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Level 6 – 2nd March 2026

UK stores locking up chocolate to stop theft

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to extreme lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked in plastic security boxes. Customers wishing to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun using "boxes on products which are regularly targeted" by thieves. A spokesperson for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate theft was a "massive issue". He said: "In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." He added that some people would visit a store and "literally swipe the whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen by "prolific offenders" and then sold on the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only second to alcohol in 2025. Another retail association said: "Chocolate is now a target, deemed to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-theft devices to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million reported incidents of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these ended up in the courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers.

Sources: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15587441/Now-chocolate-bars-locked-shops-stop-thieves-stealing-order.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/shoplifting-chocolate-theft-dairy-milk-b2926378.html>
<https://www.aol.com/articles/chocolate-kept-anti-theft-boxes-103944140.html>

WARM-UPS

1. CHOCOLATE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about chocolate. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

shopkeepers / shoplifters / security boxes / supermarket chain / chocolate / theft / criminal gangs / candy / black market / alcohol / courts / violence / shop workers

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. CHOCOLATE BARS: Students A **strongly** believe chocolate bars are better than fruit; Students B **strongly** believe fruit is better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. THEFT: How serious are the forms of theft in the table? How can we stop it? What should the punishment be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Serious	Stopping It	Punishment
Shoplifting			
Burglary			
Robbery			
Identity theft			
Fraud			
Petty theft			

5. THIEF: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "thief". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. CHOCOLATE FOOD: Rank these with your partner. Put the best chocolate things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Chocolate bar
- Hot chocolate drink
- Chocolate ice cream
- Chocolate croissants
- Chocolate fondue
- Chocolate brownie
- Chocolate-covered bacon
- Chocolate milkshakes

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. go to extreme lengths | a. Very, very big. |
| 2. purchase (verb) | b. Quickly take something, often secretly or illegally. |
| 3. chain | c. Try very, very hard to do something, even if it is difficult or unusual. |
| 4. massive | d. Many stores with the same name and owner. |
| 5. individual | e. Buy something. |
| 6. literally | f. One person. |
| 7. swipe | g. In a real and exact way. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 8. association | h. Producing/Creating/Doing a huge amount of something. |
| 9. prolific | i. People who do something wrong or illegal. |
| 10. offenders | j. Officially decided or considered. |
| 11. the black market | k. An organized group of people with the same purpose/objective. |
| 12. retail | l. In a way that makes people feel worried or upset. |
| 13. deemed | m. The selling of goods to the public in stores. |
| 14. disturbingly | n. A place where people buy and sell things illegally. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says shoplifters are going to extreme lengths to steal. **T / F**
2. Customers must ask staff to open security boxes to buy chocolate. **T / F**
3. A supermarket said one store was losing millions of pounds a week. **T / F**
4. Some shoplifters steal all of the chocolate on supermarket shelves. **T / F**
5. The article says a lot of stolen chocolate is sold in street markets. **T / F**
6. Chocolate was the product most often stolen from stores in 2024. **T / F**
7. There were over five million incidents of shoplifting in the UK last year. **T / F**
8. There are over 1,500 daily incidents of violence against shop workers. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. extreme | a. occurrences |
| 2. locked | b. pilfering |
| 3. purchase | c. criminals |
| 4. theft | d. secured |
| 5. swipe | e. focus |
| 6. target | f. buy |
| 7. offenders | g. landed up |
| 8. deemed | h. drastic |
| 9. incidents | i. believed |
| 10. ended up | j. steal |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to | a. offenders |
| 2. candy is being locked in plastic | b. shelf of chocolate |
| 3. ask a member of staff to | c. security boxes |
| 4. products which are regularly | d. theft devices |
| 5. visit a store and literally swipe the whole | e. targeted by thieves |
| 6. chocolate is the latest target | f. up in the courts |
| 7. stolen by prolific | g. extreme lengths |
| 8. chocolate is now a target deemed | h. of criminal gangs |
| 9. retailers have installed anti- | i. to be high value |
| 10. only five per cent of these ended | j. unlock the box |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to (1) _____ lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked in plastic security boxes. Customers (2) _____ to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a member of (3) _____ to unlock the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun using "boxes on products which are (4) _____ targeted" by thieves. A spokesperson for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate theft was a "(5) _____ issue". He said: "In a particular shop, one (6) _____ could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." He (7) _____ that some people would visit a store and "literally (8) _____ the whole shelf" of chocolate.

