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Level 3 – 10th September, 2020

Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID'

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Pope Francis has said gossiping is worse than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that divides communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who is seeking to create division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his weekly blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope has regularly spoken about the dangers of gossiping, especially on social media. He advises people not to listen to Internet trolls, saying: "If something goes wrong, offer silence and prayer for the brother or sister who make a mistake, but never gossip."

The Pope was making his first public audience since the pandemic started. His latest speech on gossip is not the first time he has made strong remarks on the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He urged people to resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get an urge to say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, bite your tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject up again. He told worshippers in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers and busybodies."

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pope-francis-declares-gossiping-is-a-plague-worse-than-covid/>
<https://www.inforum.com/entertainment/television/6650375-Pope-says-gossiping-is-a-worse-plague-than-coronavirus>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/06/europe/pope-gossip-coronavirus-intl-scli/index.html>

WARM-UPS

1. GOSSIP: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about gossip. 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?

gossiping / communities / the devil / division / blessing / plague / COVID-19 / trolls / audience / pandemic / speech / terrorism / urge / lethal / tongue / knife / busybodies

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

3. ILLEGAL: Students A **strongly** believe gossip should be made illegal; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. TOPICS: How "juicy" are these topics of gossip? How interested are you in them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | How "Juicy"? | How Interested? |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Celebrity news | | |
| Old school friends | | |
| The boss | | |
| Celebrities | | |
| In-laws | | |
| Relationships | | |

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

6. GOSSIPING: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things to gossip about at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- movie stars
- neighbours
- other students
- the boss
- teachers
- best friends
- a spouse
- celebrities

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. communities | a. The biggest evil spirit. |
| 2. devil | b. Things people say that are not true. |
| 3. division | c. Groups of people living in the same place. |
| 4. lies | d. Happening at the same times each time. |
| 5. plague | e. A disease that spreads rapidly and kills many people. |
| 6. regularly | f. A chat with a god to ask for help or to say "thank you". |
| 7. prayer | g. Disagreement between two or more groups, usually producing anger. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. public | h. Somebody who always wants to know everything about you. |
| 9. audience | i. Say something as a comment; mention. |
| 10. pandemic | j. The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise. |
| 11. remark | k. About all people in a town or country. |
| 12. temptation | l. All of the people at a public event, such as a play, movie, concert, or meeting. |
| 13. lethal | m. Deadly; can kill you. |
| 14. busybody | n. Of a disease prevalent over a whole country or the whole world. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

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

- a. Pope Francis said communities divide gossiping. **T / F**
- b. Francis said the biggest gossiper was the devil. **T / F**
- c. Francis advised people to listen to trolls on the Internet. **T / F**
- d. The Pope suggested praying and being quiet if something goes wrong. **T / F**
- e. The Pope made his first speech in public for many months. **T / F**
- f. The Pope suggested gossip was a form of terrorism. **T / F**
- g. Francis suggested biting one's tongue if there is an urge to gossip. **T / F**
- h. Francis said the tongue is deadly and kills like a virus. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. danger | a. comments |
| 2. divides | b. pandemic |
| 3. plague | c. topic |
| 4. advises | d. talk |
| 5. silence | e. risk |
| 6. speech | f. mischief-makers |
| 7. remarks | g. quiet |
| 8. temptation | h. splits |
| 9. subject | i. desire |
| 10. busybodies | j. recommends |

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

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. He said gossip is a danger that divides | a. about the dangers |
| 2. Let's make a big | b. up again |
| 3. The Pope has regularly spoken | c. public audience |
| 4. He advises people not to listen | d. communities |
| 5. If something goes | e. and busybodies |
| 6. The Pope was making his first | f. to Internet trolls |
| 7. the first time he has made | g. resist the temptation |
| 8. He urged people to | h. effort |
| 9. Two years later he brought the subject | i. wrong |
| 10. Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers | j. strong remarks |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Pope Francis has said gossiping is worse than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that (1) _____ communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who is seeking to (2) _____ division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his (3) _____ blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip is a (4) _____ worse than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope has (5) _____ spoken about the dangers of gossiping, especially on social media. He advises people not to listen to Internet (6) _____, saying: "If something goes wrong, offer silence and (7) _____ for the brother or sister who make a (8) _____, but never gossip."

