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**Level 6 – 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.html>

### **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

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

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# THE ARTICLE

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

The English language has been evolving for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In particular, the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant flux. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for changes in how the language is used, especially by charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways of working and shift power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to advise employees on the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work".

Oxfam was founded in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the reality that English is the dominant language used by charity workers in former British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial legacy." The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, refugees, and others. Suggested language changes include avoiding "colonial" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be viewed as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood 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/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. ENGLISH VOCABULARY:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about English vocabulary. 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?

English / language / evolving / the Middle Ages / charity / colonising / nation / guide / poverty / colonies / legacy / the disabled / LGBTQIA+ / inclusivity / headquarters

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

**3. LANGUAGE CHANGE:** Students A **strongly** believe all languages should change to improve inclusivity; Students B **strongly** believe too much change isn't good. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. LANGUAGE:** How is it best to learn these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	The Best Thing	Why It Works
Vocabulary		
Pronunciation		
Spelling		
Speaking		
Writing		
Reading		

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

**6. VOCABULARY:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to learn vocabulary at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Translation
- Flash cards
- Watching movies
- Vocabulary books
- Listening to music
- Reading books
- Language school
- Speaking

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. evolving        | a. A period of history roughly between the years 1000 to 1453.                                    |
| 2. millennia       | b. Sending settlers to a place (another country) and establish political control over it.         |
| 3. the Middle Ages | c. Developing gradually.  |
| 4. constant        | d. Periods of a thousand years.   |
| 5. in flux         | e. Happening continuously over a period of time.  |
| 6. colonising      | f. Continuous change.   |
| 7. inclusive       | g. Giving equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. alleviate    | h. A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. |
| 9. poverty      | i. Make suffering, deficiency, or a problem less severe.   |
| 10. dominant    | j. The lasting impact of events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life.               |
| 11. legacy      | k. The second or second mentioned of two people or things.   |
| 12. refugee     | l. The state of being extremely poor.  |
| 13. latter      | m. Relating to a system of society or government controlled by men.  |
| 14. patriarchal | n. Having power and influence over others.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. The article says English has been evolving for 10,000 years. **T / F**
2. It would be difficult to understand the English used in the Middle Ages. **T / F**
3. A charity called Oxfam said English is the language of a coloniser. **T / F**
4. The charity issued a 92-page guide book on more inclusive language. **T / F**
5. Oxfam was first established in 1492. **T / F**
6. Oxfam's guide is for people speaking any language. **T / F**
7. The Oxfam guide said the word "headquarters" was a colonial word. **T / F**
8. Some people might think the word "mankind" really means "men". **T / F**

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

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>evolving</b>   | a. non-stop          |
| 2. <b>constant</b>   | b. reduce            |
| 3. <b>issued</b>     | c. established       |
| 4. <b>empowered</b>  | d. consequences      |
| 5. <b>inclusive</b>  | e. developing        |
| 6. <b>founded</b>    | f. alluding          |
| 7. <b>alleviate</b>  | g. published         |
| 8. <b>legacy</b>     | h. steering clear of |
| 9. <b>avoiding</b>   | i. all-encompassing  |
| 10. <b>referring</b> | j. unchained         |

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

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. language has been evolving           | a. power                    |
| 2. the use and meaning of vocabulary is | b. as being patriarchal     |
| 3. shift                                | c. empowered                |
| 4. advise employees on the              | d. refugees, and others     |
| 5. support everyone to feel             | e. in constant flux         |
| 6. Oxfam was founded in 1942 to help    | f. for the disabled         |
| 7. part of this colonial                | g. use of language          |
| 8. The guide focuses on inclusivity     | h. alleviate global poverty |
| 9. the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants,    | i. legacy                   |
| 10. the latter word could be viewed     | j. for centuries            |

# GAP FILL

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

The English language has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In (2) \_\_\_\_\_, the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for changes in how the language is used, especially by (4) \_\_\_\_\_ workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the language of a colonising (5) \_\_\_\_\_". It said English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways of working and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ employees on the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in their work".

