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Level 2 – 19th March 2026

Anger in UK over wildlife pictures on banknotes

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2306/260319-british-banknotes-2.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2306/260319-british-banknotes-2.html>

People in the UK are angry that pictures on banknotes will change. The Bank of England is replacing famous historical figures with wildlife. A democratic process saw 26,000 people have a public discussion and vote. Nature was their most popular theme. This means national heroes like WWII leader Sir Winston Churchill will be replaced by animals and birds. An expert on sustainability said: "This is a powerful reminder of how deeply people feel connected to and value British wildlife." She added: "It's a beautiful opportunity to put biodiversity in our hands."

The Bank explained that images of wildlife would make banknotes more difficult to fake. It said nature was great for the security of banknotes. However, many politicians are unhappy about removing the historical figures. The Conservative Party said: "Removing Churchill from banknotes is erasing our history. Changing the pictures...is a silly thing to do." The Liberal Democrat Party leader said: "I can't think of a worse time to do this with a war...in Europe." However, Churchill's granddaughter had no problem with an animal replacing her grandfather.

Sources: <https://www.euronews.com/2026/03/11/putting-biodiversity-in-our-hands-british-wildlife-will-soon-be-celebrated-on-banknotes>
<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/trump-official-warns-labour-over-183244760.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy03zy1lr8go>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2306/260319-british-banknotes-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. people in the UK | a. popular theme |
| 2. pictures on banknotes will | b. figures with wildlife |
| 3. replacing famous historical | c. British wildlife |
| 4. a democratic | d. change |
| 5. have a public | e. process |
| 6. Nature was their most | f. on sustainability |
| 7. an expert | g. discussion |
| 8. feel connected to and value | h. are angry |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. images of | a. unhappy |
| 2. make banknotes more | b. silly thing to do |
| 3. nature was great for the security | c. difficult to fake |
| 4. many politicians are | d. history |
| 5. removing the historical | e. wildlife |
| 6. erasing our | f. to do this |
| 7. Changing the pictures...is a | g. of banknotes |
| 8. I can't think of a worse time | h. figures |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2306/260319-british-banknotes-2.html>

People in the UK are (1) _____ on banknotes will change. The Bank of England (2) _____ historical figures with wildlife. A democratic process saw 26,000 people have (3) _____ and vote. Nature was their most popular theme. This means national heroes like WWII leader Sir Winston Churchill will (4) _____ animals and birds. An expert on sustainability said: "This is a powerful reminder (5) _____ people feel connected to and value British wildlife." She added: "It's a beautiful opportunity to put biodiversity (6) _____."

The Bank (7) _____ of wildlife would make banknotes more (8) _____. It said nature was great for the security of banknotes. However, many politicians are (9) _____ the historical figures. The Conservative Party said: "Removing Churchill from banknotes is (10) _____. Changing the pictures...is a silly thing to do." The Liberal Democrat Party leader said: "I can't think of a (11) _____ do this with a war...in Europe." However, Churchill's granddaughter had (12) _____ an animal replacing her grandfather.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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BANKNOTES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2306/260319-british-banknotes-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about banknotes 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) _____