trolls
prayer
divides
mistake
plague
create
regularly
weekly

The Pope was making his first public (9) _____ since the pandemic started. His latest (10) _____ on gossip is not the first time he has made strong remarks on the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the (11) _____ of gossip". He urged people to resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get an (12) _____ to say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip (13) _____, bite your tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the (14) _____ up again. He told worshippers in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "because the (15) _____ kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers and (16) _____."

terrorism
tongue
speech
bomb
busybodies
audience
subject
urge

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

- 1) He said gossip is a danger that _____
 - a. division communities
 - b. divide communities
 - c. dividers communities
 - d. divides communities
- 2) the "biggest gossip" who is seeking to create division _____
 - a. with his lays
 - b. with his lies
 - c. with his lees
 - d. with his lines
- 3) The Pope has regularly spoken about the dangers of gossiping, especially _____
 - a. on socially medium
 - b. on social media
 - c. in socials media
 - d. in social medium
- 4) He advises people not to listen to _____
 - a. Internet trolls
 - b. Internet tools
 - c. Internet trails
 - d. Internet strolls
- 5) If something goes wrong, offer _____
 - a. silent and prepare
 - b. silos end player
 - c. silence and prayer
 - d. sigh lance and prior
- 6) The Pope was making his first public audience since the _____
 - a. pandemic start it
 - b. pandemic star tad
 - c. pandemic start tad
 - d. pandemic started
- 7) His latest speech on gossip is not the first time he has made _____
 - a. strength remark
 - b. strongly remakes
 - c. strong remarks
 - d. storing remarks
- 8) In 2016, he warned people not _____ terrorism
 - a. too few the
 - b. two few the
 - c. to fuel the
 - d. tooth fuel the
- 9) urge to say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, _____
 - a. bit your tong
 - b. bait your tang
 - c. bite your tongue
 - d. bitten your ton
- 10) Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers _____
 - a. and business bees
 - b. and busy bodice
 - c. and busybodies
 - d. and bees' abodes

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Pope Francis has said (1) _____ than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that divides communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who is seeking (2) _____ with his lies. The Pope spoke (3) _____ of gossiping during his weekly blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip is (4) _____ than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope has regularly spoken about (5) _____ gossiping, especially on social media. He advises people not to listen to Internet trolls, saying: "If something goes wrong, (6) _____ prayer for the brother or sister who make a mistake, but never gossip."

The Pope was making his first (7) _____ the pandemic started. His latest speech on gossip is not the first time he has (8) _____ on the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He (9) _____ resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get (10) _____ say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, (11) _____. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject up again. He told worshippers in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "because the tongue kills, (12) _____. ". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers and busybodies."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

1. What did Pope Francis say gossip divides?
2. Who did Pope Francis say was the biggest gossiper?
3. What kind of effort did the Pope ask people to make?
4. Where did the Pope say gossip was particularly dangerous?
5. What did the Pope say people should offer if something goes wrong?
6. What caused the Pope to stop making his public audiences?
7. What did the Pope say we should not fuel?
8. What did the Pope say we should bite if we have an urge to gossip?
9. What did the Pope say the tongue can kill like?
10. What did a woman say gossips were besides scandalmongers?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

- 1) What did Pope Francis say gossip divides?
 - a) communities
 - b) doctors
 - c) the world
 - d) religious leaders
- 2) Who did Pope Francis say was the biggest gossiper?
 - a) his best friend
 - b) a man in Australia
 - c) the devil
 - d) a journalist
- 3) What kind of effort did the Pope ask people to make?
 - a) a mighty effort
 - b) a good effort
 - c) a poor effort
 - d) a big effort
- 4) Where did the Pope say gossip was particularly dangerous?
 - a) in churches
 - b) on social media
 - c) in restaurants
 - d) in schools
- 5) What did the Pope say people should offer if something goes wrong?
 - a) prayer and silence
 - b) money
 - c) advice and help
 - d) bright ideas
- 6) What caused the Pope to stop making his public audiences?
 - a) poor health
 - b) a lack of time
 - c) gossip
 - d) the pandemic
- 7) What did the Pope say we should not fuel?
 - a) petrol cars
 - b) hate
 - c) the terrorism of gossip
 - d) log fires
- 8) What did the Pope say we should bite if we have an urge to gossip?
 - a) a piece of meat
 - b) our tongue
 - c) our fingers
 - d) the dust
- 9) What did the Pope say the tongue can kill like?
 - a) a virus
 - b) an assassin
 - c) a knife
 - d) the wind
- 10) What did a woman say gossips were besides scandalmongers?
 - a) mischief-makers
 - b) busybodies
 - c) meddlers
 - d) troublemakers

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Role A – Neighbours

You think neighbours are the worst people to gossip about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad to gossip about their people. Also, tell the others which is the most fun of these to gossip about (and why): other students, bosses or friends.