regularly
wishing
added
massive
swipe
staff
extreme
individual

Chocolate is the latest (9) _____ of criminal gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen by "(10) _____ offenders" and then sold on the black (11) _____. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only (12) _____ to alcohol in 2025. Another retail association said: "Chocolate is now a target, (13) _____ to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-(14) _____ devices to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million reported (15) _____ of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these ended up in the courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of (16) _____ against shop workers.

market
violence
theft
target
incidents
prolific
deemed
second

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

- 1) Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go _____
 - a. to extreme length
 - b. to extreme longings
 - c. to extreme lengthens
 - d. to extreme lengths
- 2) The candy is being locked in _____
 - a. plastic security box is
 - b. plastic security boxers
 - c. plastic security boxes
 - d. plastic security proxies
- 3) Customers wishing to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a _____
 - a. members of staff
 - b. member of staff
 - c. member of stuff
 - d. member off staff
- 4) In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds _____
 - a. in a week
 - b. inner week
 - c. per a week
 - d. in that week
- 5) some people would visit a store and literally swipe _____
 - a. the hole shelf
 - b. the whole shelf
 - c. the holed shelf
 - d. the holy shelf
- 6) The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen _____
 - a. by profile offenders
 - b. by profligate offenders
 - c. by proletariat offenders
 - d. by prolific offenders
- 7) The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product _____
 - a. most often stealing
 - b. most often stole
 - c. most often stolen
 - d. most often stollen
- 8) deemed to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed _____
 - a. anti-theft devices
 - b. anti-theft devises
 - c. anti-theft de-vices
 - d. anti-theft div vices
- 9) There were 5.5 million reported incidents _____
 - a. of shops thief
 - b. of shop deft
 - c. of shop theft
 - d. of shops theft
- 10) Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence _____
 - a. against shop worker
 - b. against shop workers
 - c. again shop workers
 - d. against shops workers

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go (1) _____ to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked in (2) _____. Customers wishing to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a member of (3) _____ the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun using "boxes on products which are (4) _____ thieves. A spokesperson for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate theft was (5) _____. He said: "In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." He added that some people would visit a store (6) _____ the whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest (7) _____ gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen by (8) _____ then sold on the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only (9) _____ in 2025. Another retail association said: "Chocolate is now a (10) _____ be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-theft devices to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million (11) _____ shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these ended up (12) _____. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

1. What kind of lengths are shopkeepers having to go to?
2. Who must customers ask to buy a bar of chocolate?
3. What did the store Co-op call the theft of chocolate?
4. How much chocolate does one person steal from a store each week?
5. How much chocolate do people steal from a supermarket shelf?
6. Who in the UK have made chocolate their latest target?
7. Where are 'prolific offenders' selling their stolen chocolate?
8. Which product was stolen more often than chocolate in 2025?
9. How many incidents of shoplifting were reported in the UK last year?
10. How many daily instances of violence are directed against shop workers?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

