

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

"1,000 Ideas & Activities For Language Teachers"

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Danish authorities demolish youth squat

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0703/070306-squatters.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Discussion	8
Language Work	9
Homework	10
Answers	11

6th March, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Danish authorities demolish youth squat

The Copenhagen youth centre that has been at the heart of nights of street riots has been demolished. Demolition crews tore down the building that has divided Danish hearts and minds. Such is the intensity of feeling in Copenhagen, demolition crews had to wear face masks to conceal their identities as they set about bringing down what had been home to hundreds of young squatters. The squat, plastered in graffiti, had served for years as a focal point for peace activists, anarchists and left wing groups. The squatters considered it as free public housing and many Copenhagen residents condoned the building being used as such. Many citizens have expressed sympathy for the squatters and believe the building added character to the area. Bus driver Magnus Johansen said it was “a symbol of my city’s tolerance”.

The building used to be a theater before it slipped into ruin and was taken over by different elements of the city’s youth. However, it was sold to a Christian group in 2001 and they had other plans for the site. A group spokesperson, Ruth Evensen, declined to elaborate on these plans were but said the building “was a total wreck”, hence the demolition. She could not have foreseen the violence that resulted from anti-terror police evicting the squatters, triggering the worst rioting Denmark has seen in years. Clashes erupted between youths and riot police, making parts of the city resemble a battle zone, with cars on fire and missiles raining down on outnumbered police. Danish authorities called in reinforcements and borrowed armoured vehicles from neighbouring Sweden to quell the violence and maintain order.

WARM-UPS

1. I'M A SQUATTER: You are a squatter. Walk around the classroom and talk to your fellow "squatters" about your life. Why did you become a squatter? What do you worry about? What are your ambitions?

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

youth centres / riots / demolition / hearts and minds / squatters / sympathy / tolerance / ruin / total wrecks / anti-terror police / missiles / armoured vehicles

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. SQUATS: Where is the best place to live as a squat? With your partner(s), talk about these places. Think of three good things and three bad things about each:

- an old theatre
- a disused railway station
- an abandoned lighthouse
- a derelict castle
- a former prison
- an ocean liner that has run aground
- a disused museum
- an abandoned church

4. PREDICTION: Use these words and phrases from the article to make your own story. Change partners and stories.

- at the heart of nights of street riots
- divided Danish hearts and minds
- plastered in graffiti
- "a symbol of my city's tolerance"
- slipped into ruin
- the building "was a total wreck"
- missiles raining down on outnumbered police
- quell the violence and maintain order

5. OPINIONS: What do you think these people might think of the riots. Agree on their opinions with your partner. Change partners and share your opinions.

- a squatter
- a police officer
- a very old person
- a child
- someone who lives near the squat
- you

6. DENMARK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Denmark. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Riots took place inside a youth centre in Copenhagen, Denmark. T / F
- b. The riots have unified Danish hearts and minds. T / F
- c. The squat provided a place to live for several dozen youngsters. T / F
- d. A citizen said the squat was a symbol of his city's tolerance. T / F
- e. Developers have plans to turn the squat into a theater. T / F
- f. A Christian group bought the building that housed the squat. T / F
- g. It was obvious riots would have broken out following the evictions. T / F
- h. Denmark had to borrow armoured vehicles from Sweden. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a. heart | covered |
| b. tore down | predicted |
| c. intensity | put an end to |
| d. plastered | strength |
| e. condoned | demolished |
| f. ruin | expand on |
| g. elaborate | broke out |
| h. foreseen | centre |
| i. erupted | approved of |
| j. quell | decay |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. at the heart of | character to the area |
| b. the building that has divided Danish | elaborate on what these plans were |
| c. Such is the intensity | into ruin |
| d. anarchists | hearts and minds |
| e. the building added | raining down on outnumbered police |
| f. it slipped | of feeling |
| g. declined to | the violence and maintain order |
| h. She could not have | nights of street riots |
| i. missiles | foreseen the violence |
| j. quell | and left wing groups |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Danish authorities demolish youth squat

The Copenhagen youth centre that has been at the _____ of nights of street riots has been demolished. Demolition crews tore down the building that has _____ Danish hearts and minds. Such is the _____ of feeling in Copenhagen, demolition crews had to wear face masks to _____ their identities as they set about bringing down what had been home to hundreds of young squatters. The squat, plastered in graffiti, had served for years as a _____ point for peace activists, anarchists and left wing groups. The squatters _____ it as free public housing and many Copenhagen residents condoned the building being used as such. Many citizens have expressed _____ for the squatters and believe the building added character to the area. Bus driver Magnus Johansen said it was "a symbol of my city's _____".

