
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Ivory smuggling



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

Transcript

It's an impressive **haul**.

Four tonnes of ivory, with a **market value** of \$6m. Customs officials in Thailand say it's the biggest **seizure** in the country's history.

The elephant **tusks** were tracked from the Democratic Republic of Congo for two months.

Officials say they were being **transported** to Laos, from where they believed the ivory would be sold to customers across Asia.

Vocabulary

haul

an amount of stolen or illegal items

market value

potential price of an item if it is sold

seizure

(here) act of capturing something using force

tusks

long and pointy teeth coming out of an elephant's mouth

transported

taken from one place to another

Watch the video online: Ivory smuggling

<http://bbc.in/lbfROp9>

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.

haul / market value / seizure / tusks / transported

1. A shark has been _____ more than 120 miles across England in a bid to encourage him to breed.

Albi, a two metre-long (6ft) nurse shark, was taken from the National Sea Life Centre Blackpool to the attraction's sister site in Birmingham.

2. The five-year covert investigation called Operation Yonside has been one of North Wales Police's biggest probes. It led to the _____ of almost £200,000 worth of cocaine and cannabis.

3. Many Asian elephants, smaller in stature than their African cousins, fail to grow _____ at all.

4. The rent they currently pay is between £150 and £200 per week, which Mr Gooding said was "about 40-45% below the _____, so even if some people had to pay more they would still be paying rent below the market rate".

5. The estimated value of the stolen jewels is unknown.

Reports have valued the _____ at anything from £30m to £200m - but this is speculation, no more, at this stage.

Answers

1. A shark has been **transported** more than 120 miles across England in a bid to encourage him to breed.

Albi, a two metre-long (6ft) nurse shark, was taken from the National Sea Life Centre Blackpool to the attraction's sister site in Birmingham".

Source: Shark transported to Birmingham Sea Life Centre to breed
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-29743424>

2. The five-year covert investigation called Operation Yonside has been one of North Wales Police's biggest probes. It led to the **seizure** of almost £200,000 worth of cocaine and cannabis.

Source: Caernarfon drugs gang boss Gavin Thorman jailed for 12 years
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-32230059>

3. Many Asian elephants, smaller in stature than their African cousins, fail to grow **tusks** at all.

Source: 'Longest tusked' elephant in Asia dies in Sri Lanka
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-14404342>

4. The rent they currently pay is between £150 and £200 per week, which Mr Gooding said was "about 40-45% below the **market value**, so even if some people had to pay more they would still be paying rent below the market rate".

Source: Wealthier Hoxton tenants 'could pay more rent <http://bbc.in/1bfROp9>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-31637681>

5. The estimated value of the stolen jewels is unknown.

Reports have valued the **haul** at anything from £30m to £200m - but this is speculation, no more, at this stage.

Source: Hatton Garden raid: The mystery deepens
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-32283449>