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**Level 0 – 10th September, 2020**

## **Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID'**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-0.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 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-0.html>

Pope Francis said gossip is worse than COVID. He said the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who lies a lot. He said gossip is dangerous. He called it, "a plague worse than COVID. He asked people to "make a big effort" to not gossip. He said: "If something goes wrong, pray, but never gossip."

In 2016, the Pope told people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He said if people wanted to "drop a gossip bomb, bite your tongue". Two years later he talked about gossip again. He said gossip is deadly "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A woman agreed. She said gossips were just "busybodies".

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pope-francis-declares-gossiping-is-a-plague-worse-than-covid/>  
<https://www.inforum.com/entertainment/television/6650375-Pope-says-gossiping-is-a-worse-plague-than-coronavirus>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/06/europe/pope-gossip-coronavirus-intl-scli/index.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pope Francis said gossip | a. than COVID   |
| 2. the devil is the biggest | b. lot          |
| 3. lies a                   | c. wrong        |
| 4. He said gossip is        | d. is worse     |
| 5. a plague worse           | e. a big effort |
| 6. He asked people to make  | f. gossiper     |
| 7. If something goes        | g. never gossip |
| 8. pray, but                | h. dangerous    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. fuel the terrorism       | a. knife      |
| 2. drop a gossip            | b. of gossip  |
| 3. bite your                | c. again      |
| 4. Two years                | d. busybodies |
| 5. he talked about gossip   | e. deadly     |
| 6. He said gossip is        | f. tongue     |
| 7. the tongue kills, like a | g. later      |
| 8. gossips were just        | h. bomb       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-0.html>

Pope Francis said (1) \_\_\_\_\_ than COVID. He said (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the "biggest gossiper" who (3) \_\_\_\_\_. He said gossip is dangerous. He called it, "a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ COVID. He asked people to "make (5) \_\_\_\_\_ " to not gossip. He said: "If something (6) \_\_\_\_\_, but never gossip."

In 2016, the Pope told people (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the terrorism of gossip". He (8) \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to "drop a gossip bomb, (9) \_\_\_\_\_". Two years later he talked (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He said gossip is deadly "because (11) \_\_\_\_\_, like a knife". A woman agreed. She said (12) \_\_\_\_\_ "busybodies".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-0.html>

PopeFrancissaidgossipisworse thanCOVID.Hesaidthedevilisthe"biggestgossiper"wholiesalot.Hesaidgossipisdangerous.Hecalledit,"a languageworse thanCOVID.Heaskedpeopleto"makeabigeffort"tonotgossip.Hesaid:"Ifsomethinggoeswrong,pray,butnevergossip."In2016,thepope toldpeoplenotto"fueltheterrorismofgossip".Hesaidifpeoplewantedto"dropagossipbomb,biteyourtongue".Twoyears laterhetalked aboutgossipagain.Hesaidgossipisdeadly"becausethetonguekills,like a knife".Awomanagreed.Shesaidgossips werejust"busybodies".

# GOSSIP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gossip 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID' – 10th September, 2020*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