Role B – Other Students

You think other students are the worst people to gossip about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad to gossip about their people. Also, tell the others which is the most fun of these to gossip about (and why): neighbours, bosses or friends.

Role C – Bosses

You think bosses are the worst people to gossip about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad to gossip about their people. Also, tell the others which is the most fun of these to gossip about (and why): other students, neighbours or friends.

Role D – Friends

You think friends are the worst people to gossip about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad to gossip about their people. Also, tell the others which is the most fun of these to gossip about (and why): other students, bosses or neighbours.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

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

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| gossip | danger |
|---------------|---------------|

- 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">• divides• create• weekly• big• trolls• mistake | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• topic• resist• bite• lethal• nothing |
|--|--|

GOSSIP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gossip 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.

GOSSIP DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'gossip'?
3. What do you know about Pope Francis?
4. What do you think of gossip?
5. What do you think of people who gossip?
6. How much of a gossip are you?
7. Why might the Pope think gossip is worse than COVID-19?
8. When was the last time someone gossiped about you?
9. What do you think of people who gossip on social media?
10. Is it better to pray than to gossip?

Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID' – 10th September, 2020
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GOSSIP DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'COVID'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How do you feel if you are the subject of gossip?
15. Do you like gossip about movie stars and celebrities?
16. In what way might gossip be like terrorism?
17. When was the last time you had to bite your tongue?
18. Should gossip be made illegal?
19. Who is the biggest busybody you know?
20. What questions would you like to ask a huge gossip?

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Pope Francis has said gossiping is worse than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that (1) _____ communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who is seeking to create division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his (2) _____ blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's (3) _____ to not gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope has regularly (4) _____ about the dangers of gossiping, especially on social media. He (5) _____ people not to listen to Internet trolls, saying: "If something goes wrong, offer silence and prayer for the brother or sister who (6) _____ a mistake, but never gossip."

The Pope was making his first public audience (7) _____ the pandemic started. His latest speech on gossip is not the first time he has made strong remarks (8) _____ the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He urged people (9) _____ resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get an urge to say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, (10) _____ your tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject (11) _____ again. He told worshippers in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing (12) _____ scandalmongers and busybodies."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) divides | (b) invades | (c) imbibes | (d) recedes |
| 2. | (a) weeks | (b) week | (c) weekly | (d) weaken |
| 3. | (a) trail | (b) trial | (c) try | (d) tire |
| 4. | (a) speaks | (b) spoke | (c) speech | (d) spoken |
| 5. | (a) advice | (b) advisory | (c) advises | (d) advise |
| 6. | (a) do | (b) make | (c) be | (d) speak |
| 7. | (a) since | (b) for | (c) by | (d) such |
| 8. | (a) as | (b) on | (c) at | (d) to |
| 9. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) to | (d) at |
| 10. | (a) bites | (b) bitten | (c) bit | (d) bite |
| 11. | (a) off | (b) down | (c) on | (d) up |
| 12. | (a) however | (b) by | (c) as | (d) but |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a danger that divides mtesconuiim
2. seeking to create oidvnsii
3. during his klewye blessing at the Vatican
4. Gossip is a uapgle worse than COVID
5. not to listen to Internet torlsl
6. offer silence and earpyr

Paragraph 2

7. The Pope was making his first public cunaeedi
8. since the cnpemdia started
9. fuel the rirmorset of gossip
10. resist the tepoamtitn to spread gossip
11. gossip is elthla because the tongue kills
12. scandalmongers and uebysisobd

