# *IKEA 'deeply regrets' forced prison labor*

One of Sweden's most famous companies has apologized for selling products made in communist prisons. The furniture giant IKEA said it "deeply regrets" buying furniture that was made using forced labor in prisons in East Germany over twenty years ago. IKEA is famous for its modern, clean designs and reasonable prices. However, few people knew about a dark period in its history. The company now admits that political prisoners in communist East Germany were forced to make some of the furniture sold in IKEA stores across the world. This was before the fall of the Berlin Wall, when Germany was split in two. IKEA manager Jeanette Skjelmose told reporters: "We deeply regret that this could happen."

IKEA said it checks working conditions at its suppliers very carefully. They also checked suppliers 20 to 30 years ago, but their checks did not find the use of forced labor in prisons. Ms Skjelmose said: "The use of political prisoners for manufacturing was at no point accepted by IKEA….[30 years ago] we didn't have the well-developed control system that we have today. We clearly did too little to [stop those] methods." Many of the prisoners now want compensation – they want IKEA to pay them for their work. Human rights campaigner Rainer Wagner said many western companies used cheap, forced, prison labor in East Germany. He said: "IKEA is only the tip of the iceberg

**1. TRUE / FALSE**

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| a. | IKEA has said sorry for selling its furniture in communist prisons. | | T / F |
| b. | The furniture in the story was made in Bulgarian prisons. | | T / F |
| c. | IKEA's CEO told reporters of the deep regret this could happen. | | T / F |
| d. | IKEA has promised to pay the prison workers compensation. | | T / F |
| e. | IKEA said checks on working conditions did not find the forced labor. | | T / F |
| f. | A human rights worker said more companies used forced prison labor. | | T / F |
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**2. SYNONYM MATCH**

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| 1. | most famous | | a. | is sorry about |
| 2 | prisons | | b. | production |
| 3. | regrets | | c. | divided |
| 4. | admits | | d. | examines |
| 5. | split |  | e. | best known |
| 6. | checks | | f. | accepts |
| 7. | manufacturing | | g. | activist |
| 8. | campaigner | | h. | jails |
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