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## Letter of the alphabet for 'the' invented

11th July, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

An Australian businessman has invented a new, 27th, letter for the English alphabet. It is a symbol to replace the word "the". It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and a lower case "h" (Ƨ). However, the "new" letter looks the same as a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his idea. It is already available for download on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is hoping mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will add the letter to their keyboards. He invested \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has shown little interest. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But is it something that might be useful for people? I think so."

Mr Mathis believes the new character is useful because it replaces the most common word in the English language – "the". He said it will save people time when they type because they only need to use one key instead of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that other words have their own character. He pointed out that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the fifth most common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space" such as Twitter or texts where there is a limited number of characters. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or operating systems.

Sources: <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/what-th-one-mans-quest-for-a-symbol-solution-20130705-2pgd8.html#ixzz2YaPHVIWn>  
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/technology/news/aussie-restaurateur-paul-mathis-invents-new-letter-of-the-alphabet/story-fni0bzod-1226675974506>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE ALPHABET:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the alphabet. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*businessman / letter / alphabet / download / iTunes / invested / keyboards / useful / common words / language / symbol / the word "and" / Twitter / operating systems*

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

**3. NEW SOFTWARE:** What could this "new" software be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Software	What is this?	How is it useful
A "the" key		
Talk & translate		
Ask for a definition		
Talk and type		
"Undo sent mail" key		
Record my life		

**4. THE LETTER "ҥ":** Students A **strongly** believe we need the letter " ҥ " in English; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. WORDS:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the ones you like most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- the
- new
- symbol
- idea
- useful
- common
- texts
- manufacturers

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

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

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. The English alphabet now has 27 letters.                                   | T / F |
| b. The new letter looks like no other letter or symbol ever created before.   | T / F |
| c. You can download the new letter on the Apple iTunes store.                 | T / F |
| d. The inventor said the new letter was not going to change the world.        | T / F |
| e. The inventor said his idea would save people a lot of money.               | T / F |
| f. The guy said "the" needs a special character because "and" has one.        | T / F |
| g. The new character will not be very useful on Twitter.                      | T / F |
| h. It is unlikely that computer makers will add the letter to their software. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. invented       | a. tight          |
| 2. symbol         | b. on sale        |
| 3. combination    | c. button         |
| 4. available      | d. letter         |
| 5. invested       | e. showed         |
| 6. replaces       | f. put money into |
| 7. key            | g. developed      |
| 8. pointed out    | h. makers         |
| 9. limited        | i. mixture        |
| 10. manufacturers | j. exchanges      |

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

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. a new, 27th, letter for    | a. for download                 |
| 2. It is a symbol to replace  | b. number of characters         |
| 3. It is already available    | c. little interest              |
| 4. He invested                | d. word in the English language |
| 5. Apple has shown            | e. the word "the"               |
| 6. the most common            | f. - the ampersand (&)          |
| 7. other words have           | g. \$35,000 in his app          |
| 8. "and" has its own symbol   | h. operating systems            |
| 9. there is a limited         | i. their own character          |
| 10. change their keyboards or | j. the English alphabet         |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

An Australian businessman has invented a new, 27th, letter for the English alphabet. It is a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to replace the word "the". It looks like a combination of a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ "T" and a lower (3) \_\_\_\_\_ "h" (ἦ). However, the "new" letter looks the same as a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his idea. It is already (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for download on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will add the letter to their keyboards. He (6) \_\_\_\_\_ \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has shown little (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But is it something that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ be useful for people? I think so."

*invested*  
*available*  
*might*  
*capital*  
*interest*  
*symbol*  
*hoping*  
*case*

Mr Mathis believes the new character is useful because it (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the most common word in the English language - "the". He said it will save people time when they (10) \_\_\_\_\_ because they only need to use one (11) \_\_\_\_\_ instead of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that other words have their (12) \_\_\_\_\_ character. He pointed out that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ most common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will (14) \_\_\_\_\_ "in the texting space" such as Twitter or texts where there is a (15) \_\_\_\_\_ number of characters. Not everyone (16) \_\_\_\_\_ with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or operating systems.

