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Level 3 – 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.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors by their loved ones sat on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until recently. They were read for the first time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on the French warship Galatée. The ship was captured by the British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were captured before they had time to open and read their mail. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in storage and forgotten about, gathering dust. An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were in an archive in London. He said many of them were love letters.

A group of academics read and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a rare and unique look into history. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. The writing showed the differences in levels of literacy among the classes of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were important documents. He said: "They reveal how we all cope with major life challenges...like pandemics or wars. We have to work out how to stay in touch, how to care for people, and how to keep passion alive. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about feels very familiar."

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>

WARM-UPS

1. LOVE LETTERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about love letters. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

love / letters / sailors / shelf / government building / ship / war / London / dust / researcher / rare / unique / history / parents / siblings / documents / staying in touch

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

3. LITERACY: Students A **strongly** believe we need to focus on writing letters and not texting; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. MAJOR LIFE CHALLENGES: What problems can these challenges cause? How can we deal with them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems	How To Cope
No money		
Climate change		
Pandemics		
War		
Stress		
Technology		

5. FRENCH: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "French". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. LETTER: Rank these with your partner. Put the best people to get a letter from at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- A lover
- A best friend
- The lottery people
- A famous actor
- A king or queen
- A parent
- A rich person
- An English teacher

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. sailor | a. A flat length of wood on a wall or part of a piece of furniture, that we put books and other things on. |
| 2. shelf | b. Took into one's possession or control by force. |
| 3. century | c. A person whose job it is to work as a member of the crew of a fishing boat, cruise liner, container ship, warship, etc. |
| 4. captured | d. A teacher or scholar in a university, college or other place of higher education. |
| 5. gathering dust | e. Being unused for a long, long time. |
| 6. academic | f. The place where historical documents or records are kept. |
| 7. archive | g. A period of one hundred years. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. rare | h. Be in (regular) contact with. |
| 9. unique | i. A brother or sister. |
| 10. fiancé | j. The ability to read and write. |
| 11. sibling | k. Of a thing not found in large numbers and so of interest or value. |
| 12. literacy | l. Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. |
| 13. cope | m. Deal well with a difficult situation or problem. |
| 14. stay in touch | n. A man to whom someone is engaged to be married. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. Over one hundred 265-year-old letters have been read for the first time. **T / F**
2. The letters were taken from soldiers on a battle field. **T / F**
3. The British Navy took the letters during the Seven Years' War. **T / F**
4. An academic said most of the letters were love letters. **T / F**
5. The letters allowed academics to look at a special part of history. **T / F**
6. All of the letters were written by rich people. **T / F**
7. Some of the letters were written during a pandemic. **T / F**
8. The article says all of the letters were written with great passion. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. recently | a. head |
| 2. captured | b. brothers / sisters |
| 3. gathering | c. record office |
| 4. academic | d. special |
| 5. archive | e. emotion |
| 6. lead | f. taken prisoner |
| 7. unique | g. manage |
| 8. siblings | h. educator |
| 9. cope | i. a short time ago |
| 10. passion | j. collecting |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. written to French sailors | a. dust |
| 2. for the first time in | b. by the British Navy |
| 3. The ship was captured | c. touch |
| 4. they were put in storage and | d. of literacy |
| 5. gathering | e. two and a half centuries |
| 6. a rare and | f. challenges |
| 7. differences in levels | g. forgotten about |
| 8. cope with major life | h. unique look into history |
| 9. stay in | i. alive |
| 10. keep passion | j. by their loved ones |

GAP FILL

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

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French (1) _____ by their loved ones sat on a (2) _____ in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until (3) _____. They were read for the first time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on the French (4) _____ Galatée. The ship was captured by the British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were (5) _____ before they had time to open and read their mail. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in (6) _____ and forgotten about, gathering (7) _____. An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were in an (8) _____ in London. He said many of them were love letters.

storage
recently
captured
shelf
archive
sailors
dust
warship

A group of academics read and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a (9) _____ and unique look into (10) _____. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, (11) _____ and wives. The writing showed the differences in levels of (12) _____ among the classes of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were important documents. He said: "They (13) _____ how we all cope with major life challenges...like pandemics or wars. We have to work out how to stay in (14) _____, how to care for people, and how to keep (15) _____ alive. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about feels very (16) _____."

