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Level 1

Amazon Alexa to reward kids who say 'Please'

28th April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-1.html>

Technology will help children to be polite. Amazon has a new children's virtual assistant, called "FreeTime". This has a "Magic Word" feature. Actually, there are two magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." It encourages children to say these two words when they ask questions. After a child asks FreeTime a question, it will answer and then say: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes children will copy this and be more polite.

Magic Word is for people who think technology teaches children to be rude. Parents say children copy devices and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Not everyone is happy with this new technology. A campaign group said: "AI devices [get in the way of] face-to-face interactions and...play that children need to grow." It said parents should spend time with children and teach them to be polite.

Sources: <https://slate.com/technology/2018/04/amazon-announces-a-kid-friendly-alexa-freetime-and-echo-dot-kids-edition.html>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/baig/2018/04/25/amazon-echo-dot-kids-alexa-thanks-them-saying-please/547911002/>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43897516>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. virtual | a. FreeTime a question |
| 2. there are two | b. copy this |
| 3. It encourages children | c. magic words |
| 4. when | d. polite |
| 5. After a child asks | e. they ask questions |
| 6. Thank you for | f. to say these |
| 7. Amazon hopes children will | g. assistant |
| 8. be more | h. asking so nicely |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. technology teaches | a. the way |
| 2. forget to say | b. with children |
| 3. Not everyone is happy with this | c. interactions |
| 4. AI devices get in | d. be polite |
| 5. face-to-face | e. new technology |
| 6. children need | f. children to be rude |
| 7. spend time | g. to grow |
| 8. teach them to | h. "please" |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-1.html>

Technology will help children (1) _____. Amazon has a new children's virtual assistant, called "FreeTime". This has a "Magic Word" feature. Actually, (2) _____ magic words: "Please," and: "Thank you." It encourages children to say these two words (3) _____ questions. After a child asks FreeTime a question, (4) _____ and then say: "Thank you for (5) _____." Amazon hopes children will copy this and (6) _____.

Magic Word is for people who think technology teaches children (7) _____. Parents say children (8) _____ forget to say "please" or "thank you". Not everyone (9) _____ this new technology. A campaign group said: "AI devices (10) _____ way of face-to-face interactions and... (11) _____ need to grow." It said parents should spend time with children and teach (12) _____ polite.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-1.html>

Technology will help children to be polite. Amazon has a new children's virtual assistant, called "FreeTime". This has a "MagicWord" feature. Actually, there are two magic words: "Please," and "Thank you." It encourages children to say these two words when they ask questions. After a child asks FreeTime a question, it will answer and then say: "Thank you for asking so nicely." Amazon hopes children will copy this and be more polite. Magic Word is for people who think technology teaches children to be rude. Parents say children copy devices and forget to say "please" or "thank you". Not everyone is happy with this new technology. A campaign group said: "AI devices [get in the way of] face-to-face interactions and... play that children need to grow." It said parents should spend time with children and teach them to be polite.

SAYING PLEASE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180428-saying-please-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about saying please 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) _____