*own*  
*limited*  
*type*  
*help*  
*agrees*  
*replaces*  
*key*  
*fifth*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

- 1) An Australian businessman has invented a new, 27th, letter for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the English alphabets
  - b. the English alphabetise
  - c. the English alphabet
  - d. the English alpha beta
- 2) It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a lower cause "h"
  - b. a lower cased "h"
  - c. a lower cases "h"
  - d. a lower case "h"
- 3) However, the "new" letter looks the same as a letter from \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the Serbian languages
  - b. the Serbian language
  - c. the Serbia language
  - d. the Serbian's language
- 4) tablet and computer makers will add the letter \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to their keyboard
  - b. to their keyboardist
  - c. to their key boards
  - d. to their keyboards
- 5) He invested \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. shown little interest
  - b. shown little interests
  - c. shown little interested
  - d. shown little interesting
- 6) the new character is useful because it replaces the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. most commoner word
  - b. most commonly word
  - c. most commons word
  - d. most common word
- 7) He argued that other words have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their own character
  - b. their own characters
  - c. their own characterise
  - d. their own characterised
- 8) Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. the text space
  - b. the text in space
  - c. the texting space
  - d. the texts in space
- 9) ...such as Twitter or texts where there is a limited \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. numbers of characters
  - b. numbered of characters
  - c. number of characters
  - d. numerical of characters
- 10) manufacturers will change their keyboards \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. or operating system
  - b. or operational systems
  - c. or operating systems
  - d. or operational system

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# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

An Australian businessman (1) \_\_\_\_\_, 27th, letter for the English alphabet. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ replace the word "the". It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and a lower case "h" (T̥). However, the "new" letter (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his idea. It (4) \_\_\_\_\_ download on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is hoping mobile phone, tablet and computer makers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their keyboards. He invested \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has shown little interest. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But is it something (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for people? I think so."

Mr Mathis believes the new character is useful (7) \_\_\_\_\_ most common word in the English language – "the". He said it will save people time when they type because they (8) \_\_\_\_\_ one key instead of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ their own character. He pointed out that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) (10) \_\_\_\_\_ fifth most common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space" such as Twitter or texts where there (11) \_\_\_\_\_ characters. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers (12) \_\_\_\_\_ keyboards or operating systems.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

1. Where is the man who had this idea from?

---

2. What two letters does the symbol look like?

---

3. From where can we get the app?

---

4. How much cash did the man put into his app?

---

5. How much interest has Apple shown in the man's app?

---

6. What is the most frequently used word in English?

---

7. How many keys do we need to press to type "the"?

---

8. What is the fifth most common word in English?

---

9. Who doesn't think the man's idea is so good?

---

10. What are computer makers unlikely to change?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

1. Where is the man who had this idea from?
  - a) America
  - b) Australia
  - c) India
  - d) China
2. What two letters does the symbol look like?
  - a) "F" and "t"
  - b) "K" and "j"
  - c) "T" and "h"
  - d) "W" and "o"
3. From where can we get the app?
  - a) the inventor's website
  - b) Amazon.com
  - c) Google
  - d) Apple's iTunes store
4. How much cash did the man put into his app?
  - a) \$30,000
  - b) \$35,000
  - c) \$40,000
  - d) \$45,000
5. How much interest has Apple shown in the man's app?
  - a) little
  - b) a lot
  - c) none
  - d) a huge amount
6. What is the most frequently used word in English?
  - a) the
  - b) to
  - c) be
  - d) so
7. How many keys do we need to press to type "the"?
  - a) one
  - b) seven
  - c) two
  - d) three
8. What is the fifth most common word in English?
  - a) I
  - b) with
  - c) and
  - d) in
9. Who doesn't think the man's idea is so good?
  - a) newspaper editors
  - b) the boss of Twitter
  - c) English teachers
  - d) computer experts
10. What are computer makers unlikely to change?
  - a) language
  - b) their keyboards
  - c) the word "the"
  - d) their minds

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

## **Role A – Inventor**

You think your idea is great. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell anyone who disagrees that new technology like texting means we need new letters. Tell them it is time the English alphabet changed and became more 21<sup>st</sup>-century.

## **Role B – Computer maker boss**

You think the idea of a 27th letter of the English alphabet is a bad one. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others the new letter would save almost no time. Tell them the inventor is just trying to be a little famous. The English alphabet is hundreds of years old. It does not need to change.

## **Role C – Texter**

You love the idea of "the" becoming a letter of the alphabet. Tell the others three reasons why. You know it will save you a lot of time. You always make mistakes typing "the" so the new letter will be great. You also tweet a lot and need the extra space.