*flux*  
*nation*  
*inclusive*  
*evolving*  
*advise*  
*charity*  
*particular*  
*shift*

Oxfam was (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that English is the dominant language used by charity workers in (11) \_\_\_\_\_ British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial (12) \_\_\_\_\_." The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, (13) \_\_\_\_\_, and others. Suggested language changes include avoiding "(14) \_\_\_\_\_" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be (15) \_\_\_\_\_ as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood as only (16) \_\_\_\_\_ to men".

*former*  
*refugees*  
*reality*  
*viewed*  
*legacy*  
*referring*  
*founded*  
*colonial*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The English language has been evolving for centuries, if \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. not four millennia
  - b. not fore millennia
  - c. not form millennia
  - d. not for millennia
- 2) Conversations from the Middle Ages would be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. almost unrecognised today
  - b. almost on recognisable today
  - c. almost in recognised today
  - d. almost unrecognisable today
- 3) further pushes for changes in how the language is used, especially \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. by clarity workers
  - b. by charity workers
  - c. by charitable workers
  - d. by charities workers
- 4) English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways of working \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and shaft power
  - b. and sift power
  - c. and chaff power
  - d. and shift power
- 5) the use of language to support everyone to feel empowered \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to being inclusive
  - b. to be inclusive
  - c. to be inclusion
  - d. to be includes it
- 6) Oxfam was founded in 1942 to help \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. alleviate global poverty
  - b. alleviate globally poverty
  - c. alleviate globe all poverty
  - d. alleviate glow ball poverty
- 7) Its new guide recognises the reality that English is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the dominance language
  - b. the dominate language
  - c. the dominant language
  - d. the imminent language
- 8) work and communicate in the English language as part of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. this colony all legacy
  - b. this colon nigh all legacy
  - c. this colonies legacy
  - d. this colonial legacy
- 9) inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. community, migrants, refuges
  - b. community, migrants, refugees
  - c. community, migrates, refugees
  - d. commune tea, migrants, refugees
- 10) It said the latter word could be viewed \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. as being matriarchal
  - b. as being patriarchal
  - c. as being hierarchical
  - d. as being monarchical

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The English language (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In particular, the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of vocabulary is in constant flux. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ changes in how the language is used, especially by charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it (4) \_\_\_\_\_, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways of working (5) \_\_\_\_\_". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to advise employees on the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their work".

Oxfam was founded in 1942 (7) \_\_\_\_\_ global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the reality that English (8) \_\_\_\_\_ language used by charity workers in (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial legacy." The guide focuses (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ others. Suggested language changes include avoiding "colonial" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be viewed as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to men".

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What does the article say would be pretty much unrecognisable today?
2. What does the article say is in constant flux?
3. What does Oxfam want to shift via a change in language?
4. How long is the "Inclusive Language Guide"?
5. Who does the charity Oxfam want to feel empowered?
6. When was Oxfam established?
7. Where did Oxfam say English was the dominant language?
8. What does Oxfam hope to provide for minority groups?
9. What kind of phrase did Oxfam say the word "headquarters" is?
10. What might the word "mankind" be viewed as?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What does the article say would be almost unrecognisable today?
  - a) the United Nations
  - b) charity work
  - c) famines
  - d) conversations from the Middle Ages
- 2) What does the article say is in constant flux?
  - a) charity work
  - b) the use and meaning of vocabulary
  - c) natural disasters
  - d) aid
- 3) What does Oxfam want to shift via a change in language?
  - a) politeness
  - b) attitudes
  - c) power
  - d) workers
- 4) How long is the "Inclusive Language Guide"?
  - a) 92 pages
  - b) too long
  - c) brief
  - d) about the right length
- 5) Who does the charity Oxfam want to feel empowered?
  - a) the dispossessed
  - b) poor people
  - c) charity workers
  - d) migrants
- 6) When was Oxfam established?
  - a) 1492
  - b) 1942
  - c) 1924
  - d) 1294
- 7) Where did Oxfam say English was the dominant language?
  - a) the United Nations
  - b) in charities
  - c) most of the world
  - d) former British colonies
- 8) What does Oxfam hope to provide for minority groups?
  - a) inclusivity
  - b) safety
  - c) better pay
  - d) equality
- 9) What kind of phrase did Oxfam say the word "headquarters" is?
  - a) a boring phrase
  - b) an "objectionable" phrase
  - c) a "colonial" phrase
  - d) an outdated phrase
- 10) What might the word "mankind" be viewed as?
  - a) anarchial
  - b) patriarchal
  - c) hierarchical
  - d) matriarchal

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Speaking**

You think speaking is the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): using flash cards, reading books or listening to music.

