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Level 4 – 3rd March 2025

Bricklayer shortage worsens UK housebuilding crisis

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

A housing crisis in the UK is because of a lack of bricklayers. Britain needs more homes so young people can get on the housing ladder. Rising rent and unaffordable housing have increased rough sleeping. Many governments have failed to meet housebuilding targets. The latest government said it needs more bricklayers and skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers to fulfil its promise to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK blamed the lack of workers on "years of underinvestment in skills". It said it was doing its best to build 300,000 new homes. It added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment." However, a housebuilding consultant called the government's homebuilding pledge "unrealistic". He said training enough workers could take "a generation". He called the current target of 5,000 new apprenticeships each year a "drop in the ocean".

Sources: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/key-homelessness-policy-areas/housing/housing-supply/>
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1917971/bricklayer-shortage-threatens-general-election-housing-pledges>
<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/other/labour-s-1-5m-new-homes-pledge-at-risk-as-uk-short-of-25-000-bricklayers/ar-AA1zCrDh>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A housing | a. tradespeople |
| 2. a lack | b. the housing ladder |
| 3. young people can get on | c. sleeping |
| 4. rising | d. targets |
| 5. increased rough | e. crisis in the UK |
| 6. failed to meet housebuilding | f. promise |
| 7. bricklayers and skilled | g. of bricklayers |
| 8. fulfil its | h. rent |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The UK blamed the | a. consultant |
| 2. years of underinvestment | b. its best |
| 3. It said it was doing | c. new apprenticeships |
| 4. pull every lever | d. in skills |
| 5. a housebuilding | e. to deliver |
| 6. take a | f. in the ocean |
| 7. the current target of 5,000 | g. generation |
| 8. a drop | h. lack of workers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

(1) _____ in the UK is because of a lack of bricklayers. Britain (2) _____ so young people can get on (3) _____. Rising rent and unaffordable housing have (4) _____. Many governments have failed to meet housebuilding targets. The latest government said it needs more bricklayers (5) _____. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers to (6) _____ to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK blamed the (7) _____ on "years of underinvestment in skills". It said it was doing its (8) _____ 300,000 new homes. It added: "We will pull every (9) _____ on our commitment."

However, a housebuilding consultant called the government's homebuilding pledge "unrealistic". He said (10) _____ could take "a generation". He called (11) _____ of 5,000 new apprenticeships each year a "drop (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

A housing crisis in the UK is because of a lack of bricklayers. Britain needs more homes so young people can get on the housing ladder. Rising rents and unaffordable housing have increased rough sleeping. Many governments have failed to meet house building targets. The latest governments aid it needs more bricklayers and skilled trades people. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers to fulfil its promise to build 1.5 million new homes. The UK blamed the lack of workers on "years of underinvestment in skills". It said it was doing its best to build 300,000 new homes. It added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment." However, a house building consultant called the government's home building pledge "unrealistic". He said training enough workers could take "a generation". He called the current target of 5,000 new apprenticeships each year a "drop in the ocean".

BRICKLAYERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bricklayers 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250303-bricklayer-shortage-4.html>

Write about **bricklayers** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
