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Level 1 – 25th June, 2021

Mouse plague in Australia forces prison to close

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-1.html>

Millions of mice are causing a lot of damage in Australia. The country has its worst mouse plague in decades because of a big wheat harvest last year. The mice are a big headache for farmers. The animals have caused problems for a prison west of Sydney. It has moved 200 staff and 420 prisoners to other jails in the area because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days to clean the prison and repair electric cables.

Mice have damaged many buildings. Their droppings are a health hazard. In addition, they have damaged electrical wires. This is a danger to buildings and humans. A prisons spokesperson said: "The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important for us to...carry out the vital repair work....We need to...ensure the site is thoroughly cleaned and...repaired." He will look at ways to stop future plagues.

Sources: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7307607/nsw-jail-evacuated-because-of-mice-plague/>
<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/everywhere-s-bad-farmers-eye-long-campaign-against-mouse-plague-20210607-p57yor.html>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-06-23/bromadiolone-mouse-plague-poison-rejected-for-use/100218864>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. its worst mouse plague | a. and 420 prisoners |
| 2. a big wheat harvest | b. for farmers |
| 3. The mice are a big headache | c. cables |
| 4. a prison west | d. in decades |
| 5. It has moved 200 staff | e. clean the prison |
| 6. health and safety | f. last year |
| 7. It will take 10 days to | g. reasons |
| 8. repair electric | h. of Sydney |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mice have damaged many | a. at ways |
| 2. Their droppings are a health | b. wires |
| 3. they have damaged electrical | c. plagues |
| 4. our number one | d. buildings |
| 5. carry out the vital | e. cleaned |
| 6. thoroughly | f. priority |
| 7. He will look | g. repair work |
| 8. stop future | h. hazard |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-1.html>

Millions of mice are causing a (1) _____ in Australia. The country has its worst mouse (2) _____ because of a big wheat harvest last year. The mice are a (3) _____ farmers. The animals have caused problems for a (4) _____ Sydney. It has moved 200 staff (5) _____ to other jails in the area because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days to clean the prison and (6) _____.

Mice have damaged many buildings. Their (7) _____ health hazard. In addition, they have (8) _____. This is a danger to buildings and humans. A prisons spokesperson said: "The health, safety and (9) _____ and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important for us to...carry out the (10) _____....We need to...ensure the (11) _____ cleaned and...repaired." He will look at (12) _____ future plagues.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-1.html>

Millions of mice are causing a lot of damage in Australia. The country has its worst mouse plague in decades because of a big wheat harvest last year. The mice are a big headache for farmers. The animals have caused problems for a prison west of Sydney. It has moved 200 staff and 420 prisoners to other jails in the area because of health and safety reasons. It will take 10 days to clean the prison and repair electric cables. Mice have damaged many buildings. Their droppings are a health hazard. In addition, they have damaged electrical wires. This is a danger to buildings and humans. A prison spokesperson said: "The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our number one priority, so it's important for us to... carry out the vital repair work.... We need to... ensure the site is thoroughly cleaned and... repaired." He will look at ways to stop future plagues.

MICE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210625-mouse-plague-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about mice 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) _____

