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Level 1 – 1st February, 2020

Oxford comma missing from Brexit coin

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-1.html>

The U.K. left the European Union on January the 31st. It voted to leave three-and-a-half years ago. The U.K. made a special coin for the occasion. People are arguing about the punctuation on the new 50-pence coin. It has the words: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" on it. A writer is unhappy. He thinks the punctuation is wrong. He said there should be a comma after the word "prosperity". This kind of comma is called an Oxford comma.

The Oxford comma is called the serial comma in the USA. It is used before the final "and" or "or" in a list of three or more items. 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 helps to understand the writer's meaning. A woman said the comma wasn't important. She tweeted: "It doesn't matter if there is a comma or not. The most important thing is that there is peace."

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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. It voted | a. be a comma |
| 2. The U.K. made a special coin | b. all nations |
| 3. People are arguing about | c. an Oxford comma |
| 4. friendship with | d. for the occasion |
| 5. He thinks the punctuation | e. "prosperity" |
| 6. He said there should | f. the punctuation |
| 7. after the word | g. is wrong |
| 8. This kind of comma is called | h. to leave |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The Oxford comma is called the | a. is unnecessary |
| 2. It is used before the final | b. or more items |
| 3. in a list of three | c. clear |
| 4. People say an Oxford comma | d. writer's meaning |
| 5. the meaning is very | e. serial comma in the USA |
| 6. helps to understand the | f. that there is peace |
| 7. It doesn't matter if there is a | g. "and" |
| 8. The most important thing is | h. comma or not |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200201-oxford-comma-brexit-1.html>

The U.K. left the European Union on January the 31st. It voted to leave three-and-a-(1) _____. The U.K. made a special coin (2) _____. People are arguing about the punctuation on the new 50-pence coin. It (3) _____: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" on it. A (4) _____. He thinks the punctuation is wrong. He (5) _____ be a comma after the word "prosperity". This (6) _____ is called an Oxford comma.

The Oxford comma (7) _____ serial comma in the USA. It is used (8) _____ "and" or "or" in a list of three (9) _____. People say an Oxford comma is unnecessary on the 50-pence coin because the meaning is very clear. A (10) _____ the Oxford comma helps to understand the writer's meaning. A woman said the comma wasn't important. She tweeted: "It (11) _____ there is a comma or not. The (12) _____ is that there is peace."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2020/20201-oxford-comma-brexit-1.html>

The U.K. left the European Union on January the 31st. It voted to leave three-and-a-half years ago. The U.K. made a special coin for the occasion. People are arguing about the punctuation on the new 50-pence coin. It has the words: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" on it. A writer is unhappy. He thinks the punctuation is wrong. He said there should be a comma after the word "prosperity". This kind of comma is called an Oxford comma. The Oxford comma is called the serial comma in the USA. It is used before the final "and" or "or" in a list of three or more items. 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 helps to understand and the writer's meaning. A woman said the comma wasn't important. She tweeted: "It doesn't matter if there is a comma or not. The most important thing is that there is peace."

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) _____

