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**Level 5 – 3rd June, 2021**

## **Naomi Osaka withdraws from French Tennis Open**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210603-naomi-osaka-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210603-naomi-osaka-5.html>

Tennis' Naomi Osaka, 23, has withdrawn from the French Tennis Open due to stress from having to talk to the media. Japan's world number two said she did not want to do post-match interviews to "protect her mental health". The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) said this was in breach of her obligations. It threatened to expel her from the tournament if she did not talk to the media. It then said it wants to "create meaningful improvements" to support players with mental health problems. It added: "We commend Naomi for sharing in her own words the pressures and anxieties she is feeling."

Naomi Osaka has won four Grand Slam titles. She is the reigning champion at the US Open and Australian Open. She had problems coping with being in the spotlight as one of tennis' biggest stars. She said: "The truth is that I have suffered long bouts of depression since the US Open in 2018." The WTA has faced criticism for the way it handled Ms Osaka's mental health concerns. However, it recently said: "We empathise with the unique pressures tennis players may face." Many top players are behind Ms Osaka. Serena Williams said: "I feel for Naomi....I wish I could give her a hug."

Sources: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210601/p2g/00m/0sp/002000c>  
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/tennis/57311128>  
[https://www.espn.com/tennis/story/\\_/id/31543237/naomi-osaka-withdraws-french-open-one-day-fine-threat-harsher-sanctions-skipping-media-obligations.](https://www.espn.com/tennis/story/_/id/31543237/naomi-osaka-withdraws-french-open-one-day-fine-threat-harsher-sanctions-skipping-media-obligations)"

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210603-naomi-osaka-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. having to                    | a. to the media           |
| 2. she did not want to do post- | b. of her obligations     |
| 3. this was in breach           | c. words                  |
| 4. It threatened to             | d. she is feeling         |
| 5. if she did not talk          | e. mental health problems |
| 6. support players with         | f. match interviews       |
| 7. in her own                   | g. expel her              |
| 8. the pressures and anxieties  | h. talk to the media      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. She is the reigning  | a. behind Ms Osaka         |
| 2. She had problems     | b. spotlight               |
| 3. being in the         | c. her a hug               |
| 4. I have suffered long | d. criticism               |
| 5. The WTA has faced    | e. pressures               |
| 6. unique               | f. bouts of depression     |
| 7. top players are      | g. champion at the US Open |
| 8. I wish I could give  | h. coping                  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210603-naomi-osaka-5.html>

Tennis' Naomi Osaka, 23, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the French Tennis Open (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from having to talk to the media. Japan's world number two said she did not want to do (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to "protect her mental health". The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) said this was (4) \_\_\_\_\_ her obligations. It threatened to expel her from the tournament if she did not talk to the media. It then said it wants to "create meaningful improvements" (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with mental health problems. It added: "We commend Naomi for sharing in her own words the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ she is feeling."

Naomi Osaka has won four Grand Slam titles. She is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at the US Open and Australian Open. She had problems (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in the spotlight as one of tennis' biggest stars. She said: "The truth is that I have suffered (9) \_\_\_\_\_ depression since the US Open in 2018." The WTA has faced criticism for the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Ms Osaka's mental health concerns. However, it recently said: "We empathise with (11) \_\_\_\_\_ tennis players may face." Many top players are behind Ms Osaka. Serena Williams said: "I feel for Naomi....I wish I could give (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210603-naomi-osaka-5.html>

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# TENNIS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210603-naomi-osaka-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tennis 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Naomi Osaka withdraws from French Tennis Open – 3rd June, 2021*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

