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## Level 6

# Hello Kitty is a girl, not a cat

**31st August, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creators of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters have set the record straight. Japanese toymaker Sanrio have declared that its iconic creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came to light following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator of the exhibition, anthropologist Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her script for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend....She's never depicted on all fours. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a bright little girl with a heart of gold".

Hello Kitty has taken the world by storm since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous worldwide, adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even sold a specially branded Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face etched into the glass and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators designed the character's face to epitomise cuteness. Sanrio account for her lack of a mouth, saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been abuzz with the revelation that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."

Sources: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2014/08/28/newsflash-hello-kitty-has-never-been-a-cat/>  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/28/world/asia/hello-kitty-revelation/>  
<http://nypost.com/2014/08/28/hello-kitty-bombshell-shes-not-a-cat/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. HELLO KITTY:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Hello Kitty. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

*cartoon characters / set the record straight / iconic / exhibition / bright / heart of gold / ubiquitous / chopsticks / upholstery / gear stick / cuteness / social media / revelation*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. CARTOON CHARACTERS:** Are these characters good for children? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Character	Reasons why good for children	Reasons why bad for children
Hello Kitty		
Mickey Mouse		
Pikachu		
Superman		
Lisa Simpson		
Tintin		

**4. SHE'S A CAT:** Students A **strongly** believe Hello Kitty is a cat; Students B **strongly** believe she isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. CARTOONS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Hello Kitty
- Popeye
- Tintin
- The Simpsons
- Pokemon
- Spiderman
- Tom and Jerry
- Pink Panther

**6. ICONIC:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "iconic". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. A Japanese toymaker has told the truth about Hello Kitty.        | T / F |
| b. The toymaker set the record straight for an upcoming exhibition. | T / F |
| c. An archeologist is curating an exhibition on Hello Kitty.        | T / F |
| d. Hello Kitty is often seen walking like a cat, on all fours.      | T / F |
| e. The Hello Kitty character began 40 years ago.                    | T / F |
| f. A Japanese carmaker sold a Hello Kitty edition car.              | T / F |
| g. Hello Kitty's mouth is heart shaped.                             | T / F |
| h. Hello Kitty was based on the Disney character Pluto.             | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. creators      | a. portrayed   |
| 2. declared      | b. decorating  |
| 3. came to light | c. intelligent |
| 4. depicted      | d. everywhere  |
| 5. bright        | e. disclosure  |
| 6. ubiquitous    | f. engraved    |
| 7. adorning      | g. originators |
| 8. etched        | h. embody      |
| 9. epitomise     | i. emerged     |
| 10. revelation   | j. announced   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the world's most widely-        | a. ubiquitous           |
| 2. its iconic                      | b. with a heart of gold |
| 3. publicity for an upcoming       | c. cuteness             |
| 4. She's never depicted on         | d. recognised cartoon   |
| 5. a bright little girl            | e. by storm             |
| 6. Hello Kitty has taken the world | f. all fours            |
| 7. It has become                   | g. Hello Kitty car      |
| 8. a specially branded             | h. creation             |
| 9. epitomise                       | i. with the revelation  |
| 10. Social media has been abuzz    | j. exhibition           |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creators of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters have set the record (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Japanese toymaker Sanrio have declared that its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came to light following (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for an upcoming exhibition on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_, anthropologist Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend....She's never (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on all (7) \_\_\_\_\_. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ little girl with a heart of gold".

*script*  
*bright*  
*iconic*  
*exhibition*  
*straight*  
*fours*  
*depicted*  
*publicity*

Hello Kitty has taken the world by (9) \_\_\_\_\_ since its introduction in 1974. It has become (10) \_\_\_\_\_ worldwide, adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even sold a specially (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned (12) \_\_\_\_\_, a speedometer with the character's face (13) \_\_\_\_\_ into the glass and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators designed the character's face to epitomise (14) \_\_\_\_\_. Sanrio account for her (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of a mouth, saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been abuzz with the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."