history
literacy
touch
rare
familiar
siblings
reveal
passion

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) 104 letters written to French sailors by their loved ones sat _____
 - a. on a shelf
 - b. on a shift
 - c. on a shelf
 - d. on a shell
- 2) They were never _____
 - a. opened, until recent
 - b. opened, only recent
 - c. opened, until recently
 - d. opened, only recently
- 3) during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the _____
 - a. Galatée were captures
 - b. Galatée were raptured
 - c. Galatée were captured
 - d. Galatée were cap chilled
- 4) where they were put in storage and forgotten _____
 - a. about, gathering dust
 - b. about, gathering rust
 - c. about, gathering lust
 - d. about, gathering must
- 5) An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were _____
 - a. in an archive
 - b. inner archive
 - c. on an archive
 - d. in an arc hive
- 6) researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a rare _____
 - a. and uniquely look
 - b. and unique looks
 - c. and unique look
 - d. and uniquely looks
- 7) writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, _____
 - a. sibling and wife
 - b. saplings and wives
 - c. siblings and wives
 - d. saplings and wife
- 8) The writing showed the differences in levels of literacy _____
 - a. aiming the classes
 - b. aim on the classes
 - c. among the classes
 - d. among the class
- 9) We have to work out how to _____
 - a. stay on touch
 - b. stay of touch
 - c. stay to touch
 - d. stay in touch
- 10) In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about _____
 - a. feels very family
 - b. feels very familial
 - c. feels very familiar
 - d. feels very familiars

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors by their (1) _____ on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until recently. They were read for the first time in two and (2) _____. The letters were on the French warship Galatée. The ship was (3) _____ British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were captured before they had (4) _____ and read their mail. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in storage and forgotten (5) _____. An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were in (6) _____ London. He said many of them were love letters.

A (7) _____ read and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a (8) _____ look into history. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. The writing showed the differences in (9) _____ among the classes of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were important documents. He said: "They reveal how we all (10) _____ life challenges...like pandemics or wars. We have to work out how to (11) _____, how to care for people, and how to keep passion alive. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many unopened letters were opened after 265 years?
2. What kind of ship were the letters on?
3. What's the name of the war the ship was fighting in?
4. Where were the letters taken to?
5. Where is the academic from who said the letters were archived?
6. Who is Renaud Morieux?
7. What did the writing in the letters show different levels of?
8. What did the letters reveal people coped with?
9. What did a researcher say we needed to keep alive?
10. How did people communicate in the 18th century?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How many unopened letters were opened after 265 years?
 - a) 102
 - b) 103
 - c) 104
 - d) 105
- 2) What kind of ship were the letters on?
 - a) a warship
 - b) an oil tanker
 - c) a fishing boat
 - d) a cruise ship
- 3) What's the name of the war the ship was fighting in?
 - a) the Crimea War
 - b) the Seven Years' War
 - c) the Anglo-French War
 - d) the Hundred Years' War
- 4) Where were the letters taken to?
 - a) Rome
 - b) Paris
 - c) Amsterdam
 - d) London
- 5) Where is the academic from who said the letters were archived?
 - a) Cardiff University
 - b) London University
 - c) Cambridge University
 - d) Oxford University
- 6) Who is Renaud Morieux?
 - a) a sailor
 - b) the lead researcher
 - c) a love-letter writer
 - d) a journalist
- 7) What did the writing in the letters show different levels of?
 - a) paper quality
 - b) handwriting quality
 - c) love
 - d) literacy
- 8) What did the letters reveal people coped with?
 - a) wars and riots
 - b) pandemics and wars
 - c) plagues and pandemics
 - d) stress and plagues
- 9) What did a researcher say we needed to keep alive?
 - a) love letters
 - b) passion
 - c) letter writing
 - d) love
- 10) How did people communicate in the 18th century?
 - a) by letter
 - b) by telephone
 - c) by telegram
 - d) by pigeon mail

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – A Lover

You think a lover is the best person to get a letter from. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to get a letter from (and why): king or queen, famous actor or English teacher.

Role B – A Famous Actor

You think a famous actor is the best person to get a letter from. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to get a letter from (and why): lover, king or queen or English teacher.

Role C – A King or Queen

You think a king or queen is the best person to get a letter from. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to get a letter from (and why): famous actor, lover or English teacher.

Role D – An English Teacher

You think an English teacher is the best person to get a letter from. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these to get a letter from (and why): king or queen, famous actor or lover.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

love	letter
-------------	---------------

- 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">• shelf• recently• warship• time• forgotten• archive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rare• parents• levels• cope• touch• familiar
---	---

LOVE LETTERS SURVEY

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

LOVE LETTERS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'love'?
3. What do you think of love letters?
4. Have you ever written a love letter?
5. Are love letters better on paper or as a text?
6. Would you like to read the old love letters?
7. Are there any dangers in writing love letters?
8. What do people write about in love letters?
9. Do you think love 265 years ago was different than today?
10. How important is letter writing?