- 1) What kind of lengths are shopkeepers having to go to?
 - a) long lengths
 - b) extreme lengths
 - c) uncertain lengths
 - d) shortened lengths
- 2) Who must customers ask to buy a bar of chocolate?
 - a) their parents
 - b) an app
 - c) a doctor
 - d) a member of staff
- 3) What did the store Co-op call the theft of chocolate?
 - a) shocking
 - b) a sticky issue
 - c) a massive issue
 - d) chocolatey
- 4) How much chocolate does one person steal from a store each week?
 - a) thousands of pounds
 - b) tens of thousands of pounds
 - c) hundreds of thousands of pounds
 - d) millions of pounds
- 5) How much chocolate do people steal from a supermarket shelf?
 - a) a lot
 - b) all of it
 - c) around half
 - d) it depends
- 6) Who in the UK have made chocolate their latest target?
 - a) criminal gangs
 - b) international chocolate smugglers
 - c) children with a sweet tooth
 - d) dentists
- 7) Where are 'prolific offenders' selling their stolen chocolate?
 - a) underground
 - b) on the sweet market
 - c) on the black market
 - d) in many stores
- 8) Which product was stolen more often than chocolate in 2025?
 - a) alcohol
 - b) games
 - c) trainers
 - d) chewing gum
- 9) How many incidents of shoplifting were reported in the UK last year?
 - a) 5.8 million
 - b) 5.7 million
 - c) 5.6 million
 - d) 5.5 million
- 10) How many daily instances of violence are directed against shop workers?
 - a) 1,800
 - b) 1,700
 - c) 1,600
 - d) 1,500

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Role A – Chocolate Bars

You think a chocolate bar is the best chocolate food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): chocolate ice cream, chocolate croissants or chocolate-covered bacon.

Role B – Chocolate Ice Cream

You think chocolate ice cream is the best chocolate food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): a chocolate bar, chocolate croissants or chocolate-covered bacon.

Role C – Chocolate Croissants

You think a chocolate croissant is the best chocolate food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): chocolate ice cream, a chocolate bar or chocolate-covered bacon.

Role D – Chocolate-covered Bacon

You think chocolate-covered bacon is the best chocolate food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): chocolate ice cream, chocolate croissants or a chocolate bar.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'chocolate' and 'shoplifting'.

chocolate	shoplifting
------------------	--------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• extreme• wishing• leading• popular• cost• swipe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• latest• sold• often• value• ended• daily
--	---

CHOCOLATE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Write five GOOD questions about chocolate 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.

SHOPLIFTING CHOCOLATE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'chocolate'?
3. What do you think of chocolate?
4. Why do so many people love chocolate?
5. What are your favourite chocolate dishes?
6. Have you ever done or thought about shoplifting?
7. What would you do if you saw someone shoplifting?
8. How do you feel about higher prices because of shoplifters?
9. Is there a lot of shoplifting in your country?
10. Is it OK for a poor and hungry person to shoplift food?

UK stores locking up chocolate to stop theft – 2nd March 2026
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SHOPLIFTING CHOCOLATE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'shoplifting'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of shoplifting?
15. How big a crime is shoplifting?
16. What should the punishment for shoplifting be?
17. What happens to shoplifters in your country?
18. How would you feel if chocolate disappeared?
19. How can we combat violence against shop workers?
20. What questions would you like to ask a shoplifter?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to (1) _____ lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked (2) _____ plastic security boxes. Customers wishing to purchase a chocolate (3) _____ must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun using "boxes on products which are (4) _____ targeted" by thieves. A spokesperson for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate (5) _____ was a "massive issue". He said: "In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." He added that some people would visit a store and "literally (6) _____ the whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen by "(7) _____ offenders" and then sold on the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only (8) _____ to alcohol in 2025. Another retail association said: "Chocolate is now a target, (9) _____ to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-theft (10) _____ to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million reported (11) _____ of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these ended (12) _____ in the courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) extreme | (b) extremely | (c) extremes | (d) extremity |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) down | (c) in | (d) up |
| 3. | (a) pole | (b) baton | (c) rod | (d) bar |
| 4. | (a) regulars | (b) regularly | (c) regularity | (d) regular |
| 5. | (a) thieves | (b) thief | (c) thieve | (d) theft |
| 6. | (a) swept | (b) sweeps | (c) swipe | (d) swiping |
| 7. | (a) prophylactic | (b) prolific | (c) prophetic | (d) profane |
| 8. | (a) second | (b) seconded | (c) secondly | (d) seconds |
| 9. | (a) deemed | (b) doomed | (c) damned | (d) domed |
| 10. | (a) devises | (b) divines | (c) devices | (d) vices |
| 11. | (a) incidentally | (b) incidence | (c) incidentals | (d) incidents |
| 12. | (a) down | (b) up | (c) over | (d) that |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Paragraph 1