*upholstery*  
*lack*  
*branded*  
*cuteness*  
*storm*  
*etched*  
*ubiquitous*  
*revelation*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

- 1) one of the world's most widely-\_\_\_\_\_ characters
  - a. recognised cartoon
  - b. recognises cartoon
  - c. recognise cartoon
  - d. recognising cartoon
- 2) The bombshell came to light following publicity for an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. up-and-coming exhibition
  - b. unbecoming exhibition
  - c. upcoming exhibition
  - d. up come in exhibition
- 3) she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. slipped for the show
  - b. snipped for the show
  - c. script for the show
  - d. shipped for the show
- 4) She is a friend....She's never depicted \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on all four
  - b. on every fours
  - c. on two four
  - d. on all fours
- 5) Kitty is a bright little girl with a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. heart for gold
  - b. heart free gold
  - c. heart of gold
  - d. heart from gold
- 6) Hello Kitty has taken the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. world by stormy
  - b. world by storms
  - c. world by storm
  - d. world by stormed
- 7) The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even sold a \_\_\_\_\_ Hello Kitty car
  - a. specially branded
  - b. specially brand it
  - c. specially bland
  - d. specially blended
- 8) a speedometer with the character's face etched \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. into the grass
  - b. onto the glass
  - c. into the glass
  - d. onto the grass
- 9) The creators designed the character's face to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. epitomise cute nest
  - b. epitomises cuteness
  - c. epitomises cute nest
  - d. epitomise cuteness
- 10) Social media has been abuzz with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the revelation
  - b. a revelation
  - c. all revelation
  - d. this revelation

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creators of one of the world's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ cartoon characters have set (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Japanese toymaker Sanrio have declared that its iconic creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came to light following publicity for an (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator of the exhibition, anthropologist Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend....She's never (5) \_\_\_\_\_. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a bright little girl (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Hello Kitty has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous worldwide, adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators designed the character's face (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Sanrio account for (11) \_\_\_\_\_, saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart. Social (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with the revelation that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

1. What did the company Sanrio set straight?

---

2. What is happening at a national museum?

---

3. What is the profession of the exhibition curator?

---

4. In what position is Hello Kitty never shown?

---

5. What kind of heart did Sanrio say Hello Kitty has?

---

6. When was Hello Kitty introduced to the world?

---

7. Where on a specially branded car was Hello Kitty's face engraved?

---

8. What did Sanrio say Hello Kitty's face epitomised?

---

9. Why does Hello Kitty have no mouth?

---

10. What did a rapper say finding out about this news was worse than?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

1. What did the company Sanrio set straight?
  - a) Hello Kitty's whiskers
  - b) a statistic
  - c) a CD
  - d) the record
2. What is happening at a national museum?
  - a) the building of a Kitty-shaped building
  - b) a Hello Kitty exhibition
  - c) an exhibition on cuteness
  - d) Hello Kitty's wedding
3. What is the profession of the exhibition curator?
  - a) an apologist
  - b) an anaesthesiologist
  - c) an archaeologist
  - d) an anthropologist
4. In what position is Hello Kitty never shown?
  - a) on her head
  - b) flat on her face
  - c) on all fours
  - d) upside down
5. What kind of heart did Sanrio say Hello Kitty has?
  - a) a big one
  - b) a pink one
  - c) the largest heart in the world
  - d) a heart of gold
6. When was Hello Kitty introduced to the world?
  - a) 1954
  - b) 1964
  - c) 1974
  - d) 1984
7. Where on a specially branded car was Hello Kitty's face engraved?
  - a) a speedometer
  - b) the windscreen (UK) / windshield (USA)
  - c) the boot (UK) / trunk (USA)
  - d) the bonnet (UK) / hood (USA)
8. What did Sanrio say Hello Kitty's face epitomised?
  - a) the 21st century
  - b) ubiquity
  - c) cuteness
  - d) cats
9. Why does Hello Kitty have no mouth?
  - a) the creators forgot to give her one
  - b) she speaks with her heart
  - c) she doesn't need to eat
  - d) she's the silent type
10. What did a rapper say finding out about Kitty was worse than discovering?
  - a) discovering Pluto is not a planet
  - b) Pluto being a dog
  - c) Pluto being based on Plato
  - d) Pluto becoming Kitty's boyfriend

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

## **Role A – Hello Kitty**

You think Hello Kitty is the best cartoon character. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their characters. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Minnie Mouse, Wonder Woman or Bubbles from the Powerpuff Girls.

## **Role B – Minnie Mouse**

You think Minnie Mouse is the best cartoon character. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their characters. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Hello Kitty, Wonder Woman or Bubbles from the Powerpuff Girls.

## **Role C – Wonder Woman**

You think Wonder Woman is the best cartoon character. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their characters. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Minnie Mouse, Hello Kitty or Bubbles from the Powerpuff Girls.

