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Level 2 – 25th December 2025

'Santa's reindeer' are being hunted by wolves

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-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/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-2.html>

Reindeer in Lapland, Finland, are famous worldwide. That's because they help Santa Claus to deliver presents to children all over the world. However, the animals are in danger. Reindeer owners report that increasing numbers of reindeer are being killed by wolves. A reindeer association said wolves killed around 1,950 reindeer this year. That is a 70 per cent increase from last year. Juha Kujala, a reindeer owner, is worried about his animals. He said there has been a sudden increase in the number of wolves in Finland. This has upset the natural balance between reindeer and wolves.

Mr Kujala joked to reporters 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 of the year, so we can fly them for the other 364 days." Many owners believe the Ukraine War is the reason why there are more wolves. They say that hunters in Russia have gone to fight in Ukraine. This means more wolves are crossing the border between Russia and Finland. Kujala said: "It's worse since the Ukraine War started....There's nobody left hunting the wolves."

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Reindeer in Lapland, Finland, | a. presents to children |
| 2. help Santa Claus to deliver | b. in the number |
| 3. the animals are | c. are being killed |
| 4. increasing numbers of reindeer | d. reindeer this year |
| 5. wolves killed around 1,950 | e. balance |
| 6. a reindeer owner, is worried | f. are famous worldwide |
| 7. there has been a sudden increase | g. in danger |
| 8. upset the natural | h. about his animals |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Kujala joked to reporters | a. other 364 days |
| 2. We are really | b. is the reason why |
| 3. Santa needs them for only one | c. about his animals |
| 4. we can fly them for the | d. lucky |
| 5. owners believe the Ukraine War | e. the border |
| 6. hunters in Russia have | f. the wolves |
| 7. more wolves are crossing | g. gone to fight |
| 8. There's nobody left hunting | h. day of the year |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-2.html>

Reindeer in Lapland, Finland, (1) _____.
That's because they help Santa Claus (2) _____
to children all over the world. However, the animals are in danger.
Reindeer (3) _____ increasing numbers of
reindeer are being killed by wolves. A reindeer association said
wolves killed around 1,950 reindeer this year. That is a 70 per cent
(4) _____ year. Juha Kujala, a reindeer
owner, is worried about his animals. He said there has been
(5) _____ in the number of wolves in Finland.
This has (6) _____ balance between reindeer
and wolves.

Mr Kujala (7) _____ about his animals, even
though he is worried. He said: "These are Santa's reindeer. We are
(8) _____ Santa needs them for only one day
of the year, so we can fly them (9) _____ 364
days." Many owners believe the Ukraine War is the reason why
there are more wolves. They (10) _____ in
Russia have gone to fight in Ukraine. This means more wolves are
(11) _____ between Russia and Finland.
Kujala said: "It's worse since the Ukraine War started....There's
(12) _____ the wolves."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-2.html>

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REINDEER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251225-santa-claus-reindeer-2.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-2.html>

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

[illegible]