265-year-old love letters opened for first time – 9th November 2023
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LOVE LETTERS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'letter'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Have you ever received a love letter?
15. Is love between rich people different than between poor people?
16. Who do you write letters to?
17. How much do you like receiving a physical letter?
18. How do you cope with major life challenges?
19. How can we keep passion alive?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

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. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors by their loved ones sat on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until (2) _____. They were read for the first time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on the French warship Galatée. The ship was captured (3) _____ the British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were captured (4) _____ they had time to open and read their mail. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in storage and forgotten about, gathering (5) _____. An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were in an (6) _____ in London. He said many of them were love letters.

A group of academics read and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a (7) _____ and unique look into history. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, (8) _____ and wives. The writing showed the differences in levels of (9) _____ among the classes of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were important documents. He said: "They reveal how we all cope (10) _____ major life challenges...like pandemics or wars. We have to work out how to stay in (11) _____, how to care for people, and how to keep passion alive. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about feels very (12) _____."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) loves | (b) lover | (c) loved | (d) loving |
| 2. | (a) recently | (b) recent | (c) recents | (d) recency |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) before | (b) while | (c) during | (d) after |
| 5. | (a) rust | (b) dust | (c) must | (d) lust |
| 6. | (a) architect | (b) archery | (c) hive | (d) archive |
| 7. | (a) bare | (b) care | (c) rare | (d) dare |
| 8. | (a) slings | (b) saplings | (c) dumplings | (d) siblings |
| 9. | (a) literacy | (b) numeracy | (c) conspiracy | (d) democracy |
| 10. | (a) at | (b) with | (c) of | (d) to |
| 11. | (a) feel | (b) touch | (c) handle | (d) caress |
| 12. | (a) familial | (b) family | (c) familiar | (d) familiarity |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. in a eorvnengtm building
2. the first time in two and a half ntieurcse
3. The ship was ductarep by the British Navy
4. they were put in oarsegt
5. An dmaecaci from Cambridge University
6. the letters were in an hearvci

Paragraph 2

7. a rare and eqiuun look into history
8. differences in levels of rtcleiya
9. cope with major life echseglanl
10. mipedncas or wars
11. how to keep ioanssp alive
12. what they wrote about feels very faimrlia

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () by the British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were captured before they
- (**1**) For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors by their loved ones sat on a
- () all cope with major life challenges...like pandemics or wars. We have to work out how to stay in
- () siblings and wives. The writing showed the differences in levels of literacy among the classes
- () touch, how to care for people, and how to keep passion alive. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th
- () shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until recently. They were read for the first
- () time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on the French warship Galatée. The ship was captured
- () a rare and unique look into history. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents,
- () of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were important documents. He said: "They reveal how we
- () A group of academics read and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided
- () forgotten about, gathering dust. An academic from Cambridge University said the
- () century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about feels very familiar."
- () had time to open and read their mail. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in storage and
- () letters were in an archive in London. He said many of them were love letters.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. Written by French their ones . to loved sailors
2. read were time . for the first They
3. Before had they to time read mail . their
4. put about . and forgotten storage were in They
5. letters . were them of love said many He
6. into A and unique rare history . look back
7. classes of society . among Literacy French the
8. How major with we all challenges . cope life
9. the had century, 18th people letters . only In
10. very wrote they What feels familiar . about

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

For 265 years, 104 letters *written / writing* to French sailors by their loved *once / ones* sat on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until *recent / recently*. They were read for the first time in two and a half *centuries / century*. The letters were on the French warship Galatée. The ship was captured *by / at* the British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were captured *before / after* they had time to open and read their *male / mail*. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in *storage / wastage* and forgotten about, gathering *dust / rust*. An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were in an *arch / archive* in London. He said many of them were love letters.

A group of academics *read / wrote* and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a *bare / rare* and unique look into history. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, *saplings / siblings* and wives. The writing showed the differences in levels of *literate / literacy* among the classes of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were *important / importance* documents. He said: "They reveal how we all *mope / cope* with major life challenges...like pandemics or *warriors / wars*. We have to work out how to stay *in / on* touch, how to care for people, and how to keep passion *life / alive*. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about feels very *family / familiar*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

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

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

F_r 265 y__rs, 104 l_tt_rs wr_tt_n t_ Fr_nch s__l_rs
by th__r l_v_d _n_s s_t _n _ sh_lf _n _ g_v_rnm_nt
b__ld_ng _n th_ __.K. Th_y w_r_ n_v_r _p_n_d, _nt_l
r_c_ntly. Th_y w_r_ r__d f_r th_ f_rst t_m_ _n tw_
_nd _ h_lf c_nt_r__s. Th_ l_tt_rs w_r_ _n th_ Fr_nch
w_rsh_p G_l_té_. Th_ sh_p w_s c_pt_r_d by th_
Br_t_sh N_vy _n 1758 d_r_ng th_ S_v_n Y__rs' W_r _f
1756-1763. Th_ s__l_rs _n th_ G_l_té_ w_r_ c_pt_r_d
b_f_r_ th_y h_d t_m_ t_ _p_n _nd r__d th__r m__l.
Th_ l_tt_rs w_r_ t_k_n t_ L_nd_n, wh_r_ th_y w_r_
p_t _n st_r_g_ _nd f_rg_tt_n _b__t, g_th_r_ng d_st.
_n _c_d_m_c fr_m C_mbr_dg_ _n_v_rs_ty s__d th_
l_tt_rs w_r_ _n _n _rch_v_ _n L_nd_n. H_ s__d m_ny
_f th_m w_r_ l_v_ l_tt_rs.

