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Level 6 – 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.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

A housing crisis in the UK is being exacerbated by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get on the housing ladder and to end the scourge of homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have greatly increased rough sleeping. Successive governments over decades have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government's efforts are being hindered by a shortfall of qualified bricklayers and other skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 plumbers, 4,000 plasterers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to meet its pledge to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK government has blamed the deficit in construction worker numbers on "years of underinvestment in skills". A housing ministry official said her department was doing its utmost to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment, which includes building a diverse workforce." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding consultant, called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training sufficient numbers of workers could take "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and 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>

WARM-UPS

1. BRICKLAYERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about bricklayers. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

housing crisis / bricklayers / the housing ladder / homelessness / targets / carpenters deficit / construction / skills / new homes / a diverse workforce / a drop in the ocean

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. GOVERNMENT HOUSING: Students A **strongly** believe governments should provide houses for their citizens; Students B **strongly** believe they shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. TRADES PEOPLE: What do these workers do? Would you like to do these jobs? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they do	Would you like to do this job?
Bricklayer		
Plumber		
Carpenter		
Plasterer		
Electrician		
Gardener		

5. HOUSING: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "housing". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. JOBS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important jobs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Teacher
- Carpenter
- Soldier
- Nurse
- Chef
- AI coder
- Farmer
- President

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. exacerbated | a. The different levels of buying a first home (and moving up to buy bigger ones). |
| 2. the housing ladder | b. Sleeping outside because you have no home. |
| 3. scourge | c. Going up very high or very fast. |
| 4. soaring | d. Something that causes a lot of pain or trouble. |
| 5. rough sleeping | e. Made something worse. |
| 6. successive | f. Made something slow or difficult. |
| 7. hindered | g. Happening one after another. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8. deficit | h. Not real, only in the imagination. |
| 9. utmost | i. When there is not enough of something. |
| 10. commitment | j. A serious promise. |
| 11. diverse | k. A very small amount compared to what is needed. |
| 12. pledge | l. A (strong) promise to do something. |
| 13. fanciful | m. Different from each other. |
| 14. a drop in the ocean | n. The greatest, best or most important. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Bricklayers in the UK are helping to solve a housing crisis. **T / F**
2. Young people are using ladders to get into housing. **T / F**
3. Only the current government has failed to meet housebuilding targets. **T / F**
4. The UK needs tens of thousands of new tradespeople to build homes. **T / F**
5. There hasn't been enough investment in skills in the UK for many years. **T / F**
6. An official said the government would do its best to build new homes. **T / F**
7. A housing expert said the government's promises were unrealistic. **T / F**
8. The UK government wants to build new homes near the ocean. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. crisis | a. evil |
| 2. build | b. objective |
| 3. scourge | c. dearth |
| 4. lack | d. best |
| 5. rough sleeping | e. construct |
| 6. utmost | f. enough |
| 7. commitment | g. imaginary |
| 8. sufficient | h. promise |
| 9. target | i. emergency |
| 10. fanciful | j. homelessness |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. exacerbated by | a. in skills |
| 2. enable young people to get on | b. workforce |
| 3. end the scourge | c. to build |
| 4. government's efforts are being | d. of homelessness |
| 5. meet its pledge | e. lever to deliver |
| 6. years of underinvestment | f. a shortage of bricklayers |
| 7. We will pull every | g. in the ocean |
| 8. a diverse | h. hindered |
| 9. training sufficient | i. the housing ladder |
| 10. a drop | j. numbers of workers |

GAP FILL

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

A housing crisis in the UK is being (1) _____ by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get on the housing (2) _____ and to end the scourge of homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack of (3) _____ housing have greatly increased (4) _____ sleeping. Successive governments over decades have (5) _____ to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government's efforts are being hindered by a shortfall of (6) _____ bricklayers and other skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 (7) _____, 4,000 plasterers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to meet its (8) _____ to build 1.5 million new homes.

