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Level 5 – 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-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/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-5.html>

Thousands of students in France have been protesting against the condition of their schools. They have clashed with riot police. There are reports that police used tear gas against some protestors. The students began protesting in late September. The protests quickly spread nationwide. France's Education Ministry said more than 1,020 high schools have been affected by the protests. This is roughly one in four schools. The interior minister reported that around 5,000 people have been arrested in the past week. Most were teenagers. At least 65 school staff have been injured.

The students are angry about poor conditions in high schools. They say there is a lack of teachers, overcrowded classrooms, inadequate facilities, and old school buildings. One student said: "There are 35 pupils per class. We don't even have enough chairs." Students want more investment in education after years of underinvestment. In particular, they want more spending on schools in poorer suburbs. Students say schools in poor areas of Paris get fewer resources despite greater educational needs. The education minister said there would be "concrete responses" from the government.

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. They have clashed | a. have been arrested |
| 2. police used tear | b. with riot police |
| 3. The students began protesting | c. nationwide |
| 4. The protests quickly spread | d. staff have been injured |
| 5. schools have been affected | e. in late September |
| 6. This is roughly | f. gas |
| 7. 5,000 people | g. one in four schools |
| 8. 65 school | h. by the protests |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. students are angry about | a. on schools |
| 2. there is a lack | b. classrooms |
| 3. overcrowded | c. suburbs |
| 4. There are 35 pupils | d. in education |
| 5. Students want more investment | e. responses |
| 6. they want more spending | f. poor conditions |
| 7. poorer | g. per class |
| 8. concrete | h. of teachers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2610/261005-school-closures-student-protests-5.html>

Thousands of students in France have been protesting against the
(1) _____ schools. They have clashed with riot
police. There are reports that police (2) _____
against some protestors. The students began protesting in late
September. The (3) _____ nationwide.
France's Education Ministry said more than 1,020 high schools have
been (4) _____ protests. This is
(5) _____ four schools. The interior minister
reported that around 5,000 people have been arrested in the past
week. Most were teenagers. At least 65 school staff
(6) _____.

The students are angry about (7) _____ high
schools. They say there is a lack of teachers, overcrowded
classrooms, (8) _____ old school buildings.
One student said: "There are 35 (9) _____.
We don't even have enough chairs." Students want more
investment in education after years of underinvestment. In
particular, they want more spending on schools
(10) _____. Students say schools in poor areas
of Paris get fewer (11) _____ educational
needs. The education minister said there would be
(12) _____ the government.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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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-5.html>

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

[illegible]