## **Role D – Serbia government**

You are angry someone wants to use the "Ћ" symbol from your language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the inventor (s)he needs to make an original letter and not steal from the Serbian language. You will sue the inventor if (s)he continues saying (s)he invented the letter "Ћ".

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

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

letter	alphabet

- 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>• replace</li><li>• same</li><li>• idea</li><li>• add</li><li>• little</li><li>• change</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• common</li><li>• key</li><li>• argued</li><li>• fifth</li><li>• limited</li><li>• experts</li></ul>
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# THE ALPHABET SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the alphabet 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.

# THE ALPHABET DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'alphabet'?
- c) Are 26 letters in English enough?
- d) Are there any letters in English you love or hate?
- e) What do you think of Mr Mathis' "Ƨ" symbol?
- f) What are the differences between your alphabet and the English one?
- g) Do you have any problems with the English alphabet?
- h) Why do you think Apple isn't so interested in the app?
- i) Should Serbians be angry Mr Mathis has used a letter similar to a letter of their alphabet?
- j) Would you download and use the "Ƨ" app?

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# THE ALPHABET DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Do you have any problems with the word "the"?
- c) If we use "Ƨ," will we need a new alphabet song?
- d) Is the word "the" totally necessary?
- e) What changes would you like to make to your alphabet?
- f) Is Mr Mathis right that "the" should have a special letter because "and" has one?
- g) Where on the keyboard would you put a new "Ƨ" character?
- h) How helpful would "Ƨ" be for texting or on Twitter?
- i) Would changing keyboards and operating systems be a problem?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Mr Mathis?

# 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. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

An Australian businessman has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a new, 27th, letter for the English alphabet. It is a symbol to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the word "the". It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and a lower (3) \_\_\_\_\_ "h" (Ƨ). However, the "new" letter looks the same as a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his idea. It is already (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for download on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is hoping mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will add the letter to their keyboards. He invested \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has shown (5) \_\_\_\_\_ interest. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the world? Not really. But is it something that might be useful for people? I think so."

Mr Mathis believes the new character is useful because it replaces the most (7) \_\_\_\_\_ word in the English language - "the". He said it will save people time when they type because they only need to use one key (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ words have their own character. He pointed (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the fifth most common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space" such as Twitter or texts where there is a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ number of characters. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or (12) \_\_\_\_\_ systems.

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

- |     |                   |               |                 |                |
|-----|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) inventor      | (b) invented  | (c) inventing   | (d) invents    |
| 2.  | (a) irreplaceable | (b) replace   | (c) replacement | (d) implacable |
| 3.  | (a) bag           | (b) sack      | (c) pack        | (d) case       |
| 4.  | (a) surveyed      | (b) available | (c) irrelevant  | (d) overly     |
| 5.  | (a) small         | (b) little    | (c) few         | (d) lessen     |
| 6.  | (a) charge        | (b) adopt     | (c) change      | (d) adapt      |
| 7.  | (a) normal        | (b) average   | (c) common      | (d) mean       |
| 8.  | (a) rather        | (b) prefer    | (c) instead     | (d) compare    |
| 9.  | (a) another       | (b) others    | (c) the other   | (d) other      |
| 10. | (a) in            | (b) there     | (c) up          | (d) out        |
| 11. | (a) limited       | (b) limit     | (c) limitless   | (d) limits     |
| 12. | (a) operative     | (b) operates  | (c) operating   | (d) operated   |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. a slomby to replace the word "the"
2. It looks like a ninocobmtia
3. a capital "T" and a orwle case "h"
4. already lliebvaaa for download
5. He ienevtsd \$35,000 in his app
6. Apple has shown little itenters

## Paragraph 2

7. the new acearcthr is useful
8. the most onocmm word
9. the English aegunalg
10. there is a itidlme number
11. stucarnfuaemr will change
12. keyboards or tigneoarp systems