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican
- () the terrorism of gossip". He urged people to resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get an
- () on social media. He advises people not to listen to Internet trolls, saying: "If something goes
- () and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big
- () tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject up again. He told worshippers
- () effort. No gossiping." The Pope has regularly spoken about the dangers of gossiping, especially
- () The Pope was making his first public audience since the pandemic started. His latest speech
- () his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his weekly blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers
- () wrong, offer silence and prayer for the brother or sister who make a mistake, but never gossip."
- (**1**) Pope Francis has said gossiping is worse than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that divides
- () communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who is seeking to create division with
- () agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scandalmongers and busybodies."
- () urge to say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, bite your
- () on gossip is not the first time he has made strong remarks on the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

1. lies . his create to He's with seeking division
2. plague Gossip a than worse COVID . is
3. The Pope has spoken the regularly dangers . about
4. He trolls . people to advises listen not to
5. wrong, If prayer . goes offer silence and something
6. public since started . first the audience pandemic His
7. strong made has The he time remarks . first
8. you get urge an say something . If to
9. later brought up . Two subject the years he
10. kills . is tongue Gossip the because lethal

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Pope Francis has said gossiping is *worse / worst* than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that *divides / multiplies* communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossip" who is seeking to *creation / create* division with his lies. The Pope spoke about the dangers *of / at* gossiping during his weekly blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to *no / not* gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big *effort / efforts*. No gossiping." The Pope has regularly spoken about the dangers of gossiping, especially *at / on* social media. He advises people not to listen to Internet *tolls / trolls*, saying: "If something goes wrong, offer *noise / silence* and prayer for the brother or sister who *do / make* a mistake, but never gossip."

The Pope was *making / faking* his first public audience since the pandemic started. His latest *speak / speech* on gossip is not the first time he has made strong remarks *in / on* the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "*fuel / full* the terrorism of gossip". He urged people to resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you *get / do* an urge to say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, *bite / crunch* your tongue. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject *by / up* again. He told worshippers in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "*however / because* the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican *agreement / agreed*. She said: "Gossips are nothing *so / but* scandalmongers and busybodies."

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

P_p_ F r_n c_s h_s s__ d g_s s_p_n g _s w_r s_ t
h_n C O V I D - 1 9 . H_ s__ d g_s s_p _s _ d_n g_r
t h_t d_v_d_s c_m m_n_t__ s . H_ _d d_d t h_t t h_
d_v_l _s t h_ " b_g g_s t g_s s_p_r " w h_ s s__ k_n
g t_ c r__ t_ d_v_s__ n w_t h h_s l__ s . T h_
P_p_ s p_k_ _b__ t t h_ d_n g_r s _f g_s s_p_n g
d_r_n g h_s w__ k l y b l_s s_n g _t t h_ V_t_c_n .
H_ s__ d : " P l__ s_ b r_t h_r s _n d s_s t_r s , l_t '
s t r y t_ n_t g_s s_p . G_s s_p _s _ p l_g__ w_r
s_ t h_n C O V I D . W_r s_ . L_t 's m_k_ _ b_g _f
f_r t . N_ g_s s_p_n g . " T h_ P_p_ h_s r_g_l_r l y s
p_k_n _b__ t t h_ d_n g_r s _f g_s s_p_n g , _s p_c__
l l y _n s_c__ l m_d__ . H_ _d v_s_s p__ p l_ n_t t_
l_s t_n t_ I n t_r n_t t r_l l s , s_y_n g : " I f s_m_t
h_n g g__ s w_r_n g , _f f_r s_l_n c_ _n d p_r_y_r
f_r t h_ b_r_t h_r _r s_s t_r w h_ m_k_ _ m_s t_k_ ,
b_t n_v_r g_s s_p . "

