

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 1 – 9th November 2023

265-year-old love letters opened for first time

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-1.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, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-1.html>

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors sat on a shelf in the U.K. They were never opened. They have just been read for the first time. The letters were on a French warship captured by Britain in 1758. The French sailors did not have time to open and read their mail. The letters were put in storage in an archive and forgotten about. They gathered dust for two and a half centuries. A researcher said many of the letters were love letters.

A group of researchers studied the letters. They said the writing gave a rare look back into history. The writers were rich and poor. They were fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. They all had different levels of literacy. A researcher said the letters showed how we manage things like pandemics and wars. He said the letters were similar to what people write about today. They were about staying in touch, caring for people, and keeping passion alive.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/06/world/french-letters-national-archives-scn/index.html>
<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231107-confiscated-french-love-letters-finally-opened-after-265-years>
<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/raunchy-love-letters-from-250-years-ago-are-making-us-want-to-loosen-our-corsets/ar-AA1juN4y>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 104 letters written | a. captured by Britain |
| 2. They were never | b. centuries |
| 3. They have just been read | c. an archive |
| 4. a French warship | d. for the first time |
| 5. The French sailors did not | e. dust |
| 6. letters were put in storage in | f. to French sailors |
| 7. They gathered | g. have time |
| 8. for two and a half | h. opened |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the writing gave a rare look | a. touch |
| 2. They were fiancés, parents, | b. back into history |
| 3. They all had different levels | c. about today |
| 4. how we manage things like | d. alive |
| 5. similar to what people write | e. siblings and wives |
| 6. They were about staying in | f. for people |
| 7. caring | g. pandemics |
| 8. keeping passion | h. of literacy |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-1.html>

For 265 years, 104 letters (1) _____ sailors sat on a shelf in the U.K. They were never opened. They have just been read for (2) _____. The letters were on a French (3) _____ Britain in 1758. The French sailors did not have (4) _____ and read their mail. The letters were put in storage (5) _____ and forgotten about. They gathered (6) _____ and a half centuries. A researcher said many of the letters were love letters.

A (7) _____ studied the letters. They said the writing gave (8) _____ back into history. The writers were rich and poor. They were fiancés, parents, (9) _____. They all had different levels of literacy. A researcher said the letters showed (10) _____ things like pandemics and wars. He said the letters were similar to what people (11) _____. They were about staying in touch, caring for people, and (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-1.html>

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors sat on a shelf in the U.K. They were never opened. They have just been read for the first time. The letters were on a French warship captured by Britain in 1758. The French sailors did not have time to open and read their mail. The letters were put in storage in an archive and forgotten about. They gathered dust for two and a half centuries. A researcher said many of the letters were love letters. A group of researchers studied the letters. They said the writing gave a real look back into history. The writers were rich and poor. They were fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. They all had different levels of literacy. A researcher said the letters showed how we manage things like pandemics and wars. He said the letters were similar to what people write about today. They were about staying in touch, caring for people, and keeping passionate.

LOVE LETTERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about love letters 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) _____

265-year-old love letters opened for first time – 9th November 2023
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

