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Level 0 – 1st February, 2020

Oxford comma missing from Brexit coin

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexite-0.html>

The UK left the EU yesterday. It voted to leave in 2016. The UK made a new 50-pence coin for the occasion. It has the words: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" on it.

A writer is unhappy. He thinks the punctuation is wrong. He said there should be an Oxford comma after the word "prosperity".

The Oxford comma is called the serial comma in the USA. It is used before the final "and" or "or" in a list of three or more items. People say an Oxford comma is unnecessary on the new coin because the meaning is very clear. A woman who studies words said the Oxford comma can help to better understand the writer's meaning.

Sources: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10835240/what-oxford-comma-examples-how-use/>
<https://abcnews.go.com/International/commemorative-brexite-coin-sparks-oxford-comma-debate/story>
<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/oxford-comma-does-the-brexite-50p-coin-have-a-grammatical-error-1-5081991>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexite-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. It voted to leave | a. Oxford comma |
| 2. The UK made a new | b. words |
| 3. It has the | c. "prosperity" |
| 4. friendship with | d. 50-pence coin |
| 5. A writer is | e. is wrong |
| 6. He thinks the punctuation | f. in 2016 |
| 7. He said there should be an | g. unhappy |
| 8. after the word | h. all nations |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The Oxford comma is called the serial | a. clear |
| 2. It is used before the final | b. help |
| 3. in a list of three | c. "and" |
| 4. an Oxford comma | d. the writer's meaning |
| 5. the meaning is very | e. comma in the USA |
| 6. A woman who | f. is unnecessary |
| 7. the Oxford comma can | g. studies words |
| 8. better understand | h. or more items |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2020/202001-oxford-comma-brexit-0.html>

The UK left the EU yesterday. It (1) _____ in 2016. The UK (2) _____ 50-pence coin (3) _____. It has the words: "Peace, prosperity and friendship (4) _____" on it. A writer is unhappy. He thinks the (5) _____. He said there should be an Oxford comma (6) _____ "prosperity".

The Oxford comma (7) _____ serial comma in the USA. It is used before the final (8) _____ in a list of three (9) _____. People say an Oxford comma is unnecessary on the new coin because the meaning (10) _____. A woman who (11) _____ the Oxford comma can (12) _____ understand the writer's meaning.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-0.html>

TheUKlefttheEUyesterday.Itvotedtoleavein2016.TheUKmadeanew
50-pencecoinfortheoccasion.Ithasthewords:"Peace,prosperityandf
riendshipwithallnations"onit.Awriterisunhappy.Hethinksthepunctu
ationiswrong.HesaidthereshouldbeanOxfordcommaaftertheword"p
rosperity".TheOxfordcommaiscalledtheserialcommaintheUSA.Itisu
sedbeforethefinal"and"or"or"inalistofthreeormoreitems.Peoplesaya
nOxfordcommaisunnecessaryonthecoinbecauseithemeaningisv
eryclear.AwomanwhostudieswordssaidtheOxfordcommacanhelpto
betterunderstandthewriter'smeaning.

PUNCTUATION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about punctuation in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

