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Level 6 – 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.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

An unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that provide an insight into how the coronavirus pandemic is troubling young minds. The post office has been responding to "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer 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 with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing "elves". They say that many children are confiding in Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are in the dark about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another child slipped a mask inside her envelope for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the emotional toll on children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a sort of release for them. All this year they have been in lockdowns and have been deprived of school and their grandpas and grandmas....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/>

WARM-UPS

1. SANTA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Santa. 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?

source / pandemic / fears / Santa / mailbag / emotional / outpouring / young minds / post office / elf / in the dark / magic / envelope / release / lockdown / grandparents

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

3. COUNSELLING: Students A **strongly** believe governments should give children free pandemic counselling; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PANDEMIC: How has the pandemic changed people's lives? How can we make this more COVID-secure? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How It Has Changed Lives	COVID-Secure Measures
Travel		
Work		
Shopping		
Loved ones		
Study		
Commuting		

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

6. XMAS GIFTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- English book
- Shirt
- Masks
- Smartphone cover
- iTunes voucher
- Flowers
- Chocolates
- McDonald's voucher

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. source | a. An outburst of strong emotion. |
| 2. revealed | b. Becomes apparent, important, or prominent. |
| 3. expressing | c. A place, person, or thing from which something comes or can be obtained. |
| 4. outpourings | d. Said what one thinks or means. |
| 5. insight | e. Made previously unknown or secret information known to others. |
| 6. responding | f. The ability / capacity to get an accurate and deep understanding of a person or thing. |
| 7. emerges | g. Acting or behaving in reaction to someone or something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. inundated | h. Telling someone about a secret or private matter while trusting them not to repeat it to others. |
| 9. confiding | i. A state of ignorance (not knowing about) about something. |
| 10. in the dark | j. The action or process of being free from something. |
| 11. slipped | k. Overwhelmed someone with things or people to be dealt with; flood. |
| 12. toll | l. Suffering a lack of a specified benefit that is considered important. |
| 13. release | m. The cost or damage resulting from something. |
| 14. deprived | n. Put something in a particular place or position, usually quietly. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. A post office in France revealed secrets of children's letters to Santa. **T / F**
- b. None of the letters to Santa contained requests for presents this year. **T / F**
- c. The letters revealed insights into the troubled minds of children. **T / F**
- d. The post office has been replying to letters to Santa since 1962. **T / F**
- e. The post office gets as many as 12,000 letters per week for Santa. **T / F**
- f. Many parents are unaware of their children's fears. **T / F**
- g. A child sent a mask to Santa to help him stop the virus from spreading. **T / F**
- h. The article says children have been deprived of counselling. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. unlikely | a. harm |
| 2. fears | b. appreciation of |
| 3. expressing | c. denied |
| 4. insight into | d. flooded |
| 5. emerges | e. conveying |
| 6. inundated | f. opening one's heart |
| 7. confiding in | g. improbable |
| 8. toll | h. liberation |
| 9. release | i. becomes apparent |
| 10. deprived | j. anxieties |

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

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. An unlikely source has revealed | a. with around 12,000 letters |
| 2. concerns children have been expressing | b. on children |
| 3. provide an insight | c. from their letters |
| 4. This year, we really feel their | d. about COVID-19 |
| 5. It's what really emerges | e. the dark |
| 6. The post office has been inundated | f. in Santa |
| 7. many children are confiding | g. the pandemic fears |
| 8. parents are in | h. into how |
| 9. the emotional toll | i. they have felt |
| 10. putting into words everything | j. fears |

GAP FILL

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

An unlikely source has (1) _____ the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - Santa's (2) _____. A post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children have been (3) _____ about COVID-19. The letters contain the (4) _____ requests for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that provide an (5) _____ into how the coronavirus pandemic is troubling young (6) _____. The post office has been responding to "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer who (7) _____ to the notes said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really (8) _____ from their letters. And in every country."

usual
replies
revealed
emerges
expressing
insight
mailbag
minds

The post office has been (9) _____ with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing "elves". They say that many children are (10) _____ in Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are in the (11) _____ about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need (12) _____ and to believe in you." Another child slipped a mask inside her (13) _____ for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the emotional (14) _____ on children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a sort of release for them. All this year they have been in lockdowns and have been (15) _____ of school and their grandpas and grandmas....Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this (16) _____."