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

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

- ( ) to replace the word "the". It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and a lower case "h" (T̥). However, the "new" letter looks
- ( ) the letter to their keyboards. He invested \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has shown little
- ( ) agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or operating systems.
- ( ) interest. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to change the world? Not
- ( ) language – "the". He said it will save people time when they type because they only need to use one
- ( **1** ) An Australian businessman has invented a new, 27th, letter for the English alphabet. It is a symbol
- ( ) the same as a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his
- ( ) idea. It is already available for download on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is hoping mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will add
- ( ) such as Twitter or texts where there is a limited number of characters. Not everyone
- ( ) most common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space"
- ( ) key instead of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that other words have their own character. He pointed
- ( ) really. But is it something that might be useful for people? I think so."
- ( ) Mr Mathis believes the new character is useful because it replaces the most common word in the English
- ( ) out that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the fifth

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

1. the English alphabet A new, . , 27th , letter for

---

2. the ". It is a symbol to replace the word "

---

3. as a letter from the Serbian language Looks . the same

---

4. add to will letter keyboards makers the their Computer.

---

5. useful something for that people might be It.

---

6. the English language It replaces the most common word in.

---

7. have character argued words own He other their that.

---

8. He has the that symbol "and" out own pointed its word.

---

9. characters a limited Where number there of is.

---

10. will manufacturers think don't experts Computer change.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

An Australian businessman has invented a new, 27th, letter *from / for* the English alphabet. It is a *symbolic / symbol* to replace the word "the". It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and a *lower / lowly* case "h" (T̥). However, the "new" letter looks the same *as / has* a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his *ideal / idea*. It is already available for *download / upload* on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is hoping mobile phone, tablet and computer *markers / makers* will add the letter to their keyboards. He invested \$35,000 *in / on* his app, but so far Apple has shown *little / small* interest. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to *change / charge* the world? Not really. But is it something that might be useful for people? I think so."

Mr Mathis believes the new character is *useful / usefully* because it replaces the most common word in the English language – "the". He said it will *spend / save* people time when they *type / typing* because they only need to use one key *instead / rather* of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that *other / another* words have their own character. He pointed *up / out* that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the fifth *most / mostly* common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space" such *was / as* Twitter or texts where there is a limited number of characters. Not everyone *agreeing / agrees* with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or *operates / operating* systems.

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

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

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

\_n \_\_str\_l\_\_n b\_s\_n\_ssm\_n h\_s \_nv\_nt\_d \_n\_w, 27th, l\_tt\_r f\_r th \_ngl\_sh \_lph\_b\_t. \_t \_s \_ symb\_l\_t\_r\_pl\_c\_th\_w\_r\_d "th\_". \_t l\_\_ks l\_k\_\_c\_mb\_n\_t\_\_n\_f\_\_c\_p\_t\_l "T" \_nd \_l\_w\_r c\_s\_ "h" (ϥ). H\_w\_v\_r, th\_"n\_w" l\_tt\_r l\_\_ks th\_s\_m\_\_s \_l\_tt\_r fr\_m th\_S\_rb\_\_n\_l\_ng\_\_g\_. P\_\_l M\_th\_s b\_l\_\_v\_s m\_ny p\_\_pl\_w\_ll l\_k\_\_h\_s \_d\_\_.\_t \_s \_lr\_\_dy \_v\_\_l\_b\_l\_f\_r\_d\_wnl\_\_d \_n \_ppl\_'s \_T\_n\_s. M\_th\_s \_s h\_p\_ng m\_b\_l\_ph\_n\_, t\_b\_l\_t \_nd c\_mp\_t\_r m\_k\_rs w\_ll \_dd th\_l\_tt\_r t\_th\_\_r k\_yb\_\_rds. H\_\_nv\_st\_d \$35,000 \_n h\_s \_pp, b\_t\_s\_f\_r \_ppl\_h\_s sh\_wn lttl\_\_nt\_r\_st. H\_t\_ld th\_"Sydn\_y M\_rn\_ng H\_r\_ld": "\_s th\_s g\_\_ng t\_ch\_ng th\_w\_rld? N\_t r\_\_lly. B\_t\_s \_t\_s\_m\_th\_ng th\_t m\_ght b\_\_s\_f\_l\_f\_r p\_\_pl\_? \_th\_nk\_s\_."

