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Level 4 – 20th September, 2019

The word 'they' is now also a singular pronoun

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.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 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.html>

Merriam-Webster added a new definition of the pronoun "they" to its Webster's Dictionary. It says "they" also refers to a "single person whose gender identity is non-binary". These are people who identify neither as male nor female. Many places use a gender-neutral option on official forms. Many local governments, schools and airlines have the choice of "X" for people who do not consider themselves as male or female, and for gender fluid people.

Merriam-Webster said using "they" for "he" or "she" recognizes people who did not "conform to an expected gender expression, or who seemed to be neither male nor female". It says the word "they" was used as a singular pronoun in the 1300s. Shakespeare used it in this way in the 17th century. Also, the 1898 play Antony and Cleopatra has the words: "No man goes to battle to be killed....But they do get killed." Many people use the singular "they" today.

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2019/09/17/merriam-webster-adds-non-binary-pronoun-they-dictionary/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/17/us/merriam-webster-nonbinary-pronoun-they-trnd/index.html>
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/they>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. added a new | a. governments |
| 2. refers to a single | b. or female |
| 3. whose gender identity is non- | c. person |
| 4. use a gender- | d. people |
| 5. local | e. binary |
| 6. have the choice | f. neutral option |
| 7. consider themselves as male | g. definition |
| 8. gender fluid | h. of "X" |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. using "they" | a. century |
| 2. recognizes people | b. battle to be killed |
| 3. seemed to be neither | c. in this way |
| 4. used as a singular | d. "they" today |
| 5. Shakespeare used it | e. pronoun |
| 6. in the 17th | f. for "he" or "she" |
| 7. No man goes to | g. male nor female |
| 8. Many people use the singular | h. who did not conform |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.html>

Merriam-Webster added (1) _____ of the pronoun "they" to its Webster's Dictionary. It says "they" (2) _____ a "single person whose (3) _____ non-binary". These are people who (4) _____ male nor female. Many places use a gender-neutral option on official forms. Many local governments, schools and airlines have the choice of "X" for people who (5) _____ themselves as male or female, and for (6) _____.

Merriam-Webster said using "they" for "he" or "she" (7) _____ did not "conform to an expected gender expression, or who (8) _____ neither male nor female". It says the word "they" was used as (9) _____ in the 1300s. Shakespeare used it in this way in (10) _____. Also, the 1898 play Antony and Cleopatra has the words: "No man (11) _____ to be killed....But they do get killed." Many people (12) _____ "they" today.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.html>

Merriam-Webster added a new definition of the pronoun "they" to its Webster's Dictionary. It says "they" also refers to a "single person whose gender identity is non-binary". These are people who identify neither as male nor female. Many places use a gender-neutral option on official forms. Many local governments, schools and airlines have the choice of "X" for people who do not consider themselves as male or female, and for gender fluid people. Merriam-Webster said using "they" for "he" or "she" recognizes people who did not conform to an expected gender expression, or who seemed to be neither male nor female". It says the word "they" was used as a singular pronoun in the 1300s. Shakespeare used it in this way in the 17th century. Also, the 1898 play Antony and Cleopatra has the words: "Nought to me but death to be killed.... But they do get killed." Many people use the singular "they" today.

PRONOUNS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1909/190920-the-pronoun-they-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pronouns 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) _____