1. go to reeemxt lengths
2. recphsau a chocolate bar
3. regularly targeted by eesihvt
4. a smsviea issue
5. one idindvauil could cost us thousands
6. airleytll swipe the whole shelf

Paragraph 2

7. stolen by ifoicprl offenders
8. retail sancioasot
9. retailers have installed anti-theft svidcee
10. ended up in the corsut
11. dgrsitinblyu, there are 1,600
12. 1,600 daily ndsctiien of violence

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () association said: "Chocolate is now a target, deemed to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-
- () bar must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun
- () being stolen by "prolific offenders" and then sold on the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the
- () Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is
- () courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers.
- () incidents of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these end up in the
- () product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only second to alcohol in 2025. Another retail
- () shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." He added that some people would
- (**1**) Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to extreme lengths to stop shoplifters from
- () stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked in plastic security boxes. Customers wishing to purchase a chocolate
- () store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate theft was a "massive issue". He said: "In a particular
- () theft devices to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million reported
- () using "boxes on products which are regularly targeted" by thieves. A spokesperson for another popular
- () visit a store and "literally swipe the whole shelf" of chocolate.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

1. are extreme go having lengths to to Shopkeepers .
2. being boxes Candy in is locked plastic security .
3. a Ask box member staff the to unlock .
4. are by Products regularly targeted thieves which .
5. a and shelf store swipe the Visit whole .
6. being by candy is offenders prolific stolen The .
7. black is It market on sold the then .
8. anti-theft devices have installed it protect Retailers to .
9. incidents millions of of reported theft There were .
10. against daily incidents Many of shop violence workers .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to *extremely / extreme* lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked *in / up* plastic security boxes. Customers *wishing / wished* to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One *leading / leaving* supermarket chain said it has begun *usage / using* "boxes on products which are regularly *target / targeted*" by thieves. A spokesperson for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate *theft / thief* was a "massive issue". He said: "In a particular shop, one *individual / individually* could cost us thousands of pounds *in / per* a week." He added that some people would visit a store and "literally *swipe / wipe* the whole shelf" of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target of *criminal / criminally* gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen *by / at* "*prolific / profile* offenders" and then sold *up / on* the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product *most / must* often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only second *for / to* alcohol in 2025. Another retail association said: "Chocolate is now a target, *doomed / deemed* to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-theft *devises / devices* to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million reported incidents of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these *ended / ending* up in the courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily *incidence / incidents* of violence against shop workers.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Sh_pk__p_rs _n th_ _K _r_ h_v_ng t_ g_ t_ _xtr_m_ l_ngths t_ st_p sh_pl_ft_rs fr_m st__l_ng ch_c_l_t_. Th_ c_ndy _s b__ng l_ck_d _n pl_st_c s_c_r_ty b_x_s. C_st_m_rs w_sh_ng t_ p_rch_s_ _ ch_c_l_t_ b_r m_st _sk _ m_mb_r _f st_ff t_ _nl_ck th_ b_x. _n_ l__d_ng s_p_rm_rk_t ch__n s__d _t h_s b_g_n _s_ng "b_x_s _n pr_d_cts wh_ch _r_ r_g_l_rly t_rg_t_d" by th__v_s. _ sp_k_sp_rs_n f_r _n_th_r p_p_l_r st_r_, th_ C_-_p, t_ld th_ BBC th_t ch_c_l_t_ th_ft w_s _ "m_ss_v_ _ss__". H_ s__d: "_n_ _p_rt_c_l_r sh_p, _n_ _nd_v_d__l c__ld c_st _s th__s_nds _f p__nds _n_ _w__k." H_ _dd_d th_t s_m_ p__pl_ w__ld v_s_t _ st_r_ _nd "l_t_r_lly sw_p_ th_ wh_l_ sh_lf" _f ch_c_l_t_.

