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Level 4 – 30th September 2024

Activists jailed for soup attack on Van Gogh painting

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

The U.K. has jailed two activists for throwing soup at Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers painting. The protestors wanted to highlight the damage to the climate caused by fossil fuels. One activist received a two-year prison sentence. The other got 20 months. In October 2022, the protestors threw tomato soup over Van Gogh's priceless painting. They also glued their hands to the wall. The soup did not harm the painting, but caused damage to the frame.

The court judge said the painting was a "cultural treasure" that could have been "seriously damaged". He said the activists, "couldn't have cared less if the painting was damaged or not". He said they had no right to do what they did. The protestors said that before throwing the soup, they checked to see if the painting was protected by glass. Museum staff worried about soup dripping through the glass.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly7zy3d3exo>
<https://www.newsweek.com/climate-activists-prison-throwing-soup-van-gogh-sunflowers-1960549>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/09/27/climate/just-stop-oil-climate-activists-prison-van-gough-soup-intl/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The U.K. has jailed | a. fuels |
| 2. protestors wanted to highlight | b. the painting |
| 3. fossil | c. painting |
| 4. One activist received a two-year | d. two activists |
| 5. Van Gogh's priceless | e. to the frame |
| 6. They also glued | f. the damage |
| 7. The soup did not harm | g. prison sentence |
| 8. caused damage | h. their hands to the wall |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a cultural | a. protected by glass |
| 2. seriously | b. throwing the soup |
| 3. the activists couldn't have | c. the glass |
| 4. they had no right | d. damaged |
| 5. before | e. about soup |
| 6. checked to see if the painting was | f. cared less |
| 7. Museum staff worried | g. to do what they did |
| 8. dripping through | h. treasure |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

The U.K. has (1) _____ for throwing soup at Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers painting. The protestors (2) _____ the damage to the climate (3) _____ fuels. One activist received a two- (4) _____. The other got 20 months. In October 2022, the protestors threw tomato soup over Van Gogh's priceless painting. They also (5) _____ to the wall. The soup did not harm the painting, but (6) _____ the frame. The court judge said the painting was (7) _____ that could have (8) _____. He said the activists, "couldn't have (9) _____ the painting was damaged or not". He said they had (10) _____ do what they did. The protestors said that (11) _____ soup, they checked to see if the painting was protected by glass. Museum staff worried about soup (12) _____ glass.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

The U.K. has jailed two activists for throwing soup at Vincent van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' painting. The protestors wanted to highlight the damage to the environment caused by fossil fuels. One activist received a two-year prison sentence. The other got 20 months. In October 2022, the protestors threw tomato soup over Van Gogh's priceless painting. They also glued their hands to the wall. The soup did no harm to the painting, but caused damage to the frame. The court judge said the painting was a "cultural treasure" that could have been "seriously damaged". He said the activists, "couldn't have cared less if the painting was damaged or not". He said they had no right to do what they did. The protestors said that before throwing the soup, they checked to see if the painting was protected by glass. Museum staff worried about soup dripping through the glass.

PROTESTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240930-van-gogh-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Protests 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) _____

