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**Level 5** – 4th May 2026

## Press freedom at lowest level in 25 years

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-5.html>

Press freedom is at its lowest level in 25 years. This is according to the organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Its annual World Press Freedom Index assessed how free the media is in 180 countries. RSF said press freedom was "problematic" or worse in three quarters of the nations. In over half of the world, conditions were "difficult" to "very serious". This was a third in 2013. Press freedom was considered "problematic" in over 70 per cent of countries. The RSF said conditions were "good" in seven countries. These were all in northern and western Europe.

The RSF report is worried about growing pressure on journalists. It stated: "Political pressure on the press is intensifying [and] authoritarian tendencies are growing." It said there was "an alarming deterioration in the conditions for journalism in many parts of the world". The Index reported that there was a "systematic policy" of attacks on journalists in the USA. It said that in Russia, "laws designed to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism" were used to "restrict press freedom". Sixty-seven journalists were killed worldwide in 2025.

Sources: <https://www.dw.com/en/world-press-freedom-hits-new-low-as-authoritarianism-rises/a-76948348>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2026/apr/30/press-freedom-world-index-lowest-level-25-years>  
<https://rsf.org/en/2025-deadly-year-journalists-where-hate-and-impunity-lead>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. This is according              | a. 70 per cent         |
| 2. assessed how free the          | b. problematic         |
| 3. press freedom was              | c. to "very serious"   |
| 4. in three quarters              | d. western Europe      |
| 5. conditions were "difficult"    | e. to the organization |
| 6. problematic in over            | f. in seven countries  |
| 7. conditions were "good"         | g. media is            |
| 8. These were all in northern and | h. of the nations      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. growing                      | a. growing                 |
| 2. pressure on the press        | b. extremism               |
| 3. authoritarian tendencies are | c. is intensifying         |
| 4. an alarming deterioration    | d. of attacks              |
| 5. a "systematic policy"        | e. freedom                 |
| 6. laws designed to             | f. pressure on journalists |
| 7. separatism and               | g. in the conditions       |
| 8. restrict press               | h. combat terrorism        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-5.html>

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(1) \_\_\_\_\_ to the organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Its annual World Press Freedom Index (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the media is in 180 countries. RSF said press freedom was "problematic" or (3) \_\_\_\_\_ quarters of the nations. In over half of the world, conditions were "difficult" (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This was a third in 2013. Press freedom (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in over 70 per cent of countries. The RSF said conditions were "good" in seven countries. These were all in (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Europe.

The RSF report is worried about (7) \_\_\_\_\_ journalists. It stated: "Political pressure on the press is intensifying [and] authoritarian (8) \_\_\_\_\_." It said there was "an alarming deterioration in the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in many parts of the world". The Index reported that there was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of attacks on journalists in the USA. It said that in Russia, "laws designed to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and extremism" were used to "restrict press freedom". Sixty-seven journalists were (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-5.html>

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# PRESS FREEDOM SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about press freedom 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Press freedom at lowest level in 25 years – 4th May 2026*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://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) \_\_\_\_\_

