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Level 2 – 1st February, 2020

Oxford comma missing from Brexit coin

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-2.html>

The United Kingdom left the European Union on January the 31st. The British people voted to leave three-and-a-half years ago. The U.K. made a special coin for the occasion. It is at the centre of an argument about punctuation. The new 50-pence coin has the words: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" on one side. A British writer, Sir Philip Pullman, is unhappy. He believes the punctuation is incorrect. He said there should be a comma after the word "prosperity". Such a comma is called an Oxford comma. He said everyone who can read should ignore the coin.

The Oxford comma's name is from Oxford University. In the USA, it is called the serial comma. It is used before the final "and" or "or" in a list of three or more items. Many people say an Oxford comma is unnecessary on the 50-pence coin because the meaning is very clear. A word expert said the Oxford comma is useful if it is easier to understand the writer's meaning. A U.K. citizen said the comma wasn't important. She tweeted: "It doesn't matter if there is a comma or not on the 50p coin. The most important thing is that there is peace, and prosperity, and friendship with all nations."

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

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The British people voted | a. be a comma |
| 2. The U.K. made a special coin | b. about punctuation |
| 3. at the centre of an argument | c. coin |
| 4. friendship with | d. for the occasion |
| 5. He believes the punctuation | e. an Oxford comma |
| 6. He said there should | f. to leave |
| 7. Such a comma is called | g. is incorrect |
| 8. ignore the | h. all nations |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. It is used before the final | a. important |
| 2. in a list of three | b. a comma or not |
| 3. the meaning is very | c. "and" |
| 4. A word expert said the Oxford | d. thing |
| 5. it is easier to understand the | e. or more items |
| 6. the comma wasn't | f. clear |
| 7. It doesn't matter if there is | g. writer's meaning |
| 8. The most important | h. comma is useful |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexite-2.html>

The United Kingdom left the European Union on January the 31st. The British people (1) _____ three-and-a-half years ago. The U.K. made a special coin (2) _____. It is at the centre of an argument about punctuation. The new 50-pence coin has the words: "Peace, prosperity (3) _____ all nations" on one side. A British writer, Sir Philip Pullman, is unhappy. He believes the (4) _____. He said there should be a comma after (5) _____. Such a comma is called an Oxford comma. He said everyone who can (6) _____ the coin.

The Oxford comma's name is from Oxford University. In the USA, it is called (7) _____. It is used before the final "and" or "or" in a list of three (8) _____. Many people say an Oxford comma is unnecessary on the 50-pence coin because the meaning (9) _____. A word expert said the Oxford comma is useful if it is easier to understand the writer's meaning. A U.K. (10) _____ comma wasn't important. She tweeted: "(11) _____ if there is a comma or not on the 50p coin. The (12) _____ is that there is peace, and prosperity, and friendship with all nations."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-2.html>

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PUNCTUATION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexite-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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brex-it-2.html>

Write about **punctuation** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