## **Role D – Bubbles (Powerpuff Girls)**

You think Bubbles from the Powerpuff Girls is the best cartoon character. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their characters. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Minnie Mouse, Wonder Woman or Hello Kitty.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'hello' and 'kitty'.

hello	kitty

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• widely</li><li>• upcoming</li><li>• mail</li><li>• never</li><li>• sits</li><li>• gold</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• storm</li><li>• car</li><li>• glass</li><li>• lack</li><li>• media</li><li>• worse</li></ul>
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# HELLO KITTY SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Hello Kitty 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.

# HELLO KITTY DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'cartoon'?
- c) What do you know about Hello Kitty?
- d) Is there anything wrong about cartoon characters?
- e) Who is your favourite cartoon character?
- f) Why do you think Hello Kitty became so iconic?
- g) Would you like to see an exhibition on Hello Kitty?
- h) Are Disney characters the best?
- i) What do you think of goods branded with cartoons?
- j) This is a widely reported story. Why is it news?

*Hello Kitty is a girl, not a cat – 31st August, 2014*  
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# HELLO KITTY DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you think of Hello Kitty?
- c) Why do adults like cartoon characters?
- d) Do you buy anything adorned with cartoon characters?
- e) What do you think of the idea of a Hello Kitty branded car?
- f) What is the world's cutest cartoon character?
- g) What makes a character cute?
- h) Should there be more scary characters?
- i) Is finding out that Hello Kitty is not a cat worse than discovering Pluto is not a planet?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Sanrio's boss?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters have set the record straight. Japanese toymaker Sanrio have declared that its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator of the exhibition, anthropologist Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio (4) \_\_\_\_\_ her script for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend....She's never (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on all fours. She walks and sits like a two-(6) \_\_\_\_\_ creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a bright little girl with a heart of gold".

Hello Kitty has taken the world by (7) \_\_\_\_\_ since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous worldwide, adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even sold a specially (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face etched (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the glass and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators designed the character's face to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ cuteness. Sanrio account for her (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of a mouth, saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been abuzz with the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                |                |                  |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) creatures  | (b) creators   | (c) curators   | (d) procreators  |
| 2.  | (a) ironic     | (b) iconic     | (c) laconic    | (d) platonic     |
| 3.  | (a) heart      | (b) sound      | (c) heat       | (d) light        |
| 4.  | (a) coercing   | (b) correcting | (c) collecting | (d) connecting   |
| 5.  | (a) restricted | (b) depicted   | (c) deployed   | (d) conflicted   |
| 6.  | (a) leggy      | (b) leggings   | (c) legged     | (d) legless      |
| 7.  | (a) tempest    | (b) lightning  | (c) storm      | (d) cloudburst   |
| 8.  | (a) blended    | (b) bandied    | (c) branded    | (d) banded       |
| 9.  | (a) as         | (b) up         | (c) from       | (d) into         |
| 10. | (a) epitomise  | (b) randomise  | (c) fantasise  | (d) eulogise     |
| 11. | (a) lack       | (b) deficient  | (c) enough     | (d) dearth       |
| 12. | (a) depiction  | (b) exhibition | (c) revelation | (d) introduction |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. most widely-iodnesregc (UK) / erigcdnzoe (USA)
2. its iconic tirnaceo
3. The hbosmlbe came to light
4. an upcoming oiiintbexh
5. She's never eedpdcit on all fours
6. sits like a two-legged euarctre

## Paragraph 2

7. It has become jobsutiquu worldwide
8. gndnoari everything
9. It had Kitty-enmbezolda upholstery,
10. ctehed into the glass
11. oteepmiis (UK) / pmztoeeii (USA) cuteness
12. media has been abuzz with the avnlotieer



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) one because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been abuzz with the revelation
- ( ) creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a bright little girl with a heart of gold."
- ( ) straight. Japanese toymaker Sanrio have declared that its iconic creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came to
- ( ) script for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a
- ( ) worldwide, adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even sold
- ( ) friend....She's never depicted on all fours. She walks and sits like a two-legged
- ( **1** ) The creators of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters have set the record
- ( ) into the glass and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators designed the character's face to epitomise
- ( ) a specially branded Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face etched
- ( ) light following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator
- ( ) Hello Kitty has taken the world by storm since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous
- ( ) cuteness. Sanrio account for her lack of a mouth, saying she doesn't have
- ( ) of the exhibition, anthropologist Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her
- ( ) that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

1. widely - The recognised world's cartoon most characters.