_ gr__p _f _c_d_m_cs r__d _nd st_d__d th_ l_tt_rs.
L__d r_s__rch_r R_n__d M_r__x s__d th_ m_ss_g_s
pr_v_d_d _ r_r_ _nd _n_q__ l__k _nt_ h_st_ry. Th_
wr_t_rs w_r_ fr_m p__r p__pl_ _nd r_ch p__pl_; fr_m
f__ncés, p_r_nts, s_blngs _nd w_v_s. Th_ wr_t_ng
sh_w_d th_ d_ff_r_nc_s _n l_v_ls _f l_t_r_cy _m_ng
th_ cl_ss_s _f Fr_nch s_c__ty. Pr_f_ss_r M_r__x s__d
th_ l_tt_rs w_r_ _mp_rt_nt d_c_m_nts. H_ s__d: "Th_y
r_v__l h_w w_ _ll c_p_ w_th m_j_r l_f
ch_ll_ng_s...l_k_ p_nd_m_cs _r w_rs. W_ h_v_ t_ w_rk
__t h_w t_ st_y _n t__ch, h_w t_ c_r_ f_r p__pl_,
_nd h_w t_ k__p p_ss__n _l_v_. T_d_y, w_ h_v_
Z__m. _n th_ 18th c_nt_ry, p__pl_ _nly h_d l_tt_rs,
b_t wh_t th_y wr_t_ _b__t f__ls v_ry f_m_l__r."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

for 265 years 104 letters written to french sailors by their loved ones sat on a shelf in a government building in the uk they were never opened until recently they were read for the first time in two and a half centuries the letters were on the french warship galate the ship was captured by the british navy in 1758 during the seven years war of 1756-1763 the sailors on the galate were captured before they had time to open and read their mail the letters were taken to london where they were put in storage and forgotten about gathering dust an academic from cambridge university said the letters were in an archive in london he said many of them were love letters

a group of academics read and studied the letters lead researcher renaud morieux said the messages provided a rare and unique look into history the writers were from poor people and rich people from fiancs parents siblings and wives the writing showed the differences in levels of literacy among the classes of french society professor morieux said the letters were important documents he said they reveal how we all cope with major life challenges like pandemics or wars we have to work out how to stay in touch how to care for people and how to keep passion alive today we have zoom in the 18th century people only had letters but what they wrote about feels very familiar

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

For 265 years, 104 letters written to French sailors by their loved ones sat on a shelf in a government building in the U.K. They were never opened, until recently. They were read for the first time in two and a half centuries. The letters were on the French warship Galatée. The ship was captured by the British Navy in 1758 during the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763. The sailors on the Galatée were captured before they had time to open and read their mail. The letters were taken to London, where they were put in storage and forgotten about, gathering dust. An academic from Cambridge University said the letters were in an archive in London. He said many of them were love letters. A group of academics read and studied the letters. Lead researcher Renaud Morieux said the messages provided a rare and unique look into history. The writers were from poor people and rich people; from fiancés, parents, siblings and wives. The writings showed the differences in levels of literacy among the classes of French society. Professor Morieux said the letters were important documents. He said: "They reveal how we all cope with major life challenges... like pandemics or wars. We have to work out how to stay in touch, how to care for people, and how to keep a passion alive. Today, we have Zoom. In the 18th century, people only had letters, but what they wrote about feels very familiar."

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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR: Make a poster about the Seven Year's War. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. LOVE LETTERS: Write a magazine article about all of us writing more love letters. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 an expert on love letters. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions of love letters. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 F 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. i	2. f	3. j	4. h	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. b	9. g	10. e

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 104
- A French warship
- The Seven Years' War
- London
- Cambridge University
- The lead researcher
- Levels of literacy
- Pandemics and wars
- Passion
- By letter

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- Written to French sailors by their loved ones.
- They were read for the first time.
- Before they had time to read their mail.
- They were put in storage and forgotten about.
- He said many of them were love letters.
- A rare and unique look back into history.
- Literacy among the classes of French society.
- How we all cope with major life challenges.
- In the 18th century, people only had letters.
- What they wrote about feels very familiar.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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