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Level 4 – 5th October 2026

Schools closed in France as students clash with police

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

Thousands of students in France are protesting against the condition of their schools. They have fought with riot police. There are reports that police used tear gas against some protestors. The students began protesting in September. France's Education Ministry said more than 1,020 high schools have been affected. Around 5,000 people have been arrested in the past week. Most were teenagers. More than 65 school staff have been injured.

The students are angry about poor conditions in schools. They say there is a lack of teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and old school buildings. One student said: "We don't even have enough chairs." Students want more spending on education. In particular, they say schools in poorer areas get fewer resources despite greater educational needs. The government said there would be "concrete responses" to fix things.

Sources: <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20261002-hundreds-of-french-schools-remain-closed-as-student-protests-turn-violent>
<https://time.com/article/2026/10/02/france-student-protests-arrests-injuries-school-closures/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ck3r5dxxwqzpo>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. students in France are | a. been affected |
| 2. the condition | b. police |
| 3. They have fought with riot | c. in September |
| 4. police used tear | d. have been injured |
| 5. The students began protesting | e. protesting |
| 6. more than 1,020 high schools have | f. week |
| 7. in the past | g. of their schools |
| 8. More than 65 school staff | h. gas |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. students are angry about poor | a. spending on education |
| 2. there is a lack | b. needs |
| 3. overcrowded | c. conditions |
| 4. We don't even have enough | d. classrooms |
| 5. Students want more | e. to fix things |
| 6. schools in poorer areas get | f. chairs |
| 7. greater educational | g. of teachers |
| 8. concrete responses | h. fewer resources |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

Thousands of students in France are protesting

(1) _____ of their schools. They have fought with

riot police. There are reports that police (2) _____

against some protestors. The students (3) _____

September. France's Education Ministry (4) _____

1,020 high schools have been affected. Around 5,000 people have

(5) _____ the past week. Most were teenagers.

More than 65 school staff (6) _____.

The students are angry about (7) _____ schools.

They say there is (8) _____ teachers, overcrowded

classrooms, and old school buildings. One student said: "We don't

(9) _____ chairs." Students want

(10) _____ education. In particular, they say

schools in poorer areas get fewer (11) _____

educational needs. The government said there would be "concrete

responses" (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

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SCHOOLS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about schools 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/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-4.html>

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

[illegible]