried        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-1.html>

Reindeer in Finland help Santa Claus (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
to children all over the world. However, the animals  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_. More and more reindeer are  
being killed by wolves. A group of reindeer  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ killed 1,950 reindeer this year.  
That is a 70 per cent (4) \_\_\_\_\_ year. A  
reindeer (5) \_\_\_\_\_ about his animals. He  
said the increase in the number of wolves has upset  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_ between reindeer and wolves.

The reindeer (7) \_\_\_\_\_ his animals, even  
though (8) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "These are  
Santa's reindeer. We are really lucky because Santa needs them  
for (9) \_\_\_\_\_, so we can fly them for 364  
days." Many people believe the Ukraine  
(10) \_\_\_\_\_ there are more wolves. Many  
hunters in Russia have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in  
Ukraine. More wolves are moving from Russia to Finland. This  
means (12) \_\_\_\_\_ wolf hunters.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-1.html>

Reindeer in Finland help Santa Claus to deliver presents to children all over the world. However, the animals are in danger. More and more reindeer are being killed by wolves. A group of reindeer owners said wolves killed 1,950 reindeer this year. That is a 70 percent increase from last year. A reindeer owner is worried about his animals. He said the increase in the number of wolves has upset the natural balance between reindeer and wolves. The reindeer owner joked about his animals, even though he is worried. He said: "These are Santa's reindeer. We are really lucky because Santa needs them for only one day, so we can fly them for 364 days." Many people believe the Ukraine War is why there are more wolves. Many hunters in Russia have gone to fight in Ukraine. More wolves are moving from Russia to Finland. This means there are fewer wolf hunters.

# REINDEER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about reindeer 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/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-1.html>

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

[illegible]