The building used to be a theater before it _____ into ruin and was taken over by different _____ of the city's youth. However, it was sold to a Christian group in 2001 and they had other plans for the site. A group spokesperson, Ruth Evensen, declined to _____ on these plans were but said the building "was a total _____", hence the demolition. She could not have foreseen the violence that resulted from anti-terror police _____ the squatters, triggering the worst rioting Denmark has seen in years. Clashes _____ between youths and riot police, making parts of the city resemble a battle zone, with cars on fire and missiles _____ down on outnumbered police. Danish authorities called in reinforcements and borrowed armoured vehicles from neighbouring Sweden to quell the violence and _____ order.

conceal
considered
divided
tolerance
heart
focal
sympathy
intensity

erupted
elements
maintain
evicting
slipped
wreck
raining
elaborate

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Danish authorities demolish youth squat

The Copenhagen youth centre that has been at _____ of street riots has been demolished. Demolition _____ the building that has divided Danish hearts and minds. Such is the intensity of feeling in Copenhagen, demolition crews had to wear face masks to _____ as they set about bringing down what had been home to hundreds of young squatters. The squat, _____, had served for years as a focal point for peace activists, anarchists and left wing groups. The squatters considered it as free public housing and many Copenhagen _____ being used as such. Many citizens have expressed sympathy for the squatters and believe the building added _____. Bus driver Magnus Johansen said it was "a symbol of my city's tolerance".

The building used to be a theater before _____ and was taken over by different elements of the city's youth. However, it was sold to a Christian group in 2001 and they had other plans for the site. A group spokesperson, Ruth Evensen, _____ these plans were but said the building "was a total wreck", _____. She could not have foreseen the violence that resulted from anti-terror police evicting the squatters, _____. Denmark has seen in years. Clashes erupted between youths and riot police, making parts of the city resemble a battle zone, with cars on fire and _____ outnumbered police. Danish authorities called in reinforcements and borrowed armoured vehicles from neighbouring Sweden to _____ and maintain order.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'youth' and 'centre'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "SQUATTERS" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about squatters, anarchists, peace activists, etc.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• heart• tore• masks• plastered• condoned• symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• slipped• declined• foreseen• triggering• zone• quell
--	---

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What do you think of the Danish authorities' actions?
- c) Have street riots ever taken place in your town?
- d) What would make you riot in the streets?
- e) Do you think squatters are dangerous?
- f) Do you think squatters should go to prison?
- g) Do you agree with the bus driver who was proud of the squat being a symbol of Copenhagen's tolerance?
- h) Are there many squatters in your town?
- i) Why do you think some young people like to live in squats?
- j) Do you think "squatting" is a name city officials give to people who are really homeless?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think it would be like living in a squat with lots of young people?
- c) Do you think the Christian group should have been Christian and left the squatters alone and in peace?
- d) Why do you think so many people joined the riots to fight the police?
- e) Do you think rioters are always bad people?
- f) What would you say to your children if they became squatters and were arrested for rioting?
- g) Do you think the authorities should have demolished the squat?
- h) What do you think it's like to be a police officer in the riots?
- i) What question would you like to ask the squatters?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Danish authorities demolish youth squat

The Copenhagen youth centre that has been at the (1) _____ of nights of street riots has been demolished. Demolition crews (2) _____ down the building that has divided Danish hearts and minds. (3) _____ is the intensity of feeling in Copenhagen, demolition crews had to wear face masks to conceal their identities as they set about bringing down what had been home to hundreds of young squatters. The squat, (4) _____ in graffiti, had served for years as a focal point for peace activists, anarchists and left wing groups. The squatters considered it as free public housing and many Copenhagen residents condoned the building being used as (5) _____. Many citizens have expressed sympathy for the squatters and believe the building added (6) _____ to the area. Bus driver Magnus Johansen said it was "a symbol of my city's tolerance".