---

2. publicity following light to came bombshell The.

---

3. a Sanrio script received from her She mail correcting.

---

4. creature She walks and sits like a two - legged.

---

5. a with girl little bright a is Kitty gold of heart.

---

6. storm taken the Hello world Kitty by has.

---

7. adorning become everything ubiquitous worldwide It , has.

---

8. etched face character's The glass the into.

---

9. the has revelation been abuzz Social with media.

---

10. is planet than Pluto a Worse out not finding.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creators of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters have set the record *narrow / straight*. Japanese toymaker Sanrio have declared that its *ironic / iconic* creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The *bombproof / bombshell* came to light following *publicly / publicity* for an upcoming *exhibition / exhibitor* on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator of the exhibition, *anthropology / anthropologist* Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her *scripture / script* for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a *friend / fiend*....She's never depicted on all *fours / twos*. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a *bright / brightly* little girl with a heart of gold".

Hello Kitty has taken the world by *tempest / storm* since its introduction in 1974. It has become *ubiquitous / ubiquity* worldwide, adorning everything *for / from* chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese carmaker Daihatsu even sold a specially *branded / bland* Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned *upholstery / upholsterer*, a speedometer with the character's face *fetched / etched* into the glass and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators designed the character's face to epitomise *cutie / cuteness*. Sanrio account for her *lack / slack* of a mouth, saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been *abuzz / buzzed* with the revelation that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a *planet / planetary*."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

Th\_ cr\_\_t\_rs \_f \_n\_ \_f th\_ w\_rld's m\_st w\_d\_ly-  
r\_c\_gn\_s\_d c\_rt\_n ch\_r\_ct\_rs h\_v\_ s\_t th\_ r\_c\_r\_d  
str\_\_ght. J\_p\_n\_s\_ t\_ym\_k\_r S\_nr\_\_ h\_v\_ d\_cl\_r\_d  
th\_t \_ts \_c\_n\_c cr\_\_t\_\_n H\_ll\_ K\_tty \_s n\_t \_c\_t. Th\_  
b\_mbsh\_ll c\_m\_ t\_ l\_gh\_t f\_ll\_w\_ng p\_bl\_c\_ty f\_r\_n  
\_pc\_m\_ng \_xh\_b\_t\_n \_n th\_ ch\_r\_ct\_r \_t th\_  
J\_p\_n\_s\_ \_m\_r\_c\_n N\_t\_\_n\_l M\_s\_\_m. Th\_ c\_r\_t\_r\_f  
th\_ \_xh\_b\_t\_n, \_nthr\_p\_l\_g\_st Chr\_st\_n\_ R\_Y\_n\_,  
s\_\_d sh\_r\_c\_\_v\_d \_m\_\_l fr\_m S\_nr\_\_ c\_rr\_ct\_ng h\_r  
scr\_pt f\_r th\_ sh\_w. Ms Y\_n\_ c\_nf\_rm\_d th\_t: "H\_ll\_  
K\_tty \_s n\_t \_c\_t. Sh\_ \_s \_l\_ttl\_ g\_rl. Sh\_ \_s \_  
fr\_\_nd...Sh\_'s n\_v\_r d\_p\_ct\_d \_n \_ll f\_\_rs. Sh\_ w\_lks  
\_nd s\_ts l\_k\_ \_ tw\_-l\_gg\_d cr\_\_t\_r\_." Th\_ S\_nr\_\_  
w\_bs\_t\_st\_t\_s K\_tty \_s "\_ br\_gh\_t l\_ttl\_ g\_rl w\_th \_  
h\_\_rt \_f\_g\_ld".