affordable
failed
pledge
ladder
rough
plumbers
exacerbated
qualified

The UK government has blamed the (9) _____ in construction worker numbers on "years of underinvestment in (10) _____". A housing ministry official said her department was doing its utmost to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every (11) _____ to deliver on our commitment, which includes building a diverse (12) _____." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding (13) _____, called the government's home construction pledge "(14) _____". He said training sufficient numbers of workers could take "a generation". He added that the (15) _____ target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "(16) _____ in the ocean".

lever
deficit
consultant
drop
workforce
current
skills
unrealistic

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) A housing crisis in the UK is being exacerbated by a _____
 - a. shortage off bricklayers
 - b. shortage oft bricklayers
 - c. shortage if bricklayers
 - d. shortage of bricklayers
- 2) Britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get on _____
 - a. the housing laddered
 - b. the housing ladder
 - c. the housing laddie
 - d. the housing ladle
- 3) Soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have greatly _____
 - a. increased tough sleeping
 - b. increased rough sleeping
 - c. increased cough sleeping
 - d. increased ruff sleeping
- 4) The latest government's efforts _____
 - a. are being hindered
 - b. are being kindred
 - c. are been hindered
 - d. are been kindred
- 5) 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to _____
 - a. meet its bilge
 - b. meet its pledge
 - c. meet its ledge
 - d. meet its purge
- 6) A housing ministry official said her department was _____
 - a. doing it's a most
 - b. doing its up most
 - c. doing its at most
 - d. doing its utmost
- 7) We will pull every lever to deliver _____
 - a. on our commit meant
 - b. on our contentment
 - c. on our commitment
 - d. on our committing
- 8) which includes building _____
 - a. a diverse workforce
 - b. a adverse workforce
 - c. a reverse workforce
 - d. add verse workforce
- 9) He said training sufficient numbers of workers could _____
 - a. take age generation
 - b. take a generations
 - c. take a generational
 - d. take a generation
- 10) the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each _____
 - a. years was "fanciful"
 - b. year was "fancy full"
 - c. year was "fanciful"
 - d. year was "plentiful"

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

A housing crisis in the UK is being (1) _____ shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get on the housing ladder and to (2) _____ of homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have greatly (3) _____. Successive governments over decades have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government's efforts are (4) _____ a shortfall of qualified bricklayers and (5) _____. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 plumbers, 4,000 plasterers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to meet its (6) _____ 1.5 million new homes.

The UK government has (7) _____ in construction worker numbers on "years of underinvestment in skills". A housing ministry official said her department was (8) _____ to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every (9) _____ on our commitment, which includes building (10) _____." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding consultant, called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He (11) _____ numbers of workers could take "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each (12) _____ and a "drop in the ocean".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What has exacerbated a housing crisis in the UK?
2. What scourge does the article say needs to end?
3. For how long have UK governments not met housebuilding targets?
4. How many new plumbers does the UK need?
5. How many new homes has the UK government promised to build?
6. What have successive governments failed to invest in?
7. What will the government pull to deliver on its housebuilding pledge?
8. What is the job of Colin Brown?
9. How long could it take to train enough workers to build houses?
10. How many new apprenticeships does the UK want to start each year?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What has exacerbated a housing crisis in the UK?
 - a) an increase in demand for houses
 - b) a shortage of bricklayers
 - c) a population increase
 - d) global warming
- 2) What scourge does the article say needs to end?
 - a) poor workmanship
 - b) rising damp
 - c) inflated house prices
 - d) homelessness
- 3) For how long have UK governments not met housebuilding targets?
 - a) ages
 - b) generations
 - c) decades
 - d) years
- 4) How many new plumbers does the UK need?
 - a) 3,000
 - b) 4,000
 - c) 10,000
 - d) 25,000
- 5) How many new homes has the UK government promised to build?
 - a) a million
 - b) 1.5 million
 - c) 2 million
 - d) 2.5 million
- 6) What have successive governments failed to invest in?
 - a) skills
 - b) bricks
 - c) targets
 - d) efforts
- 7) What will the government pull to deliver on its housebuilding pledge?
 - a) a rope
 - b) a brick cart
 - c) levers
 - d) a zip
- 8) What is the job of Colin Brown?
 - a) He's a housebuilding consultant.
 - b) He's a bricklayer.
 - c) He's CEO of a house building company
 - d) He makes bricks.
- 9) How long could it take to train enough workers to build houses?
 - a) ages
 - b) decades
 - c) a year or two
 - d) a generation
- 10) How many new apprenticeships does the UK want to start each year?
 - a) 3,500
 - b) 4,500
 - c) 5,000
 - d) 6,000

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Teacher

You think the job of a teacher is the most important job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): carpenter, farmer or soldier.