The building used to be a theater before it (7) _____ into ruin and was taken over by different elements of the city's (8) _____. However, it was sold to a Christian group in 2001 and they had other plans for the site. A group spokesperson, Ruth Evensen, declined to elaborate on these plans were but said the building "was a total wreck", (9) _____ the demolition. She could not have foreseen the violence that resulted from anti-terror police evicting the squatters, (10) _____ the worst rioting Denmark has seen in years. Clashes erupted between youths and riot police, making parts of the city resemble a battle zone, with cars on fire and missiles (11) _____ down on outnumbered police. Danish authorities called in reinforcements and borrowed armoured vehicles from neighbouring Sweden to (12) _____ the violence and maintain order.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) heartless | (b) hearty | (c) heart | (d) heartfelt |
| 2. | (a) tore | (b) tear | (c) torn | (d) turn |
| 3. | (a) Many | (b) So | (c) Much | (d) Such |
| 4. | (a) plasterer | (b) plastered | (c) plastering | (d) plaster |
| 5. | (a) such | (b) many | (c) so | (d) many |
| 6. | (a) characteristic | (b) charters | (c) character | (d) characters |
| 7. | (a) slept | (b) slipped | (c) slopped | (d) slapped |
| 8. | (a) youngster | (b) youth | (c) tots | (d) youthful |
| 9. | (a) furthermore | (b) moreover | (c) regardless | (d) hence |
| 10. | (a) triggers | (b) trigger | (c) triggering | (d) triggered |
| 11. | (a) raining | (b) straining | (c) draining | (d) training |
| 12. | (a) queue | (b) queer | (c) quell | (d) quail |

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about the Danish riots. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MY CITY'S SYMBOLS POSTER: Make a poster about the symbols of your city. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about squatters and their lives. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of the authorities in Copenhagen. Tell him/her what you think of his/her decision to tear down the squat. Give him/her three pieces of advice. Ask him/her three questions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. F d. T e. F f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a. heart | centre |
| b. tore down | demolished |
| c. intensity | strength |
| d. plastered | covered |
| e. condoned | approved of |
| f. ruin | decay |
| g. elaborate | expand on |
| h. foreseen | predicted |
| i. erupted | broke out |
| j. quell | put an end to |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. at the heart of | nights of street riots |
| b. the building that has divided Danish | hearts and minds |
| c. Such is the intensity | of feeling |
| d. anarchists | and left wing groups |
| e. the building added | character to the area |
| f. it slipped | into ruin |
| g. declined to | elaborate on what these plans were |
| h. She could not have | foreseen the violence |
| i. missiles | raining down on outnumbered police |
| j. quell | the violence and maintain order |

GAP FILL:

Danish authorities demolish youth squat

The Copenhagen youth centre that has been at the **heart** of nights of street riots has been demolished. Demolition crews tore down the building that has **divided** Danish hearts and minds. Such is the **intensity** of feeling in Copenhagen, demolition crews had to wear face masks to **conceal** their identities as they set about bringing down what had been home to hundreds of young squatters. The squat, plastered in graffiti, had served for years as a **focal** point for peace activists, anarchists and left wing groups. The squatters **considered** it as free public housing and many Copenhagen residents condoned the building being used as such. Many citizens have expressed **sympathy** for the squatters and believe the building added character to the area. Bus driver Magnus Johansen said it was "a symbol of my city's **tolerance**".

The building used to be a theater before it **slipped** into ruin and was taken over by different **elements** of the city's youth. However, it was sold to a Christian group in 2001 and they had other plans for the site. A group spokesperson, Ruth Evensen, declined to **elaborate** on these plans were but said the building "was a total **wreck**", hence the demolition. She could not have foreseen the violence that resulted from anti-terror police **evicting** the squatters, triggering the worst rioting Denmark has seen in years. Clashes **erupted** between youths and riot police, making parts of the city resemble a battle zone, with cars on fire and missiles **raining** down on outnumbered police. Danish authorities called in reinforcements and borrowed armoured vehicles from neighbouring Sweden to quell the violence and **maintain** order.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - c 2 - a 3 - d 4 - b 5 - a 6 - c 7 - b 8 - b 9 - d 10 - c 11 - a 12 - c