

Exercise: Chocolate theft

Shopkeepers in the UK are having to go to extreme lengths to stop shoplifters from stealing chocolate. The candy is being locked in plastic security boxes. Customers wishing to purchase a chocolate bar must ask a member of staff to unlock the box. One leading supermarket chain said it has begun using “boxes on products which are regularly targeted” by thieves. A spokesperson for another popular store, the Co-op, told the BBC that chocolate theft was a “massive issue”. He said: “In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week.” He added that some people would visit a store and “literally swipe the whole shelf” of chocolate.

Chocolate is the latest target of criminal gangs. The UK’s Association of Convenience Stores said the candy is being stolen by “prolific offenders” and then sold on the black market. The Co-op spokesman said chocolate was the product most often stolen from its stores in 2024, and was only second to alcohol in 2025. Another retail association said: “Chocolate is now a target, deemed to be ‘high value,’ so retailers have installed anti-theft devices to prevent it from being stolen.” There were 5.5 million reported incidents of shop theft in the UK last year. In London, only five per cent of these ended up in the courts. Disturbingly, there are 1,600 daily incidents of violence against shop workers.

From: Breaking News English (2026) *Chocolate Theft – Shops in the UK lock up chocolate to stop shoplifting*. Available at: <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260309-chocolate-shoplifting.html> (Accessed: 27 February 2026).

Questions

1. What is the main idea?

- ☐ Shops are selling more chocolate
- ☐ Shops are locking chocolate to stop theft
- ☐ Shops want to change their chocolate brands

2. Find two pieces of evidence (underline or circle in the text).

- Theft increased last month
- Busy city centres have more problems
- Boxes make stealing harder

Why might this matter for business?

The shop might lose money because shoplifters are stealing the
chocolate and shops are losing
money.
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China's BYD beats Tesla, becomes world's top EV seller

The Chinese company BYD is now the world leader in electric vehicle (EV) sales. It has sold more cars than the American company Tesla for the first time in one year. In 2025, Tesla sold 1.64 million cars. This was a 9% drop from the year before. At the same time, BYD sales grew by 28% to more than 2.25 million cars.

Tesla had a difficult year for several reasons. Some customers did not like the new car models. Other people were worried about the political actions of Tesla's owner, Elon Musk. Competition from Chinese companies like BYD, Geely, and MG also made things harder. These companies often sell their cars for less money than Western brands. To help, Tesla lowered its prices in the United States, but sales still fell. One reason was the end of a government program that gave buyers \$7,500 to help pay for electric cars.

Elon Musk has big goals for the future. He wants to sell more cars and increase the company's value. He also plans to sell one million humanoid robots called Optimus. Experts say that Tesla's success depends on new self-driving taxis. Some people believe Tesla will lead this market because of its large size. However, Musk has many other businesses, such as SpaceX and the social media platform X. Some investors worry he is too busy with these projects.

Although BYD sold more cars, Tesla still made more profit recently. BYD is growing quickly in Europe, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. In the United Kingdom, BYD sales grew by 880% in one year. Even though many countries are adding taxes to Chinese cars, BYD continues to expand because its prices are lower than its competitors.

From: Practice With News (2026) *China's BYD beats Tesla, becomes world's top EV seller*, 5 January. Available at: <https://practicewithnews.com/chinas-byd-beats-tesla-becomes-worlds-top-ev-seller/> (Accessed: 27 February 2026).