

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 2 – 9th November 2023**

## **265-year-old love letters opened for first time**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-2.html>

### **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-2.html>

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors sat on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened. They have been read for the first time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on a French warship captured by the British Navy in 1758. The letters were taken to London, so the sailors on the ship did not have time to open and read their mail. The letters were put in storage and forgotten about. They gathered dust in an archive. A researcher from Cambridge University said many of the letters were love letters.

A group of researchers read and studied the letters. The lead researcher said the messages gave a rare and unique look back into history. The writers were rich and poor. They were fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. The writing showed how different literacy was among people in France. A researcher said the letters were important. He said they showed how we all cope with challenges like pandemics and wars. He said the letters were very similar to what people write about today. They were about staying in touch, caring for people, and keeping passion alive.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/06/world/french-letters-national-archives-scn/index.html>  
<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231107-confiscated-french-love-letters-finally-opened-after-265-years>  
<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/raunchy-love-letters-from-250-years-ago-are-making-us-want-to-loosen-our-corsets/ar-AA1juN4y>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. sat on                    | a. to London            |
| 2. in a government           | b. opened               |
| 3. They were never           | c. by the British       |
| 4. for the first time in two | d. an archive           |
| 5. a French warship captured | e. a shelf              |
| 6. The letters were taken    | f. in storage           |
| 7. The letters were put      | g. building             |
| 8. They gathered dust in     | h. and a half centuries |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a rare and unique look back      | a. touch              |
| 2. They were fiancés, parents,      | b. like pandemics     |
| 3. The writing showed how different | c. people             |
| 4. how we all cope with challenges  | d. literacy was       |
| 5. similar to what people write     | e. alive              |
| 6. They were about staying in       | f. into history       |
| 7. caring for                       | g. about today        |
| 8. keeping passion                  | h. siblings and wives |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-2.html>

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_. They have been read for the first time in two and (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The letters were on a French warship captured by the British Navy in 1758. The letters were taken to London, so the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ship did not have time to open and read their mail. The letters were (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and forgotten about. They gathered (6) \_\_\_\_\_ archive. A researcher from Cambridge University said many of the letters were love letters.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ researchers read and studied the letters. The lead researcher said the messages gave a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ look back into history. The writers were rich and poor. They were fiancés, parents, (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The writing showed how different literacy was among people in France. A researcher said the letters were important. He said they showed how we (10) \_\_\_\_\_ challenges like pandemics and wars. He said the letters were very similar to what people write about today. They were about (11) \_\_\_\_\_, caring for people, and (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-2.html>

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors sat on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened. They have been read for the first time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on a French warship captured by the British Navy in 1758. The letters were taken to London, so the sailors on the ship did not have time to open and read their mail. The letters were put in storage and forgotten about. They gathered dust in an archive. A researcher from Cambridge University said many of the letters were love letters. A group of researchers read and studied the letters. The lead researcher said the messages gave a rare and unique look back in time to history. The writers were rich and poor. They were fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. The writings showed how different literacy was among people in France. A researcher said the letters were important. He said they showed how we all cope with challenges like pandemics and wars. He said the letters were very similar to what people write about today. They were about staying in touch, caring for people, and keeping passion alive.

# LOVE LETTERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231109-love-letters-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about love letters 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*265-year-old love letters opened for first time – 9th November 2023*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