Ch_c_l_t_ _s th_ l_t_st t_rg_t _f cr_m_n_l g_ngs. Th_ _K's _ss_c__t__n _f C_nv_n__nc_ St_r_s s__d th_ c_ndy _s b__ng st_l_n by "pr_l_f_c _ff_nd_rs" _nd th_n s_ld _n th_ bl_ck m_rk_t. Th_ C_-_p sp_k_sm_n s__d ch_c_l_t_ w_s th_ pr_d_ct m_st _ft_n st_l_n fr_m ts st_r_s _n 2024, _nd w_s _nly s_c_nd t_ _lc_h_l _n 2025. _n_th_r r_t__l _ss_c__t__n s__d: "Ch_c_l_t_ _s n_w _ t_rg_t, d__m_d t_ b_ 'h_gh v_l__,' s_r_t__l_rs h_v_ _nst_ll_d _nt_-th_ft d_v_c_s t_ pr_v_nt _t fr_m b__ng st_l_n." Th_r_ w_r_ 5.5 m_ll__n r_p_rtd _nc_d_nts _f sh_p th_ft _n th_ _K l_st y__r. _n L_nd_n, _nly f_v_ p_r c_nt _f th_s_ _nd_d _p _n th_ c__rts. D_st_rbn_gly, th_r_ _r_ 1,600 d__ly _nc_d_nts _f v__l_nc_ _g__nst sh_p w_rk_rs.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

shopkeepers in the uk are having to go to extreme lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate the candy is being locked in plastic security boxes customers wishing to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a member of staff to unlock the box one leading supermarket chain said it has begun using boxes on products which are regularly targeted by thieves a spokesperson for another popular store the coop told the bbc that chocolate theft was a massive issue he said in a particular shop one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week he added that some people would visit a store and literally swipe the whole shelf of chocolate

chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs the uks association of convenience stores said the candy is being stolen by prolific offenders and then sold on the black market the coop spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024 and was only second to alcohol in 2025 another retail association said chocolate is now a target deemed to be high value so retailers have installed antitheft devices to prevent it from being stolen there were 55 million reported incidents of shop theft in the uk last year in london only five per cent of these ended up in the courts disturbingly there are 1600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260302-chocolate-shoplifting.html>

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to extreme lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked in plastic security boxes. Customers wishing to purchase each chocolate bar must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun using "boxes on products which are regularly targeted" by thieves. A spokesman for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate theft was a "massive issue". He said: "In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week." He added that some people would visit a store and "literally swipethewholeshelf" of chocolate. Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. The UK's Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen by "prolific offenders" and then sold on the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only second to alcohol in 2025. Another retail association said: "Chocolate is now a target, deemed to be 'high value,' so retailers have installed anti-theft devices to prevent it from being stolen." There were 5.5 million reported incidents of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five percent of these end up in the courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHOCOLATE: Make a poster about chocolate. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SHOPLIFTING: Write a magazine article about greatly increasing the penalties for shoplifting. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on chocolate. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on the best chocolatey things. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. d 4. a 5. f 6. g 7. b
8. k 9. h 10. i 11. n 12. m 13. j 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 T 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. c	8. i	9. a	10. g

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Extreme lengths
2. A member of staff
3. A massive issue
4. Thousands of pounds
5. All of it
6. Criminal gangs
7. On the black market
8. Alcohol

9. 5.5 million
10. 1,600

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Shopkeepers are having to go to extreme lengths.
2. Candy is being locked in plastic security boxes.
3. Ask a staff member to unlock the box.
4. Products which are regularly targeted by thieves.
5. Visit a store and swipe the whole shelf.
6. The candy is being stolen by prolific offenders.
7. It is then sold on the black market.
8. Retailers have installed anti-theft devices to protect it.
9. There were millions of reported incidents of theft.
10. Many daily incidents of violence against shop workers.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)