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Level 5 – 20th September, 2019

The word 'they' is now also a singular pronoun

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-5.html>

The company Merriam-Webster has added a new definition of the pronoun "they" to its Webster's Dictionary. It lists the word "they" as referring to a "single person whose gender identity is non-binary". This is good news for non-binary people - those who identify neither as male nor female. Many institutions already use a gender-neutral option on their official forms. More local governments, schools and airlines are introducing the choice of "X" for people who do not consider themselves as male or female, and for gender fluid people who switch between genders.

Merriam-Webster stated that the use of "they" for "he" or "she" recognizes people who did not "conform to an expected gender expression, or who seemed to be neither male nor female". It said it "struggled" to describe these people with the right pronouns. It says the word "they" was used as a singular pronoun in the late 1300s. Shakespeare used it in this way in the 17th century. In 1898, a playwright wrote in his play Antony and Cleopatra that: "No man goes to battle to be killed....But they do get killed." Many people use the singular "they" in casual conversation today.

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2019/09/17/merriam-webster-adds-non-binary-pronoun-they-dictionary/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/17/us/merriam-webster-nonbinary-pronoun-they-trnd/index.html>
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/they>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. added a new definition of the | a. binary people |
| 2. referring | b. people |
| 3. non- | c. of "X" |
| 4. local | d. between genders |
| 5. introducing the choice | e. pronoun |
| 6. consider themselves | f. to a single person |
| 7. gender fluid | g. governments |
| 8. switch | h. as male or female |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. people who did not | a. in this way |
| 2. be neither male | b. singular "they" |
| 3. it struggled to describe these | c. nor female |
| 4. used as a singular pronoun in | d. conversation |
| 5. Shakespeare used it | e. people |
| 6. No man goes to battle | f. the late 1300s |
| 7. Many people use the | g. to be killed |
| 8. in casual | h. conform |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-5.html>

The company Merriam-Webster has added (1) _____ of the pronoun "they" to its Webster's Dictionary. It lists the word "they" as referring to a "single person (2) _____ is non-binary". This is good news for non-binary people - those (3) _____ as male nor female. Many institutions already use a gender-neutral option on (4) _____. More local governments, schools and airlines are introducing the choice of "X" for people who (5) _____ themselves as male or female, and for gender fluid people who (6) _____.

Merriam-Webster stated that the use of "they" for "he" or "she" (7) _____ did not "conform to an expected gender expression, or who seemed to (8) _____ nor female". It said it "struggled" to describe these people with (9) _____. It says the word "they" was used as (10) _____ in the late 1300s. Shakespeare used it in this way in the 17th century. In 1898, a playwright wrote in his play Antony and Cleopatra that: "No man (11) _____ to be killed....But they do get killed." Many people use the singular "they" (12) _____ today.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-5.html>

The company Merriam-Webster has added a new definition of the pronoun "they" to its Webster's Dictionary. It lists the word "they" as referring to a "single person whose gender identity is non-binary". This is good news for non-binary people - those who identify neither as male nor female. Many institutions already use a gender-neutral option on their official forms. More local governments, schools and airlines are introducing the choice of "X" for people who do not consider themselves as male or female, and for genderfluid people who switch between genders. Merriam-Webster stated that the use of "they" for "he" or "she" recognizes people who do not conform to an expected gender expression, or whose identity is neither male nor female". It said it "struggled" to describe these people with the right pronouns. It says the word "they" was used as a singular pronoun in the late 1300s. Shakespeare used it in this way in the 17th century. In 1898, a playwright wrote in his play Antony and Cleopatra that: "No man goes to battle to be killed.... But they do get killed." Many people use the singular "they" in casual conversation today.

PRONOUNS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pronouns 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) _____