H\_ll\_ K\_tty h\_s t\_k\_n th\_ w\_rld by st\_rm s\_nc\_\_ts  
\_ntr\_d\_ct\_\_n \_n 1974. \_t h\_s b\_c\_m\_ \_b\_q\_\_t\_\_s  
w\_rldw\_d\_, \_d\_rn\_ng \_v\_ryth\_ng fr\_m ch\_pst\_cks t\_  
\_\_rpl\_n\_s. Th\_ J\_p\_n\_s\_ c\_rm\_k\_r D\_\_h\_ts\_ \_v\_n\_s\_ld  
\_sp\_c\_\_lly br\_nd\_d H\_ll\_ K\_tty c\_r. \_t h\_d K\_tty-  
\_mbl\_z\_n\_d \_ph\_lst\_ry, \_sp\_d\_m\_t\_r w\_th th\_  
ch\_r\_ct\_r's f\_c\_\_tch\_d \_nt\_ th\_ gl\_ss \_nd \_K\_tty-  
sh\_p\_d g\_\_r st\_ck. Th\_ cr\_\_t\_rs d\_s\_gn\_d th\_  
ch\_r\_ct\_r's f\_c\_\_t\_\_p\_t\_m\_s\_ c\_t\_n\_ss. S\_nr\_\_  
\_cc\_\_nt f\_r h\_r l\_ck \_f\_\_m\_\_th, s\_y\_ng sh\_d\_\_sn't  
h\_v\_ \_n\_ b\_c\_\_s\_ sh\_sp\_\_ks w\_th h\_r h\_\_rt. S\_c\_\_l  
m\_d\_\_h\_s\_b\_\_n\_b\_zz w\_th th\_r\_v\_l\_t\_\_n th\_t K\_tty  
\_s \_g\_rl. R\_pp\_r M\_k\_ Sh\_n\_d tw\_\_t\_d: "Th\_s \_s  
w\_rs\_ th\_n f\_nd\_ng \_\_t Pl\_t\_\_s n\_t \_pl\_n\_t."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

the creators of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters have set the record straight japanese toymaker sanrio have declared that its iconic creation hello kitty is not a cat the bombshell came to light following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at the japanese american national museum the curator of the exhibition anthropologist christine r yano said she received a mail from sanrio correcting her script for the show ms yano confirmed that "hello kitty is not a cat she is a little girl she is a friend...she's never depicted on all fours she walks and sits like a two-legged creature" the sanrio website states kitty is "a bright little girl with a heart of gold"

hello kitty has taken the world by storm since its introduction in 1974 it has become ubiquitous worldwide adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes the japanese carmaker daihatsu even sold a specially branded hello kitty car it had kitty-emblazoned upholstery a speedometer with the character's face etched into the glass and a kitty-shaped gear stick the creators designed the character's face to epitomise cuteness sanrio account for her lack of a mouth saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart social media has been abuzz with the revelation that kitty is a girl rapper mike shinoda tweeted "this is worse than finding out pluto is not a planet"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creator of one of the world's most widely-recognised cartoon characters has set the record straight. Japanese toy maker Sanrio has declared that its iconic creation Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came to light following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at the Japanese American National Museum. The curator of the exhibition, anthropologist Christine Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her script for the show. Ms Yano confirmed that: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend.... She's never depicted on all fours. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." The Sanrio website states Kitty is "a bright little girl with a heart of gold". Hello Kitty has taken the world by storm since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous worldwide, adorning everything from chopsticks to airplanes. The Japanese car maker Daihatsu even sold a specially branded Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty-emblazoned upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face etched into the glass and a Kitty-shaped gearstick. The creators designed the character's face to epitomise cuteness. Sanrio accounts for her lack of a mouth, saying she doesn't have one because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been a buzz with the revelation that Kitty is a girl. Rapper Mike Shinoda tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."



# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

Hello Kitty is not a cat. Discuss.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Hello Kitty. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HELLO KITTY:** Make a poster about Hello Kitty. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. NOT A CAT:** Write a magazine article about whether or not Hello Kitty is a cat of a little girl. Include imaginary interviews with people who think she's a cat and people who think she's a small girl.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a Hello Kitty expert. Ask him/her three questions about Hello Kitty. Give him/her three of your opinions on her. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T    b T    c F    d F    e T    f T    g F    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. creators      | a. originators |
| 2. declared      | b. announced   |
| 3. came to light | c. emerged     |
| 4. depicted      | d. portrayed   |
| 5. bright        | e. intelligent |
| 6. ubiquitous    | f. everywhere  |
| 7. adorning      | g. decorating  |
| 8. etched        | h. engraved    |
| 9. epitomise     | i. embody      |
| 10. revelation   | j. disclosure  |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The record
2. A Hello Kitty exhibition
3. An anthropologist
4. On all fours
5. A heart of gold
6. 1974
7. The speedometer
8. Cuteness
9. She speaks with her heart
10. That Pluto didn't exist

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d    2. b    3. d    4. c    5. d    6. c    7. a    8. c    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)