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**Level 4 – 1st December, 2020**

## Letters to Santa show children's pandemic fears

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

Santa's mailbag has revealed the pandemic fears of children across the world. A post office that answers mail it receives for Santa read the fears children have about COVID-19. They have the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many give an idea of how the pandemic is troubling children. The post office said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really emerges from their letters."

The post office has been getting 12,000 letters a day. Its team of 60 letter writers says children are telling Santa about their biggest fears. Parents are in the dark about this. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another gave Santa a mask so he would not spread the virus. The letters to Santa help children in lockdowns, especially those who have not seen their grandparents.

Sources: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/world/emotional-toll-wrought-pandemic-jumping-off-pages-in-deluge-dear-santa-letters-v1>  
<https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-postal-service-france-coronavirus-pandemic-b6ca8343c7f67aaa4ed9de0915378ddd>  
<https://kstp.com/minnesota-news/santas-mailbag-a-look-into-pandemic-worries-children-5935841/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. fears of children        | a. about COVID-19     |
| 2. answers mail it receives | b. troubling children |
| 3. the fears children have  | c. from their letters |
| 4. the usual requests for   | d. for Santa read     |
| 5. how the pandemic is      | e. their parents      |
| 6. we really feel           | f. Christmas gifts    |
| 7. their grandparents or    | g. across the world   |
| 8. It's what really emerges | h. their fears        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. getting 12,000 letters           | a. to believe in you   |
| 2. children are telling Santa about | b. the virus           |
| 3. Parents are in the               | c. their grandparents  |
| 4. I need magic and                 | d. a day               |
| 5. Another gave Santa               | e. lockdowns           |
| 6. he would not spread              | f. their biggest fears |
| 7. help children in                 | g. a mask              |
| 8. those who have not seen          | h. dark about this     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

Santa's mailbag (1) \_\_\_\_\_ pandemic fears of children across the world. A post office that answers (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for Santa (3) \_\_\_\_\_ children have about COVID-19. They have (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas gifts, but many give an idea of how the pandemic is troubling children. The post office said: "This year, we really (5) \_\_\_\_\_ - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their letters."

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ been getting 12,000 letters a day. Its (8) \_\_\_\_\_ letter writers says children are telling Santa about their biggest fears. Parents are (9) \_\_\_\_\_ about this. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and to believe in you." Another gave Santa a mask so he would not (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The letters to Santa help (12) \_\_\_\_\_, especially those who have not seen their grandparents.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

Santa's mailbag has revealed the pandemic fears of children across the world. A post office that answers mail it receives for Santa read the fears children have about COVID-19. They have the usual requests for Christmas gifts, but many give an idea of how the pandemic is troubling children. The post office said: "This year, we really feel their fears - for themselves, their grandparents or their parents. It's what really emerges from their letters." The post office has been getting 12,000 letters a day. Its team of 60 letter writers says children are telling Santa about their biggest fears. Parents are in the dark about this. One child wrote: "This year, more than the others, I need magic and to believe in you." Another gave Santa a mask so he would not spread the virus. The letters to Santa help children in lockdowns, especially those who have not seen their grandparents.

# SANTA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201201-letters-to-santa-4.html>

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

*Letters to Santa show children's pandemic fears – 1st December, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

