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Level 5 – 1st December, 2020

Letters to Santa show children's pandemic fears

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-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/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-5.html>

An unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children have about COVID-19. The letters have the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that give an insight into how the pandemic is troubling children. A writer at the post office who replies to the notes said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really emerges from their letters. And in every country."

The post office has been inundated. It gets 12,000 letters a day. It has a team of 60 letter writers. They say children are confiding in Santa about their heartfelt fears. Perhaps parents are in the dark about this. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another put a mask inside her envelope so Santa would not spread the virus. The post office said the letters to Santa are a kind of release for children in lockdowns, especially those deprived of grandparents. It said: "Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period."

Sources: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/world/emotional-toll-wrought-pandemic-jumping-off-pages-in-deluge-dear-santa-letters-v1>
<https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-postal-service-france-coronavirus-pandemic-b6ca8343c7f67aaa4ed9de0915378ddd>
<https://kstp.com/minnesota-news/santas-mailbag-a-look-into-pandemic-worries-children-5935841/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. An unlikely source has revealed | a. insight |
| 2. concerns children have | b. their parents |
| 3. the usual requests for | c. the pandemic fears |
| 4. give an | d. from their letters |
| 5. how the pandemic is | e. about COVID-19 |
| 6. we really feel their | f. troubling children |
| 7. their grandparents or | g. Christmas gifts |
| 8. It's what really emerges | h. fears |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The post office has been | a. to believe in you |
| 2. It gets 12,000 | b. 60 letter writers |
| 3. It has a team of | c. fears |
| 4. children are confiding | d. during this period |
| 5. their heartfelt | e. dark about this |
| 6. parents are in the | f. inundated |
| 7. I need magic and | g. in Santa |
| 8. everything they have felt | h. letters a day |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-5.html>

An unlikely (1) _____ the pandemic fears of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office that answers mail (2) _____ Santa has described the concerns children have about COVID-19. The letters have (3) _____ for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that give (4) _____ how the pandemic is troubling children. A writer at the post office who replies to the notes said: "This year, we really (5) _____ - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what (6) _____ their letters. And in every country."

The post office (7) _____. It gets 12,000 letters a day. It has a team of 60 letter writers. They say children (8) _____ Santa about their heartfelt fears. Perhaps parents are in the (9) _____. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another put (10) _____ her envelope so Santa would not spread the virus. The post office said the letters to Santa are a (11) _____ for children in lockdowns, especially those deprived of grandparents. It said: "Children are putting into words everything they have felt (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-5.html>

An unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children have about COVID-19. The letters have the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that give an insight into how the pandemic is troubling children. A writer at the post office who replies to the notes said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really emerges from their letters. And in every country." The post office has been inundated. It gets 12,000 letters a day. It has a team of 60 letter writers. They say children are confiding in Santa about their heartfelt fears. Perhaps parents are in the dark about this. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another put a mask inside her envelope so Santa would not spread the virus. The post office said the letters to Santa are a kind of release for children in lockdowns, especially those deprived of grandparents. It said: "Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period."

SANTA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Santa 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-5.html>

Write about **Santa** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
