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Level 4 – 20th May 2024

France issues scratch-n-sniff baguette stamp

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-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/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-4.html>

The French Post Office (La Poste) issued a special stamp to honour the baguette - France's national bread. The stamp is covered with tiny capsules that release the smell of fresh bread. It shows a baguette decorated with a red, white, and blue ribbon. A shopkeeper who sells the "scratch-and-sniff" stamp said it had a "bakery smell". The stamp had a print run of 594,000 copies. La Poste said French bakers bake six billion baguettes every year.

The baguette is close to the hearts of French people. France's president called it, "250 grams of magic and perfection". La Poste called the baguette, "the symbol of our gastronomy, the jewel of our culture". It said the bread was popular because it promises a delicious taste experience, and "it seduces with its golden crust". It added that the baguette's "toasted scent whets the appetite". The baguette was given UNESCO heritage status in 2022.

Sources: <https://www.laposte.fr/pp/timbre-baguette-de-pain-francaise/p/1124031>
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/article/2024/may/17/french-post-office-releases-scratch-and-sniff-baguette-stamp>
<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240517-french-post-office-celebrates-baguette-with-scented-stamp>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. issued a special | a. smell |
| 2. honour | b. bake six billion |
| 3. The stamp is covered | c. of fresh bread |
| 4. release the smell | d. run of 594,000 copies |
| 5. a red, white, and blue | e. the baguette |
| 6. it had a bakery | f. ribbon |
| 7. The stamp had a print | g. stamp |
| 8. French bakers | h. with tiny capsules |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. close to the hearts | a. our culture |
| 2. 250 grams | b. the appetite |
| 3. the symbol of our | c. status |
| 4. the jewel of | d. crust |
| 5. It said the bread was | e. gastronomy |
| 6. it seduces with its golden | f. of French people |
| 7. the baguette's toasted scent whets | g. popular |
| 8. UNESCO heritage | h. of magic |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-4.html>

The French Post Office (La Poste) (1) _____ stamp to honour the baguette - France's national bread. The stamp (2) _____ tiny capsules that release the smell of fresh bread. It shows a baguette (3) _____ red, white, and blue ribbon. (4) _____ sells the "scratch-and-sniff" stamp said it had (5) _____. The stamp had a print run of 594,000 copies. La Poste said French (6) _____ billion baguettes every year.

The baguette is close (7) _____ of French people. France's president called it, "250 grams of (8) _____". La Poste called the baguette, "the (9) _____ gastronomy, the jewel of our culture". It said the bread was popular because it (10) _____ taste experience, and "it seduces with its golden crust". It added that the baguette's "(11) _____ the appetite". The baguette was given UNESCO (12) _____ 2022.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-4.html>

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POSTAGE STAMPS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about postage stamps 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) _____