## **Role B – Using Flash Cards**

You think using flash cards is the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): speaking, reading books or listening to music.

## **Role C – Reading Books**

You think reading books is the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): using flash cards, speaking or listening to books.

## **Role D – Listening to Music**

You think listening to music is the best way to learn vocabulary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): using flash cards, reading books or speaking.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

English	language

- 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"><li>• centuries</li><li>• constant</li><li>• pushes</li><li>• considers</li><li>• ways</li><li>• feel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• help</li><li>• 80</li><li>• former</li><li>• focuses</li><li>• phrases</li><li>• viewed</li></ul>
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# ENGLISH VOCABULARY SURVEY

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

# ENGLISH VOCABULARY 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 'English'?
3. What do you think of the English language?
4. How has your language been evolving?
5. What are your favourite English words?
6. How do you learn English vocabulary?
7. What do you think of English words being 'colonial'?
8. What do you know about Britain's colonial past?
9. How can language make people more inclusive?
10. What English words have you learnt recently?

*U.K. charity hopes to 'decolonise' English vocabulary – 27th March 2023*  
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# ENGLISH VOCABULARY 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 'language'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about Oxfam?
15. What are your least favourite English words?
16. Should vocabulary be more gender neutral?
17. Do you think the word 'mankind' is patriarchal?
18. Should the word 'woman' contain the word 'man'?
19. What needs to change in your language?
20. What questions would you like to ask Oxfam?

## 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//2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide.html>

The English language has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In (2) \_\_\_\_\_, the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for changes in how the language is used, especially (4) \_\_\_\_\_ charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change "(5) \_\_\_\_\_ order to decolonise our ways of working and shift power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to advise employees (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work".

Oxfam was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that English is the dominant language used by charity workers in former British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial (9) \_\_\_\_\_." The guide focuses on (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, (11) \_\_\_\_\_, and others. Suggested language changes include avoiding "colonial" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be viewed as being (12) \_\_\_\_\_ as "it is often misunderstood as only referring to men".

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

- |     |               |                 |                |                 |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) evolving  | (b) evolve      | (c) evolves    | (d) evolved     |
| 2.  | (a) peculiar  | (b) peculiarity | (c) particular | (d) particulars |
| 3.  | (a) flax      | (b) flex        | (c) flux       | (d) flix        |
| 4.  | (a) on        | (b) at          | (c) of         | (d) by          |
| 5.  | (a) in        | (b) at          | (c) on         | (d) by          |
| 6.  | (a) at        | (b) on          | (c) of         | (d) to          |
| 7.  | (a) founding  | (b) floundered  | (c) funded     | (d) founded     |
| 8.  | (a) realism   | (b) reality     | (c) really     | (d) real        |
| 9.  | (a) lethargy  | (b) legality    | (c) legacy     | (d) legging     |
| 10. | (a) included  | (b) includes    | (c) include    | (d) inclusivity |
| 11. | (a) refugees  | (b) refuses     | (c) refuse     | (d) refugees    |
| 12. | (a) monarchal | (b) patriarchal | (c) hierarchal | (d) matriarchal |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. The English language has been oilvvegn
2. for centuries, if not for lailminne
3. vocabulary is in constant xluf
4. advise peemeysol on the use of language
5. support everyone to feel rpeowdme
6. be cvluneis in their work

## Paragraph 2

7. help telealvai global poverty
8. English is the ntdnamio language
9. part of this colonial cyagle
10. migrants, rusgfeee, and others
11. hrspeas like "headquarters"
12. viewed as being atlahcripar

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In particular, the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant
- ( ) and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial legacy." The guide focuses on inclusivity for the
- ( ) avoiding "colonial" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter
- ( ) be, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways
- ( ) disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, refugees, and others. Suggested language changes include
- ( ) flux. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for changes in how the language is
- ( ) of working and shift power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to advise employees on the
- ( ) Oxfam was founded in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries
- ( **1** ) The English language has been evolving for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle
- ( ) use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work".
- ( ) used, especially by charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to
- ( ) word could be viewed as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood as only referring to men".
- ( ) workers in former British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work
- ( ) worldwide. Its new guide recognises the reality that English is the dominant language used by charity

