

1. England riots

This week's lesson is about the very serious rioting that took place in London and some other cities in England, UK, earlier this month.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask the students what they know about the rioting that took place in England earlier this month. Do they know what started it? How long did it go on for? What kinds of crimes did the rioting consist of? What do they imagine were the causes, and what do they imagine the British government should (or will) do to try to stop such violence happening again? Has anything similar ever happened in the students' country? If so, what were the causes? If not, why not?
2. Give your students as much time as you think necessary to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that many of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to complete Exercise 1, in which they have to find the words to match the definitions.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:**Exercise 1**

1. protest
2. riot
3. looting
4. break out
5. minority
6. smash
7. deal with
8. disgusted
9. broom
10. trouble
11. youth
12. respect
13. unemployment
14. poverty
15. discipline
16. lack
17. address
18. sweep
19. run over
20. armed

Exercise 2

1. Saturday
2. deliberately
3. violent
4. rioters
5. died
6. excuse
7. law
8. Manchester
9. looters
10. three
11. copied
12. clean

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *David Cameron* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/08/09/uk.riot.map/index.html>

A map of London (left) and the UK as a whole (right) showing riot “hotspots” by the date they broke out. Accessible to Intermediate level.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/13/139598062/boredom-and-alienation-may-factor-into-uk-riots>

Analysis of possible causes of the riots from National Public Radio (audio with transcript, plus related article). Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/14496654>

A special section about the riots on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Newsround website, aimed primarily at children and teenagers. Accessible to Intermediate level.