Role B – Carpenter

You think the job of a carpenter is the most important job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): teacher, farmer or soldier.

Role C – Farmer

You think the job of a farmer is the most important job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): carpenter, teacher or soldier.

Role D – Soldier

You think the job of a soldier is the most important job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): carpenter, farmer or teacher.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'bricklayer' and 'crisis'.

bricklayer	crisis
-------------------	---------------

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• crisis• enable• end• decades• hindered• extra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• deficit• official• pull• consultant• training• drop
--	--

BRICKLAYERS SURVEY

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

BRICKLAYERS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'bricklayer'?
3. What causes a housing crisis?
4. What problems are there with housing in your country?
5. How important are bricklayers?
6. How can we end homelessness?
7. What do you think of there being so much rough sleeping?
8. How can governments get the numbers of skilled people they need?
9. Would you rather be a carpenter or a bricklayer?
10. What advice do you have for someone who cannot buy a house?

Bricklayer shortage worsens UK housebuilding crisis – 3rd March 2025
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BRICKLAYERS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'housebuilding'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What should governments do to invest in skills?
15. How important is it to get on the housing ladder?
16. Do you always believe government promises?
17. What do you think of apprenticeships?
18. What do you think of your home?
19. What will homes be like in the future?
20. What questions would you like to ask a bricklayer?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

A housing crisis in the UK is being (1) _____ by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get (2) _____ the housing ladder and to end the scourge of homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack of (3) _____ housing have greatly increased rough sleeping. Successive governments over decades have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government's efforts are being hindered (4) _____ a shortfall of qualified bricklayers and other skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 (5) _____, 4,000 plasterers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to (6) _____ its pledge to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK government has blamed the deficit in construction worker numbers (7) _____ "years of underinvestment in skills". A housing ministry official said her department was doing its (8) _____ to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every (9) _____ to deliver on our commitment, which includes building a diverse workforce." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding (10) _____, called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training sufficient numbers of workers could (11) _____ "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "(12) _____" and a "drop in the ocean".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) excavated | (b) exacerbated | (c) exhibited | (d) exalted |
| 2. | (a) down | (b) over | (c) under | (d) on |
| 3. | (a) suburban | (b) affordable | (c) show | (d) high-tech |
| 4. | (a) on | (b) of | (c) by | (d) at |
| 5. | (a) plumbers | (b) plums | (c) lumbers | (d) combers |
| 6. | (a) meet | (b) build | (c) erect | (d) construct |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) of | (d) on |
| 8. | (a) utmost | (b) topmost | (c) at most | (d) mostly |
| 9. | (a) cog | (b) lever | (c) button | (d) wheel |
| 10. | (a) contents | (b) constituent | (c) contestant | (d) consultant |
| 11. | (a) give | (b) build | (c) take | (d) house |
| 12. | (a) fancied | (b) fanciful | (c) fancy | (d) fancies |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. bcxataeedre by a shortage of bricklayers
2. end the gesucor of homelessness
3. a lack of adalfrofeb housing
4. eivsseucsc governments
5. 3,000 new isielectcran
6. meet its elpedg to build 1.5 million new homes

Paragraph 2

7. the efiidt in construction worker numbers
8. doing its uostmt to build
9. pull every eelrv to deliver on our commitment
10. building a eevisrd workforce
11. training ntceifusif numbers of workers
12. 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was afcfiunl