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. language evolving The has centuries . English for been
2. The of vocabulary constant flux . in meaning is
3. used . the in language Changes is how
4. in Change order decolonise ways . our to
5. empowered their work . Feel be inclusive to in
6. poverty . alleviate global help Founded to in 1942
7. dominant used the English charity by workers . language is
8. People communicate to who have in English .
9. disabled . guide the for focuses inclusivity The on
10. be latter word patriarchal . The could as viewed

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The English language has been *revolving / evolving* for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In *particularly / particular*, the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant *flux / influx*. The British charity Oxfam has issued *the / a* guide that further *pushes / push* for changes in how the language is used, especially by charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, *which / what* it considers to be, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change *in / on* order to decolonise our ways *of / to* working and shift power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to *advise / advice* employees on the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive *on / in* their work".

Oxfam was *founded / floundered* in 1942 to help alleviate *globally / global* poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the *realism / reality* that English is the *dominance / dominant* language used by charity workers in *firmer / former* British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial *legacy / legality*." The guide focuses *on / of* inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, *refugees / refuges*, and others. Suggested language changes include *avoiding / evading* "colonial" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be viewed as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood *was / as* only referring to men".

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

The English language has been evolving for centuries, not for millions. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable today. In part, therefore, the sound and meaning of vocabulary is in constant flux. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for changes in how the language is used, especially by charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the language of colonisation". It said English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways of working and shift power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to diversify employees in the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work".

Oxfam was founded in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the reality that English is the dominant language used by charity workers in former British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial legacy." The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQ+ community, migrants, refugees, and others. Suggested language changes include avoiding "colonial" phrases like "hardquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be avoided as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood as only referring to men".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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the english language has been evolving for centuries if not for millennia conversations from the middle ages would be almost unrecognisable today in particular the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant flux the british charity oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for changes in how the language is used especially by charity workers oxfam wants to decolonise english which it considers to be the language of a colonising nation it said english needs to change in order to decolonise our ways of working and shift power oxfam has issued a 92page inclusive language guide to advise employees on the use of language to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work

oxfam was founded in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty it now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide its new guide recognises the reality that english is the dominant language used by charity workers in former british colonies oxfam said this guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the english language as part of this colonial legacy the guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled the lgbtqia community migrants refugees and others suggested language changes include avoiding colonial phrases like headquarters and mankind it said the latter word could be viewed as being patriarchal as it is often misunderstood as only referring to men

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The English language has been evolving for centuries, if not for millennia. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be almost unrecognisable to day. In particular, the use and meaning of vocabulary is in constant flux. The British charity Oxfam has issued a guide that further pushes for change in how the language is used, especially by charity workers. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change "in order to decolonise our ways of working and shift power". Oxfam has issued a 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" to advise employees on the use of language "to support everyone to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work". Oxfam was founded in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty. It now operates in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its new guide recognises the reality that English is the dominant language used by charity workers in former British colonies. Oxfam said: "This guide aims to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of this colonial legacy." The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, refugees, and others. Suggested language changes include avoiding "colonial" phrases like "headquarters" and "mankind". It said the latter word could be viewed as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood as only referring to men".





# 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. ENGLISH VOCABULARY:** Make a poster about English vocabulary. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. CHANGE:** Write a magazine article about changing English vocabulary to make it more inclusive. 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 English vocabulary. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on what words need to change. 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. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 T    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Conversations from the Middle Ages
2. The use and meaning of vocabulary
3. Power
4. 92 pages
5. Charity workers
6. 1942
7. Former British colonies
8. Inclusivity
9. A "colonial" phrase
10. Patriarchal

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The English language has been evolving for centuries.
2. The meaning of vocabulary is in constant flux.
3. Changes in how the language is used.
4. Change in order to decolonise our ways.
5. Feel empowered to be inclusive in their work.
6. Founded in 1942 to help alleviate global poverty.
7. English is the dominant language used by charity workers.
8. People who have to communicate in English.
9. The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled.
10. The latter word could be viewed as patriarchal.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. a    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 ;-)