BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News The city with no street names



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

A city of three million people, with only a handful of street names.

No wonder trying to deliver a letter here is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

But this is changing, as the city of Cotonou, in Benin, is starting to name its streets and paint numbers on each house.

Residents hope this will help the city become better connected to the world and provide a **boost** for local businesses.

Vocabulary

a handful of

a small number of

no wonder

it's no surprise that

a needle in a haystack

something very hard to find

residents

people who live in a particular place

boost

an action that makes something better, happier or more successful

Watch the video online: The city with no street names http://tinyurl.com/odn2fts

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

a handful of / no wonder / a needle in a haystack / residents / boost

l.	Sussex expect to announce they made a profit during the last financial year.
	The news is a huge to the club, which recorded a deficit of £630,000 for the financial year to October 2013 and significant losses for the previous two years as well.
2.	There have been only cases in humans since the infection was first described in 1954 by a researcher called Stefanski.
3.	Mr Cameron said a migrant in work with two children was getting £700 a month on average in support from the state, twice the amount paid in Germany and three times as much as in France.
	" so many people want to come to Britain," he said, adding that changes to in-work benefits could affect about 400,000 people.
4.	With £524 billion worth of goods coming through UK ports each year in millions of containers, [finding illegal goods] can be like looking for
5.	of a 3,300-home development in Oxfordshire claim they have been "cut off" after promised community facilities did not materialise.

Answers

I. Sussex expect to announce they made a profit during the last financial year.

The news is a huge **boost** to the club, which recorded a deficit of £630,000 for the financial year to October 2013 and significant losses for the previous two years as well.

Source: Sussex expect to announce operating profit for financial year http://tinyurl.com/l7vtczg

2. There have been only **a handful of** cases in humans since the infection was first described in 1954 by a researcher called Stefanski.

Source: Kidney deaths inquest: Patients told donor had meningitis http://tinyurl.com/lwb6g3d

3. Mr Cameron said a migrant in work with two children was getting £700 a month on average in support from the state, twice the amount paid in Germany and three times as much as in France.

"No wonder so many people want to come to Britain," he said, adding that changes to in-work benefits could affect about 400,000 people.

Source: David Cameron urges EU support for migration plans http://tinyurl.com/omfyo88

4. With £524 billion worth of goods coming through UK ports each year in millions of containers, [finding illegal goods] can be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Source: Channel Patrol http://tinyurl.com/nw5qo2m

Residents of a 3,300-home development in Oxfordshire claim they have been "cut off" after promised community facilities did not materialise.

Source: Great Western Park residents angry over lack of facilities

http://tinyurl.com/pxjwmgk