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Level 1

Pompeii thieves say relics are cursed

17th October, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151017-pompeii-1.html>

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151017-pompeii-1.html>

The ancient city of Pompeii gets thousands of tourists every year. It is one of Italy's biggest tourist sights. Most tourists leave the city with happy memories and photos, but some take more. They take historic relics, like small statues or mosaic tiles. Many people now regret this. They say the relics have brought them bad luck. Hundreds of people from around the world have returned the relics. Many apologised and wrote about their bad luck.

A senior official at the 2,000-year-old Pompeii, Massimo Osanna, talked about the letters. He said one man from Latin America wrote about his life being full of bad luck after he took a small tile from Pompeii. A Spanish man who stole a bronze statue in 1987 complained that the statue had put, "a curse on his entire family". Mr Osanna wants to set up an exhibition of all the letters. He said the letters might be more interesting than the relics.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/11932368/Pompeii-pilferers-punished-with-a-curse-from-the-gods.html>
<http://www.thelocal.it/20151013/pompeii-thieves-claim-relics-are-cursed>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompeii>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151017-pompeii-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. one of Italy's biggest | a. brought them bad luck |
| 2. leave the city with happy | b. tourist sights |
| 3. They take historic relics, | c. their bad luck |
| 4. Many people now | d. like small statues |
| 5. They say the relics have | e. relics |
| 6. Hundreds of people from | f. regret this |
| 7. returned the | g. memories |
| 8. wrote about | h. around the world |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A senior | a. of all the letters |
| 2. one man from | b. of bad luck |
| 3. being full | c. on his entire family |
| 4. he took a small tile | d. Latin America |
| 5. a bronze | e. than the relics |
| 6. put a curse | f. official |
| 7. set up an exhibition | g. statue |
| 8. more interesting | h. from Pompeii |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151017-pompeii-1.html>

The ancient city of Pompeii (1) _____ tourists every year. (2) _____ Italy's biggest tourist sights. Most tourists (3) _____ with happy memories and photos, but some take more. They take historic relics, (4) _____ or mosaic tiles. Many people now regret this. They (5) _____ have brought them bad luck. Hundreds of people from around the world have (6) _____. Many apologised and wrote about their bad luck.

A senior (7) _____ 2,000-year-old Pompeii, Massimo Osanna, talked (8) _____. He said one man from Latin America wrote about (9) _____ of bad luck after he took a small tile from Pompeii. A Spanish man (10) _____ statue in 1987 complained that the statue had put, "(11) _____ entire family". Mr Osanna wants to set up an exhibition of all the letters. He said the letters (12) _____ interesting than the relics.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151017-pompeii-1.html>

The ancient city of Pompeii gets thousands of tourists every year. It is one of Italy's biggest tourist sights. Most tourists leave the city with happy memories and photos, but some take more. They take historic relics, like small statues or mosaic tiles. Many people now regret this. They say the relics have brought them bad luck. Hundreds of people from around the world have returned the relics. Many apologized and wrote about their bad luck. A senior official at the 2,000-year-old Pompeii, Massimo Osanna, talked about the letters. He said one man from Latin America wrote about his life being full of bad luck after he took a small tile from Pompeii. A Spanish man who stole a bronze statue in 1987 complained that the statue had put a curse on his entire family. Mr Osanna wants to set up an exhibition of all the letters. He said the letters might be more interesting than the relics.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)