Mr M\_th\_s b\_l\_\_v\_s th\_n\_w ch\_r\_ct\_r \_s \_s\_f\_l\_b\_c\_\_s \_t\_r\_pl\_c\_s th\_m\_st c\_mm\_n\_w\_r\_d \_n th\_\_ngl\_sh\_l\_ng\_\_g\_ - "th\_". H\_s\_\_d \_t\_w\_ll\_s\_v\_p\_\_pl\_t\_m\_ wh\_n th\_y typ\_b\_c\_\_s th\_y \_nly n\_\_d t\_\_s\_\_n\_k\_y \_nst\_\_d \_f th\_thr\_\_n\_\_d\_d\_f\_r\_\_ch\_l\_tt\_r\_f th\_w\_r\_d "th\_". H\_\_rg\_\_d th\_t th\_r\_w\_rds h\_v th\_\_r\_\_wn ch\_r\_ct\_r. H\_p\_\_nt\_d \_\_t th\_t th\_w\_r\_d "\_nd" h\_s\_\_ts \_wn symb\_l - th\_\_mp\_rs\_nd (&) \_nd th\_t \_s \_nly th\_f\_fth m\_st c\_mm\_n\_w\_r\_d. M\_th\_s \_ls\_s\_ys h\_s\_n\_w symb\_l\_w\_ll h\_lp "\_n th\_t\_xt\_ng sp\_c\_" s\_ch\_\_s Tw\_tt\_r\_r\_t\_xts wh\_r th\_r\_\_s \_l\_m\_t\_d n\_mb\_r\_f ch\_r\_ct\_rs. N\_t \_v\_ry\_n\_\_gr\_\_s\_w\_th M\_th\_s. C\_mp\_t\_r\_xp\_rts d\_n't th\_nk m\_n\_f\_ct\_r\_rs\_w\_ll ch\_ng th\_\_r k\_yb\_\_rds \_r\_p\_r\_t\_ng syst\_ms.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

an australian businessman has invented a new 27th letter for the english alphabet it is a symbol to replace the word "the" it looks like a combination of a capital "t" and a lower case "h" (ħ) however the "new" letter looks the same as a letter from the serbian language paul mathis believes many people will like his idea it is already available for download on apple's itunes mathis is hoping mobile phone tablet and computer makers will add the letter to their keyboards he invested \$35000 in his app but so far apple has shown little interest he told the "sydney morning herald" "is this going to change the world not really but is it something that might be useful for people i think so"

mr mathis believes the new character is useful because it replaces the most common word in the english language – "the" he said it will save people time when they type because they only need to use one key instead of the three needed for each letter of the word "the" he argued that other words have their own character he pointed out that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the fifth most common word mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space" such as twitter or texts where there is a limited number of characters not everyone agrees with mathis computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or operating systems

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet.html>

An Australian businessman has invented a new, 27th, letter for the English alphabet. It is a symbol to replace the word "the". It looks like a combination of a capital "T" and a lowercase "h" (T̥). However, the "new" letter looks the same as a letter from the Serbian language. Paul Mathis believes many people will like his idea. It is already available for download on Apple's iTunes. Mathis is hoping mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will add the letter to their keyboards. He invested \$35,000 in his app, but so far Apple has shown little interest. He told the "Sydney Morning Herald": "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But it is something that might be useful for people? I think so." Mr Mathis believes the new character is useful because it replaces the most common word in the English language "the". He said it will save people time when they type because they only need to use one key instead of the three needed for each letter of the word "the". He argued that other words have their own character. He pointed out that the word "and" has its own symbol - the ampersand (&) and that is only the fifth most common word. Mathis also says his new symbol will help "in the texting space" such as Twitter or texts where there is a limited number of characters. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think manufacturers will change their keyboards or operating systems.







# 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 the "new" letter. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE ALPHABET:** Make a poster about the English alphabet. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. THE:** Write a magazine article about the word "the". Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against the new "Ƨ" letter.

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 a language expert. Ask him/her three questions about the "Ƨ" letter. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b F    c T    d T    e F    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. invented       | a. developed      |
| 2. symbol         | b. letter         |
| 3. combination    | c. mixture        |
| 4. available      | d. on sale        |
| 5. invested       | e. put money into |
| 6. replaces       | f. exchanges      |
| 7. key            | g. button         |
| 8. pointed out    | h. showed         |
| 9. limited        | i. tight          |
| 10. manufacturers | j. makers         |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Australia
2. "T" and "h"
3. Apple's iTunes store
4. \$35,000
5. Little
6. The
7. Three
8. And
9. Computer experts
10. Their keyboards and operating systems

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b    2. c    3. d    4. b    5. a    6. a    7. d    8. c    9. d    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)