T h_ P_p_ w_s m_k_n g h_s f_r s t p_b l_c __ d__ n
c_ s_n c_ t h_ p_n d_m_c s t_r t_d . H_s l_t_s t s
p__ c h _n g_s s_p _s n_t t h_ f_r s t t_m_ h_ h_s
m_d_ s t_r_n g r_m_r k_s _n t h_ t_p_c . I n 2 0 1 6
, h_ w_r n_d p__ p l_ n_t t_ " f__ l t h_ t_r r_r_s m
_f g_s s_p " . H_ _r g_d p__ p l_ t_ r_s_s t t h_ t_m
p_t_t__ n t_ s_p_r__ d g_s s_p . H_ s__ d : " I f y__
g_t _n _r g_ t_ s_y s_m_t h_n g _g__ n_s t _ b_r_t h_r
_r _ s_s t_r , t_ d_r_p _ g_s s_p b_m b , b_t_ y__ r
t_n g__ . H_r d . " T w_ y__ r s l_t_r h_ b_r__ g h t
t h_ s_b j_c t _p _g__ n . H_ t_l d w_r s h_p p_r s _n
S t P_t_r 's S q__ r_ t h_t g_s s_p _s l_t h_l " b_c__ s_ t h_ t_n g__ k_l l s , l_k_ _ k_n_f_ " . A
v_s_t_r t_ t h_ V_t_c_n _g_r__ d . S h_ s__ d : " G_s
s_p_s _r_ n_t h_n g b_t s_c_n d_l m_n g_r s _n d b_s
y b_d__ s . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

pope francis has said gossiping is worse than covid19 he said gossip is a danger that divides communities he added that the devil is the biggest gossiper who is seeking to create division with his lies the pope spoke about the dangers of gossiping during his weekly blessing at the vatican he said please brothers and sisters lets try to not gossip gossip is a plague worse than covid worse lets make a big effort no gossiping the pope has regularly spoken about the dangers of gossiping especially on social media he advises people not to listen to internet trolls saying if something goes wrong offer silence and prayer for the brother or sister who make a mistake but never gossip

the pope was making his first public audience since the pandemic started his latest speech on gossip is not the first time he has made strong remarks on the topic in 2016 he warned people not to fuel the terrorism of gossip he urged people to resist the temptation to spread gossip he said if you get an urge to say something against a brother or a sister to drop a gossip bomb bite your tongue hard two years later he brought the subject up again he told worshippers in st peters square that gossip is lethal because the tongue kills like a knife a visitor to the vatican agreed she said gossips are nothing but scandalmongers and busybodies

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

PopeFrancishassaidgossipingisworse than COVID-19. Hesaidgossipi sadangerthatdividescommunities. Headdedthatthedevilisthe"biggestgossiper"whoisseekingto createdivisionwithhislies. ThePopespoke aboutthedangersofgossipingduringhisweeklyblessingattheVatican. Hesaid:"Pleasebrothersandsisters,let'strytonotgossip. Gossipisaplagueworse than COVID. Worse. Let'smakeabig effort. Nogossiping." The Popehasregularlyspokenaboutthedangersofgossiping, especiallyonsocialmedia. HeadvisespeoplenottolistentoInternettrolls,saying:"Ifsomethinggoeswrong,offersilenceandprayerforthebrotherorsisterwhomakeamistake,butnevergossip." ThePopewasmakinghisfirstpublicaudiencesincethepandemicstarted. Hislatestspeechongossipisnotthefirsttimehehasmade strongremarks onthetopic. In2016,hewarnedpeoplenotto"fueltheterrorismofgossip". Heurgedpeopletoresistthetemptationtospreadgossip. Hesaid:"Ifyougetanurgetosaysomethingagainstabrotherorasister,todropagossipbomb,biteyourtongue. Hard." Twoyearslaterhebroughtthesubjectupagain. HetoldworshippersinStPeter'sSquarethatgossipislethal"becausethetonguekills,likeaknife". AvisitortotheVaticanagreed. Shesaid:"Gossipsarenothingbutscandalamongersandbusybodies."

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip.html>

Gossip is lethal "because the tongue kills, like a knife". Discuss.

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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. GOSSIP: Make a poster about gossip. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ILLEGAL: Write a magazine article about making gossip illegal. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 an expert on gossip. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stop gossip. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 2. h | 3. b | 4. j | 5. g |
| 6. d | 7. a | 8. i | 9. c | 10. f |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Communities
2. The devil
3. A big effort
4. On social media
5. Prayer and silence
6. The pandemic
7. The terrorism of gossip
8. Our tongue
9. A knife
10. Busybodies

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. He's seeking to create division with his lies.
2. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID.
3. The Pope has regularly spoken about the dangers.
4. He advises people not to listen to trolls.
5. If something goes wrong, offer silence and prayer.
6. His first public audience since the pandemic started.
7. The first time he has made strong remarks.
8. If you get an urge to say something.
9. Two years later he brought the subject up.
10. Gossip is lethal because the tongue kills.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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