envelope
deprived
dark
inundated
period
magic
confiding
toll

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) revealed the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - _____
 - a. Santa's mailing pack
 - b. Santa's mail pack
 - c. Santa's male bag
 - d. Santa's mailbag
- 2) mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children _____
 - a. have been expressive
 - b. have been expressing
 - c. have been expression
 - d. have been express in
- 3) but many have emotional outpourings that provide an _____
 - a. insight into how
 - b. in site into how
 - c. incite into how
 - d. incites into how
- 4) the coronavirus pandemic is troubling _____
 - a. young mines
 - b. young minds
 - c. young minders
 - d. young mends
- 5) A writer who replies to the notes said: "This year, we really _____"
 - a. feel them fears
 - b. feel their fears
 - c. feels their fears
 - d. feel them fears
- 6) The post office has been inundated with around 12,000 _____
 - a. letters per day
 - b. letters pre day
 - c. letters pair day
 - d. letters pare day
- 7) They say that many children are _____
 - a. confidence in Santa
 - b. confide in in Santa
 - c. confide in in Santa
 - d. confiding in Santa
- 8) One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, _____"
 - a. I need magical
 - b. I need magic
 - c. I need magician
 - d. I need magically
- 9) She said: "The letters to Santa are a sort of _____"
 - a. release four them
 - b. release for them
 - c. release for then
 - d. released for them
- 10) All this year they have been in lockdowns and have been _____
 - a. depraved of school
 - b. deprived of school
 - c. deep raved of school
 - d. deep riven of school

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

An unlikely source has revealed the (1) _____ thousands of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has (2) _____ children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many have (3) _____ provide (4) _____ how the coronavirus pandemic is troubling young minds. The post office has (5) _____ "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer who replies to the notes said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really (6) _____ letters. And in every country."

The post office (7) _____ with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing "elves". They say that many children are confiding in Santa and expressing (8) _____ perhaps parents are in the dark about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, (9) _____ and to believe in you." Another child slipped a mask inside her envelope for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the (10) _____ children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a (11) _____ for them. All this year they have been in lockdowns and have (12) _____ school and their grandpas and grandmas....Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is the unlikely source of understanding children's COVID fears?
2. Where is the post office that is replying to letters to Santa?
3. What are children requesting as usual in their letters?
4. When did the post office start replying to letters to Santa?
5. What did a post office letter writer say she feels this year?
6. How many letters a day has the post office been receiving?
7. How many "elves" are on the letter-writing team?
8. What did a child write to say he or she needed?
9. What did a child put inside an envelope for Santa to use?
10. Who did the post office say children have been deprived of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What is the unlikely source of understanding children's COVID fears?
 - a) the Internet
 - b) Santa's mailbag
 - c) a schoolteacher
 - d) a newspaper
- 2) Where is the post office that is replying to letters to Santa?
 - a) Lapland
 - b) Finland
 - c) the USA
 - d) France
- 3) What are children requesting as usual in their letters?
 - a) chocolates
 - b) a vaccine
 - c) Christmas gifts
 - d) advice
- 4) When did the post office start replying to letters to Santa?
 - a) 1962
 - b) 1972
 - c) 1952
 - d) 1982
- 5) What did a post office letter writer say she feels this year?
 - a) sad
 - b) children's fears
 - c) cold
 - d) pessimistic about the future
- 6) How many letters a day has the post office been receiving?
 - a) about 12,000
 - b) over 12,000
 - c) just fewer than
 - d) exactly
- 7) How many "elves" are on the letter-writing team?
 - a) 50
 - b) 70
 - c) 60
 - d) 80
- 8) What did a child write to say he or she needed?
 - a) magic
 - b) masks
 - c) food
 - d) love
- 9) What did a child put inside an envelope for Santa to use?
 - a) a cookie
 - b) a carrot
 - c) money
 - d) a mask
- 10) Who did the post office say children have been deprived of?
 - a) Santa
 - b) doctors
 - c) grandmas and grandpas
 - d) teachers

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – English Book

You think an English book is the best Xmas gift. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their gifts. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): shirt, masks or iTunes voucher.

Role B – Shirt

You think a shirt is the best Xmas gift. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their gifts. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): English book, masks or iTunes voucher.

Role C – Masks

You think masks are the best Xmas gift. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their gifts. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): shirt, English book or iTunes voucher.

Role D – iTunes Voucher

You think an iTunes voucher is the best Xmas gift. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their gifts. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): shirt, masks or English book.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

children	fear
-----------------	-------------

- 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">• thousands• France• insight• writer• notes• country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12,000• heartfelt• magic• mask• release• period
---	--

SANTA SURVEY

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

SANTA 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 'pandemic'?
3. What do you think of the coronavirus pandemic?
4. How should we tell children about coronavirus?
5. What do you think of the "Dear Santa" mail service?
6. What would you ask Santa this year?
7. What do you imagine children are worried about?
8. What worried you as a child?
9. How might coronavirus change children's future?
10. What would you write to a worried child?

