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**Level 5 – 5th December, 2019**

## **Apostrophe Protection Society says goodbye**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191205-apostrophe-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191205-apostrophe-5.html>

A man who promoted the use of the apostrophe has quit his decades-long battle. John Richards, 96, was chairman of the Apostrophe Protection Society. This started in 2001 to encourage better writing and understanding of the apostrophe. Mr Richards wrote: "Fewer organisations and individuals are now caring about the correct use of the apostrophe in English. We...have done our best but the ignorance and laziness present in modern times have won." He added: "Over the years we have heard from thousands of supporters...but the barbarians have won."

Mr Richards started the society after seeing the "same mistakes over and over again". He wanted to highlight people's mistakes. He hoped half a dozen people would join him, but he received support and 500 letters from all over the world within a month. Mr Richards' biggest beef was people not using the apostrophe at all. He criticised big companies for this. In the UK, companies like Lloyds Bank stopped using the apostrophe in their names. Maybe Mr Richards was happy with the burger chain McDonald's but not with Starbucks.

Sources: <https://metro.co.uk/2019/12/02/society-protect-apostrophes-shuts-barbarians-11252244/>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/apostrophe-protection-society-john-richards-grammar-lazy-a9229106.html>  
<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/apostrophe-warrior-gives-up-fight/news-story/04b0858fcec41e6ea4477046d0fa8f09>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191205-apostrophe-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. quit his decades-            | a. of supporters     |
| 2. encourage                    | b. laziness          |
| 3. the correct use              | c. have won          |
| 4. ignorance and                | d. long battle       |
| 5. in modern                    | e. years             |
| 6. Over the                     | f. of the apostrophe |
| 7. we have heard from thousands | g. better writing    |
| 8. the barbarians               | h. times             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. seeing the same mistakes over | a. from all over the world |
| 2. highlight people's            | b. dozen people            |
| 3. half a                        | c. the apostrophe          |
| 4. 500 letters                   | d. and over again          |
| 5. within a                      | e. beef                    |
| 6. Mr Richards' biggest          | f. for this                |
| 7. He criticised big companies   | g. mistakes                |
| 8. stopped using                 | h. month                   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191205-apostrophe-5.html>

A man (1) \_\_\_\_\_ use of the apostrophe has quit his decades-long battle. John Richards, 96, was chairman of the Apostrophe Protection Society. This started in 2001 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ writing and understanding of the apostrophe. Mr Richards wrote: "Fewer organisations (3) \_\_\_\_\_ now caring about the correct use of the apostrophe in English. We...have done our best (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and laziness present in modern times have won." He added: "(5) \_\_\_\_\_ we have heard from thousands of supporters...but the (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

Mr Richards started the society after seeing the "same (7) \_\_\_\_\_ over again". He wanted to highlight people's mistakes. He hoped (8) \_\_\_\_\_ people would join him, but he received support and 500 letters from all over the world (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Richards' (10) \_\_\_\_\_ people not using the apostrophe at all. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ companies for this. In the UK, companies like Lloyds Bank stopped using the apostrophe in their names. Maybe Mr Richards was happy with (12) \_\_\_\_\_ McDonald's but not with Starbucks.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191205-apostrophe-5.html>

A man who promoted the use of the apostrophe has quit his decades-long battle. John Richards, 96, was chairman of the Apostrophe Protection Society. This started in 2001 to encourage better writing and understanding of the apostrophe. Mr Richards wrote: "Fewer organisations and individuals are now caring about the correct use of the apostrophe in English. We... have done our best but the ignorance and laziness present in modern times have won." He added: "Over the years we have heard from thousands of supporters... but the barbarians have won." Mr Richards started the society after seeing the "same mistakes over and over again". He wanted to highlight people's mistakes. He hoped half a dozen people would join him, but he received support and 500 letters from all over the world within a month. Mr Richards' biggest beef was people not using the apostrophe at all. He criticised big companies for this. In the UK, companies like Lloyds Bank stopped using the apostrophe in their names. Maybe Mr Richards was happy with the burger chain McDonald's but not with Starbucks.

# THE APOSTROPHE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191205-apostrophe-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the apostrophe 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Apostrophe Protection Society says goodbye – 5th December, 2019*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://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) \_\_\_\_\_

