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**Level 4 – 27th March 2023**

## **UK charity hopes to 'decolonise' English vocabulary**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

English vocabulary has been changing for centuries. Language from the Middle Ages is difficult to understand today. The charity Oxfam has issued a guide suggesting more changes. Oxfam considers English to be, "the language of a colonising nation". Its 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" aims "to decolonise our ways of working and shift power". The guide advises charity workers on the use of language "to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work".

Oxfam works to reduce poverty in 80 countries. It says English is the dominant language used by its workers in ex-British colonies. The guide is to help workers communicate in English "as part of a colonial legacy". The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, and refugees. It suggests avoiding "colonial" words like "mankind". It said this word can be patriarchal. People can misunderstand it "as only referring to men".

Sources: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/nonprofit-oxfams-inclusivity-guide-calls-english-the-language-colonising-nation>  
<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23396055.oxfams-inclusive-language-guide-advises-avoid-mother-youth/>  
<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/inclusive-language-guide-621487/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. vocabulary has been changing | a. today         |
| 2. Language from the            | b. be inclusive  |
| 3. difficult to understand      | c. a guide       |
| 4. The charity Oxfam has issued | d. of working    |
| 5. the language of a colonising | e. for centuries |
| 6. decolonise our ways          | f. power         |
| 7. shift                        | g. Middle Ages   |
| 8. feel empowered to            | h. nation        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Oxfam works to reduce           | a. words          |
| 2. English is the dominant         | b. patriarchal    |
| 3. workers in ex-British           | c. language       |
| 4. English as part of a colonial   | d. on inclusivity |
| 5. The guide focuses               | e. to men         |
| 6. It suggests avoiding "colonial" | f. legacy         |
| 7. this word can be                | g. poverty        |
| 8. only referring                  | h. colonies       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

English vocabulary (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for centuries. Language from (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is difficult to understand today. The charity Oxfam has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ suggesting more changes. Oxfam considers English to be, "the language of (4) \_\_\_\_\_". Its 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" aims "to decolonise our ways of working (5) \_\_\_\_\_". The guide advises charity workers on the use of language "to feel empowered to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ work".

Oxfam works (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in 80 countries. It says English is the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by its workers in ex-British colonies. The guide is to help workers communicate in English "as part (9) \_\_\_\_\_ legacy". The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, and refugees. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ "colonial" words like "mankind". It said this word (11) \_\_\_\_\_. People can misunderstand it "as only (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

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# ENGLISH VOCABULARY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about English vocabulary 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*U.K. charity hopes to 'decolonise' English vocabulary – 27th March 2023*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

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

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