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**Level 5** – 8th January 2024

## Muggers now targeting luxury winter coats

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240108-winter-coat-muggings-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/2401/240108-winter-coat-muggings-5.html>

A spate of muggings in cities worldwide has seen people robbed of their luxury coats. In recent weeks, people in London and Washington DC have had their coats stolen at knifepoint. One man in the UK was slashed across his face as thieves made off with his jacket. Criminals are targeting coats that cost as much as \$2,200. Thieves are also breaking into people's vehicles to steal the brand items. A criminologist at Birmingham City University warned that the muggings were the start of a new "luxury crime trend". He said the thefts were "worrying".

The criminologist warned those with expensive, branded coats to be careful. He said: "Be aware of your surroundings and who is around you. You have to be vigilant for opportunists who might try to steal them." He added that thieves are changing their focus. They once stole watches, which they sold for thousands of dollars. A London Transport spokesperson said the muggings were "a real concern". She said they have a huge impact on the safety of young people. She added that the crimes were "very concerning, intimidating and frightening".

Sources: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/canada-goose-wearers-warned-luxury-31794767>  
<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/warning-over-fashion-label-bullring-28382742>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12916253/The-rise-Canada-Goose-coat-muggings-Warning-crooks-targeting-owners-1-700-jackets-selling-profit-Lawless-Britains-latest-luxury-items.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240108-winter-coat-muggings-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A spate                       | a. people's vehicles   |
| 2. In recent                     | b. off with his jacket |
| 3. One man in the UK was slashed | c. worrying            |
| 4. thieves made                  | d. targeting coats     |
| 5. Criminals are                 | e. crime trend         |
| 6. breaking into                 | f. of muggings         |
| 7. the start of a new luxury     | g. across his face     |
| 8. He said the thefts were       | h. weeks               |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The criminologist warned    | a. of young people   |
| 2. expensive, branded          | b. your surroundings |
| 3. Be aware of                 | c. and frightening   |
| 4. You have to be vigilant     | d. those             |
| 5. thieves are changing        | e. coats             |
| 6. the muggings were a real    | f. their focus       |
| 7. a huge impact on the safety | g. concern           |
| 8. concerning, intimidating    | h. for opportunists  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240108-winter-coat-muggings-5.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in cities worldwide has seen people robbed of their luxury coats. (2) \_\_\_\_\_, people in London and Washington DC have had their coats stolen at knifepoint. One man in the UK (3) \_\_\_\_\_ his face as thieves made off with his jacket. Criminals are targeting coats that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ as \$2,200. Thieves are also breaking into people's vehicles to steal (5) \_\_\_\_\_. A criminologist at Birmingham City University warned that the muggings were the start of a new "luxury crime trend". He said the (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The criminologist warned (7) \_\_\_\_\_, branded coats to be careful. He said: "(8) \_\_\_\_\_ your surroundings and who is around you. You have to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ opportunists who might try to steal them." He added that thieves are changing their focus. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ watches, which they sold for thousands of dollars. A London Transport spokesperson said the muggings were "a real concern". She said they have a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the safety of young people. She added that the crimes (12) \_\_\_\_\_, intimidating and frightening".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240108-winter-coat-muggings-5.html>

A state of muggings in cities worldwide has seen people robbed of their luxury coats. In recent weeks, people in London and Washington DC have had their coats stolen at knife point. One man in the UK was slashed across his face as thieves made off with his jacket. Criminals are targeting coats that cost as much as \$2,200. Thieves are also breaking into people's vehicles to steal the brand items. A criminologist at Birmingham City University warned that the muggings were the start of a new "luxury crime trend". He said the thefts were "worrying". The criminologist warned those with expensive, branded coats to be careful. He said: "Be aware of your surroundings and who is around you. You have to be vigilant for opportunists who might try to steal them." He added that thieves are changing their focus. They once stole watches, which they sold for thousands of dollars. A London Transport spokesperson said the muggings were "a real concern". She said they have a huge impact on the safety of young people. She added that the crimes were "very concerning, intimidating and frightening".

# WINTER COATS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240108-winter-coat-muggings-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about winter coats 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Muggers now targeting luxury winter coats – 8th January 2024*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

