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Level 2 – 10th September, 2020

Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID'

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-2.html>

Pope Francis has said gossip is worse than COVID-19 and that it divides communities. He said the devil is the "biggest gossiper," who creates division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his weekly blessing. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope regularly speaks about the dangers of gossiping, especially on social media. He tells people not to listen to Internet trolls. He said: "If something goes wrong, offer...prayer...but never gossip."

The Pope was making his first speech since the pandemic started. It is not the first time he has made remarks on gossip. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip" and to resist temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get an urge...to drop a gossip bomb, bite your tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject of gossip up again. He told worshippers in the Vatican that gossip is deadly "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers and busybodies."

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pope-francis-declares-gossiping-is-a-plague-worse-than-covid/>
<https://www.inforum.com/entertainment/television/6650375-Pope-says-gossiping-is-a-worse-plague-than-coronavirus>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/06/europe/pope-gossip-coronavirus-intl-scli/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. it divides | a. weekly blessing |
| 2. the devil is the biggest | b. to Internet trolls |
| 3. creates division with | c. worse than COVID |
| 4. during his | d. gossiper |
| 5. Gossip is a plague | e. offer prayer |
| 6. speaks about the dangers | f. communities |
| 7. He tells people not to listen | g. of gossiping |
| 8. If something goes wrong, | h. his lies |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. his first speech since the | a. to the Vatican |
| 2. the first time he has made | b. spread gossip |
| 3. fuel the terrorism | c. busybodies |
| 4. resist temptation to | d. deadly |
| 5. gossip is | e. pandemic started |
| 6. the tongue kills, like | f. of gossip |
| 7. A visitor | g. a knife |
| 8. scandalmongers and | h. remarks on gossip |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-2.html>

Pope Francis has said (1) _____ than COVID-19 and that it divides communities. He said the devil is (2) _____ who creates division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping (3) _____ blessing. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip (4) _____ worse than COVID. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope regularly speaks about the dangers of gossiping, (5) _____ media. He tells people not to listen to Internet trolls. He said: "If (6) _____, offer...prayer...but never gossip."

The Pope was (7) _____ speech since the pandemic started. It is not the first time he has made (8) _____. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip" and to (9) _____ spread gossip. He said: "If you get an urge...to drop a gossip bomb, (10) _____. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject of gossip up again. He told worshippers in the Vatican that gossip is deadly "because the tongue kills, (11) _____. A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips (12) _____ scandalmongers and busybodies."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-2.html>

Pope Francis has said gossip is worse than COVID-19 and that it divides communities. He said the devil is the "biggest gossiper," who creates division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his weekly blessing. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try not to gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope regularly speaks about the dangers of gossiping, especially on social media. He tells people not to listen to Internet trolls. He said: "If something goes wrong, offer... prayer... but never gossip." The Pope was making his first speech since the pandemic started. It is not the first time he has made remarks on gossip. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip" and to resist temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get an urge... to drop a gossip bomb, bite your tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject of gossip up again. He told worshippers in the Vatican that gossip is deadly "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scanda l mongers and busy bodies."

GOSSIP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gossip 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) _____

