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**Level 2** – 4th April 2024

## Gmail celebrates its 20th birthday

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240404-gmail-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/2404/240404-gmail-2.html>

Gmail, the world's biggest email provider, was 20 on Monday. It launched on the 1st of April 2004. At that time, it changed everything because it offered an enormous 1 gigabyte of storage for free. Some people thought it was a joke because it was announced on April Fools' Day. However, it was real. Other email providers only gave 15 megabytes. Gmail became a "must-have" tool for technology fans. Another reason for Gmail's success is that it searched mails faster than other email services. It was also better at filtering spam.

Today, more than 1.7 billion people use it. That's 20 per cent of the world population. Over the years, Google has increased its free storage to 15 gigabytes. It has added new features. One of these is a one-click unsubscribe button for unwanted mail. Another feature is an "undo send" button. This means users can stop a mail from being sent after clicking "send". The PC Mag website said Gmail is an important part of life today. It wrote: "Gmail is so [fixed] in so many people's lives that hardly anyone thinks much about it." It is likely people will use Gmail forever.

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/24113616/gmail-email-20-years-old-internet>  
<https://www.pcmag.com/opinions/gmail-at-20-right-place-right-time>  
<https://www.techradar.com/computing/email-messaging/no-joke-gmail-is-20-and-were-probably-better-for-it>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240404-gmail-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the world's biggest               | a. 1st of April 2004  |
| 2. It launched on the                | b. have" tool         |
| 3. At that time, it                  | c. of storage         |
| 4. it offered an enormous 1 gigabyte | d. providers          |
| 5. Some people thought it was        | e. spam               |
| 6. Other email                       | f. email provider     |
| 7. Gmail became a "must-             | g. a joke             |
| 8. It was also better at filtering   | h. changed everything |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Over the                    | a. of life today       |
| 2. increased its free          | b. features            |
| 3. It has added new            | c. use Gmail forever   |
| 4. a one-click unsubscribe     | d. years               |
| 5. stop a mail from being sent | e. many people's lives |
| 6. Gmail is an important part  | f. button              |
| 7. Gmail is so fixed in so     | g. storage             |
| 8. It is likely people will    | h. after clicking send |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240404-gmail-2.html>

Gmail, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ email provider, was 20 on Monday. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 1st of April 2004. At that time, it changed everything because it offered an enormous 1 gigabyte of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Some people thought it was a joke because it (4) \_\_\_\_\_ April Fools' Day. However, it was real. Other email providers only gave 15 megabytes. Gmail became a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for technology fans. Another reason for Gmail's success is that it searched mails faster than other email services. It was also better (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, more than 1.7 billion people use it. That's 20 per cent of (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Over the years, Google has increased its free storage to 15 gigabytes. It has (8) \_\_\_\_\_. One of these is a one-click unsubscribe button for unwanted mail. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ an "undo send" button. This means users can stop a mail from being sent (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The PC Mag website said Gmail is an important part (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It wrote: "Gmail is so [fixed] in so many people's lives that hardly anyone thinks much about it." (12) \_\_\_\_\_ people will use Gmail forever.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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# GMAIL SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240404-gmail-2.html>

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

*Gmail celebrates its 20th birthday – 4th April 2024*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