Letters to Santa show children's pandemic fears – 1st December, 2020
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SANTA 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 'fear'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How worried are you about the pandemic?
15. How can we stop children worrying about coronavirus?
16. Would you write down your heartfelt fears?
17. What magic would you like to create in the world?
18. What emotional toll has the virus taken on you?
19. Where do you think we will be this time next year?
20. What questions would you like to ask the children?

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/2012/201201-letters-to-santa.html>

An (1) _____ source has revealed the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the (2) _____ children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that provide an (3) _____ into how the coronavirus pandemic is (4) _____ young minds. The post office has been (5) _____ to "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer who replies to the notes said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really (6) _____ from their letters. And in every country."

The post office has been (7) _____ with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing "elves". They say that many children are confiding (8) _____ Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are in the (9) _____ about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another child (10) _____ a mask inside her envelope for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the emotional toll (11) _____ children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a sort of release for them. All this year they have been in lockdowns and have been (12) _____ of school and their grandpas and grandmas....Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) unlikely | (b) unlikable | (c) unliked | (d) likelihood |
| 2. | (a) corners | (b) concerts | (c) concerns | (d) concertinas |
| 3. | (a) sighting | (b) sights | (c) insight | (d) out of sight |
| 4. | (a) troubadour | (b) troubles | (c) troubled | (d) troubling |
| 5. | (a) despondent | (b) dependent | (c) resounding | (d) responding |
| 6. | (a) emergencies | (b) emerges | (c) emigrates | (d) emigrants |
| 7. | (a) inculcated | (b) inundated | (c) infatuated | (d) integrated |
| 8. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) of | (d) at |
| 9. | (a) dusk | (b) dawn | (c) dark | (d) black |
| 10. | (a) tripped | (b) stumbled | (c) fell | (d) slipped |
| 11. | (a) of | (b) at | (c) in | (d) on |
| 12. | (a) decadent | (b) deranged | (c) depraved | (d) deprived |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. evraeeld the pandemic fears
2. icderbsed the concerns
3. the usual esteurqs for Christmas gifts
4. emotional ugrtopousni
5. provide an tnihsig
6. It's what really egmeres

Paragraph 2

7. The post office has been tuidnnade
8. children are nfdionicg in Santa
9. slipped a mask inside her nvepeloe
10. they have been in kdcnlowso
11. been eddevipr of school
12. uirgdn this period

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () mask inside her envelope for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the emotional
- () mailbag. A post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns
- () year they have been in lockdowns and have been deprived of school and their grandpas
- () 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."
- () children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the usual requests for Christmas
- () minds. The post office has been responding to "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer who
- () writing "elves". They say that many children are confiding in Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are
- () and grandmas....Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period."
- () in the dark about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another child slipped a
- () gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that provide an insight into how the coronavirus pandemic is troubling young
- () The post office has been inundated with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-
- (**1**) An unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - Santa's
- () toll on children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a sort of release for them. All this

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. has pandemic the fears . An revealed unlikely source
2. COVID-19 . concerns expressing been about Described children have
3. An how insight young minds . troubles into coronavirus
4. the notes . writer A children's who replies to
5. emerges what from letters . really their It's
6. in say are many Santa . They children confiding
7. in the parents are dark Fears about . that
8. magic to in believe you . and need I
9. a Letters to release . sort Santa are of
10. this All they have in year lockdowns . been

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

An unlikely source has *revelled* / *revealed* the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office in France that answers *mailing* / *mail* it receives for Santa has described the *concerning* / *concerns* children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the *usual* / *usually* requests for Christmas gifts, but many *have* / *do* emotional outpourings that provide an *out of sight* / *insight* into how the coronavirus pandemic is *troubled* / *troubling* young minds. The post office has been *response* / *responding* to "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer who *pens* / *replies* to the notes said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really *emerges* / *emergence* from their letters. And in every country."

The post office has been *infatuated* / *inundated* with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing "elves". They say that many children are *confidence* / *confiding* in Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are in the *dusk* / *dark* about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need *magician* / *magic* and to believe in you." Another child slipped a mask inside her *envelope* / *enveloping* for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the emotional *tale* / *toll* on children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a *part* / *sort* of release for them. All this *annual* / *year* they have been in lockdowns and have been *deprived* / *depraved* of school and their grandpas and grandmas....Children are putting into *words* / *characters* everything they have felt during this period."