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) A housing crisis in the UK is being exacerbated by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to
- () of homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have greatly increased rough
- () commitment, which includes building a diverse workforce." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding
- () consultant, called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training sufficient
- () build more homes to enable young people to get on the housing ladder and to end the scourge
- () targets. The latest government's efforts are being hindered by a shortfall of qualified bricklayers and other skilled
- () new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "drop in the ocean".
- () numbers of workers could take "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000
- () 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to meet its pledge to build 1.5 million new homes.
- () underinvestment in skills". A housing ministry official said her department was doing its
- () The UK government has blamed the deficit in construction worker numbers on "years of
- () tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 plumbers, 4,000 plasterers,
- () sleeping. Successive governments over decades have failed to meet their housebuilding
- () utmost to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. on ladder . to Enable get the people housing
2. end wants homelessness . scourge of to the Britain
3. housebuilding Governments targets . failed meet to have their
4. shortfall a by hindered bricklayers . qualified of They're
5. to build its Meet 1.5 million new homes . pledge
6. Blamed on the of deficit years underinvestment .
7. build was homes . It utmost its to doing
8. homes . will We deliver pull lever every to
9. could sufficient take numbers Training a generation .
10. ocean . apprenticeships the was a Adding drop in

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

A housing crisis in the UK is being *excavated* / *exacerbated* by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes to *enable* / *disable* young people to get on the housing ladder and to end the scourge *at* / *of* homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack *of* / *on* affordable housing have greatly increased *rough* / *tough* sleeping. Successive governments over decades have failed to *build* / *meet* their housebuilding targets. The latest government's efforts are being hindered *by* / *of* a shortfall of qualified bricklayers and other skilled tradespeople. The UK needs *the* / *an* extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 plumbers, 4,000 *plasters* / *plasterers*, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to meet its *purge* / *pledge* to build 1.5 million new homes.

The UK government has blamed the *surplus* / *deficit* in construction worker numbers on "*years* / *yearly* of underinvestment in skills". A housing ministry official said her department was doing its *mostly* / *utmost* to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every *lever* / *fever* to deliver on our commitment, which includes building a diverse *workforce* / *workshop*." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding *consultant* / *consultancy*, called the government's home construction *pledge* / *ledge* "unrealistic". He said training *sufficient* / *sufficiently* numbers of workers could take "a generation". He added that the *currant* / *current* target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "drop in the *puddle* / *ocean*".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

_ h__s_ng cr_s_s _n th_ _K _s b__ng _x_c_rb_t_d by
_ sh_rt_g_ _f br_ckl_y_rs. Br_t__n n__ds t_ b__ld
m_r_ h_m_s t_ _n_bl_ y__ng p__pl_ t_ g_t _n th_
h__s_ng l_dd_r _nd t_ _nd th_ sc__rg_ _f
h_m_l_ssn_ss. S__r_ng r_nts _nd _ l_ck _f _ff_rd_bl_
h__s_ng h_v_ gr__tly _ncr__s_d r__gh sl__p_ng.
S_cc_ss_v_ g_v_rnm_nts _v_r d_c_d_s h_v_ f__ld t_
m__t th__r h__s_b__ldng t_rg_ts. Th_ l_t_st
g_v_rnm_nt's _ff_rts _r_ b__ng h_nd_r_d by _ sh_rtf_ll
_f q__l_f__d br_ckl_y_rs _nd _th_r sk_ll_d
tr_d_sp__pl_. Th_ _K n__ds _n _xtr_ 25,000
br_ckl_y_rs, 3,000 pl_mb_rs, 4,000 pl_st_r_rs, 10,000
c_rp_nt_rs, _nd 3,000 n_w _l_ctr_c__ns t_ m__t _ts
pl_dg_ t_ b__ld 1.5 m_ll__n n_w h_m_s.

