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Level 2 – 5th October 2023

"Bed poverty" on the rise in the UK

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231005-bed-poverty-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231005-bed-poverty-2.html>

A charity reported that more than a million children in the UK live in "bed poverty". This means they have no bed of their own, or they sleep on the floor, or they share a bed with parents or siblings. Around 700,000 children share beds, and 440,000 children sleep on the floor. The charity said bed poverty is because people are poorer. The cost of living has increased in the UK. Rising food prices and higher energy bills mean poorer people cannot afford basic items. For many families, a bed is now a "luxury" item. Having no bed means children are tired and cannot concentrate at school.

The charity said bed poverty shows that many people in Britain are struggling. It said bed poverty is an example of child poverty. Many parents have painful challenges. They do not have enough money to buy the essentials to raise happy and healthy children. The charity said: "Families in crisis are having to prioritise essentials such as food, heating and electricity over things like...fixing...a broken bed." It warned that bed poverty is affecting children's mental health. It called on the government to take "urgent action to address these deep-rooted issues".

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/29/more-than-1-million-children-in-uk-sleep-on-floor-or-share-bed-study-finds>
<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2023/6-october/news/uk/hundreds-of-thousands-of-children-suffer-bed-poverty-says-barnardo-s>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cost-of-living-uk-bed-poverty-children-b2420763.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231005-bed-poverty-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. share a bed with parents | a. children are tired |
| 2. 440,000 children sleep | b. energy bills |
| 3. The cost of living | c. or siblings |
| 4. Rising food prices and higher | d. at school |
| 5. poorer people cannot afford | e. on the floor |
| 6. a bed is now a "luxury" | f. basic items |
| 7. Having no bed means | g. item |
| 8. cannot concentrate | h. has increased |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. people in Britain | a. broken bed |
| 2. Many parents have | b. urgent action |
| 3. raise happy | c. painful challenges |
| 4. prioritise essentials | d. rooted issues |
| 5. fixing a | e. are struggling |
| 6. bed poverty is affecting children's | f. and healthy children |
| 7. the government to take | g. mental health |
| 8. address these deep- | h. such as food |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231005-bed-poverty-2.html>

A charity reported that more (1) _____ children in the UK live in "bed poverty". This means they have no bed of their own, or they sleep (2) _____, or they share a bed with parents or siblings. Around 700,000 children (3) _____ 440,000 children sleep on the floor. The charity said bed poverty is because people are poorer. The (4) _____ has increased in the UK. Rising food prices and higher energy bills mean poorer people (5) _____ items. For many families, a bed is now a "luxury" item. Having no bed means children are tired and (6) _____ school.

The charity said bed poverty (7) _____ people in Britain are struggling. It said bed poverty is (8) _____ child poverty. Many parents have painful challenges. They do not have enough money to buy the (9) _____ happy and healthy children. The charity said: "Families (10) _____ having to prioritise essentials such as food, heating and electricity over things like...fixing...a broken bed." (11) _____ bed poverty is affecting children's mental health. It called on the government to take "urgent action to address these (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231005-bed-poverty-2.html>

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BEDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231005-bed-poverty-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about beds 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) _____