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/2012/201201-letters-to-santa.html>

_n _nl_k_ly s__rc_ h_s r_v__l_d th_ p_nd_m_c f__rs _f
th__snds _f ch_ldr_n _cr_ss th_ w_rld - S_nt_'s
m__lb_g. _ p_st _ff_c_ _n Fr_nc_ th_t _nsw_rs m__l
_t r_c__v_s f_r S_nt_ h_s d_scr_b_d th_ c_nc_rns
ch_ldr_n h_v_ b__n _xpr_ss_ng _b__t C_V_D-19. Th_
l_tt_rs c__nt__n th_ _s__l r_q__sts f_r Chr_stm_s g_fts,
b_t m_ny h_v_ _m_t__n_l __tp__r_ngs th_t pr_v_d_ _n
_ns_ght _nt_ h_w th_ c_r_n_v_r_s p_nd_m_c _s
tr__bl_ng y__ng m_nds. Th_ p_st _ff_c_ h_s b__n
r_sp_nd_ng t_ "D__r S_nt_" l_tt_rs s_nc_ 1962. _
wr_t_r wh_ r_pl__s t_ th_ n_t_s s__d: "Th_s y__r, w_
r__lly f__l th__r f__rs - f_r th_ms_lv_s, th__r
gr_ndp_r_nts _r th__r p_r_nts. _t's wh_t r__lly
_m_rg_s fr_m th__r l_tt_rs. _nd _n _v_ry c__ntry."

Th_ p_st _ff_c_ h_s b__n _n_nd_t_d w_th _r__nd
12,000 l_tt_rs p_r d_y. _t h_s _ t__m _f 60 l_tt_r-
wr_t_ng "_lv_s". Th_y s_y th_t m_ny ch_ldr_n _r_
c_nf_d_ng _n S_nt_ _nd _xpr_ss_ng h__rtf_lt f__rs th_t
p_rh_ps p_r_nts _r_ _n th_ d_rk _b__t. _n_ ch_ld
wr_t_: "Th_s y__r, m_r_ th_n th_ _th_rs, _ n__d
m_g_c _nd t_ b_l__v_ _n y__." _n_th_r ch_ld sl_pp_d
_ m_sk _ns_d_ h_r _nv_l_p_ f_r S_nt_ t_ n_t spr__d
th_ v_r_s. _ "ch__f _lf" _xpl__n_d th_ _m_t__n_l t_ll
_n ch_ldr_n. Sh_ s__d: "Th_ l_tt_rs t_ S_nt_ _r_ _
s_rt _f r_l__s_ f_r th_m. _ll th_s y__r th_y h_v_
b__n _n l_ckd_wns _nd h_v_ b__n d_pr_v_d _f sch__l
_nd th__r gr_ndp_s _nd gr_ndm_s....Ch_ldr_n _r_
p_tt_ng _nt_ w_rds _v_ryth_ng th_y h_v_ f_lt d_r_ng
th_s p_r__d."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

an unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world. Santa's mailbag at a post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the usual requests for Christmas gifts but many have emotional outpourings that provide an insight into how the coronavirus pandemic is troubling young minds. The post office has been responding to dear Santa letters since 1962. A writer 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 with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing elves. They say that many children are confiding in Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are in the dark. About one child wrote this year more than the others: 'I need magic and to believe in you.' Another child slipped a mask inside her envelope for Santa to not spread the virus. A chief elf explained the emotional toll on children. She said the letters to Santa are a sort of release for them. All this year they have been in lockdowns and have been deprived of school and their grandpas and grandmas. Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

An unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears of thousands of children across the world - Santa's mailbag. A post office in France that answers mail it receives for Santa has described the concerns children have been expressing about COVID-19. The letters contain the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many have emotional outpourings that provide an insight into how the coronavirus pandemic is troubling young minds. The post office has been responding to "Dear Santa" letters since 1962. A writer who replied 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 with around 12,000 letters per day. It has a team of 60 letter-writing "elves". They say that many children are confiding in Santa and expressing heartfelt fears that perhaps parents are in the dark about. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another child slipped a mask inside her envelope for Santa to not spread the virus. A "chief elf" explained the emotional toll on children. She said: "The letters to Santa are a sort of release for them. All this year they have been in lockdowns and have been deprived of school and their grandpas and grandmas.... Children are putting into words everything they have felt during this period."

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

4. CHILDREN: Write a magazine article about governments spending more money on counselling services for children worried about COVID-19. 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 Santa. Ask him/her three questions about him. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stop children worrying about COVID-19. 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. e 3. d 4. a 5. f 6. g 7. b
8. k 9. h 10. i 11. n 12. m 13. j 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Santa's mailbag
- France
- Christmas gifts
- 1962
- Children's fears
- Around 12,000
- Sixty
- Magic
- A mask
- Grandmas and grandpas

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- An unlikely source has revealed the pandemic fears.
- Described concerns children have been expressing about COVID-19.
- An insight into how coronavirus troubles young minds.
- A writer who replies to the children's notes.
- It's what really emerges from their letters.
- They say many children are confiding in Santa.
- Fears that parents are in the dark about.
- I need magic and to believe in you.
- Letters to Santa are a sort of release.
- All this year they have been in lockdowns.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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