Th_ _K g_v_rnm_nt h_s bl_m_d th_ d_f_c_t _n
c_nstr_ct__n w_rk_r n_mb_rs _n "y__rs _f
_nd_r_nv_stm_nt _n sk_lls". _ h__s_ng m_n_stry
_ff_c__l s__d h_r d_p_rtm_nt w_s d__ng _ts _tm_st t_
b__ld 300,000 n_w h_m_s _ y__r. _n_th_r sp_k_sp_rs_n
_dd_d: "W_ w_ll p_ll _v_ry l_v_r t_ d_l_v_r _n __r
c_mm_tm_nt, wh_ch _ncl_d_s b__ldng _ d_v_rs_
w_rkf_rc_." H_w_v_r, C_l_n Br_wn, _ h__s_b__ldng
c_ns_lt_nt, c_ll_d th_ g_v_rnm_nt's h_m_ c_nstr_ct__n
pl_dg_ "_nr__l_st_c". H_ s__d tr__ng s_ff_c__nt
n_mb_rs _f w_rk_rs c__ld t_k_ "_ g_n_r_t__n". H_
_dd_d th_t th_ c_rr_nt t_rg_t _f _dd_ng 5,000 n_w
_ppr_nt_c_sh_ps __ch y__r w_s "f_nc_f_l" _nd _ "dr_p
n th _c__n".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

a housing crisis in the uk is being exacerbated by a shortage of bricklayers
britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get on the
housing ladder and to end the scourge of homelessness soaring rents and a
lack of affordable housing have greatly increased rough sleeping successive
governments over decades have failed to meet their housebuilding targets
the latest governments efforts are being hindered by a shortfall of qualified
bricklayers and other skilled tradespeople the uk needs an extra 25000
bricklayers 3000 plumbers 4000 plasterers 10000 carpenters and 3000 new
electricians to meet its pledge to build 15 million new homes

the uk government has blamed the deficit in construction worker numbers
on years of underinvestment in skills a housing ministry official said her
department was doing its utmost to build 300000 new homes a year another
spokesperson added we will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment
which includes building a diverse workforce however colin brown a
housebuilding consultant called the governments home construction pledge
unrealistic he said training sufficient numbers of workers could take a
generation he added that the current target of adding 5000 new
apprenticeships each year was fanciful and a drop in the ocean

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A housing crisis in the UK is being exacerbated by a shortage of bricklayers. Britain needs to build more homes to enable young people to get on the housing ladder and to end the scourge of homelessness. Soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing have greatly increased rough sleeping. Successive governments over decades have failed to meet their housebuilding targets. The latest government's efforts are being hindered by a shortage of qualified bricklayers and other skilled tradespeople. The UK needs an extra 25,000 bricklayers, 3,000 plumbers, 4,000 plasterers, 10,000 carpenters, and 3,000 new electricians to meet its pledge to build 1.5 million new homes. The UK government has blamed the deficit in construction worker numbers on "years of underinvestment in skills". A housing ministry official said her department was doing its utmost to build 300,000 new homes a year. Another spokesperson added: "We will pull every lever to deliver on our commitment, which includes building a diverse workforce." However, Colin Brown, a housebuilding consultant, called the government's home construction pledge "unrealistic". He said training sufficient numbers of workers could take "a generation". He added that the current target of adding 5,000 new apprenticeships each year was "fanciful" and a "drop in the ocean".

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 out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BRICKLAYERS: Make a poster about bricklayers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HOUSING: Write a magazine article about making governments responsible for all housebuilding. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on bricklayers. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on being a bricklayer. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b 6. g 7. f
8. i 9. n 10. l 11. m 12. j 13. h 14. k

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 T 6 T 7 T 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. i	2. e	3. a	4. c	5. j
6. d	7. h	8. f	9. b	10. g

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A shortage of bricklayers
2. Homelessness
3. Decades
4. 3,000
5. 1.5 million
6. Skills
7. Levers
8. He's a housebuilding consultant.
9. A generation
10. 5,000

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Enable people to get on the housing ladder.
2. Britain wants to end the scourge of homelessness.
3. Governments have failed to meet their housebuilding targets.
4. They're hindered by a shortfall of qualified bricklayers.
5. Meet its pledge to build 1.5 million new homes.
6. Blamed the deficit on years of underinvestment.
7. It was doing its utmost to build homes.
8. We will pull every lever to deliver homes.
9. Training sufficient numbers could take a generation.
10. Adding apprenticeships was a drop in the ocean.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)