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## **Level 2** – 2nd March 2023

### **Sensitivity readers edit James Bond and Roald Dahl books**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

More and more famous novels are being edited. Publishers are worried about upsetting words in books. They think language in older books might upset people, especially children. Two authors have had their work edited this week - Roald Dahl and Ian Fleming. Dahl wrote books like "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory;" Fleming wrote the James Bond books. Publishers are using "sensitivity readers" to check books for language that might be offensive to minorities. A lot of the language they check was written more than 50 years ago. Back then, the language was thought to be okay.

Edits in the James Bond books are because of language about black characters and women. The sensitivity readers decided the language was racist and sexist. The books will now be published with a warning. This explains that the books were written in the 1950s and 60s, so they used words that might upset today's readers. People are angry that the books were edited. The UK's prime minister and its future queen said it was wrong to edit them. One example edit is the word "fat" being replaced by "enormous". Using the word "fat" for a person is now a negative term.

Sources: <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/james-bond-ian-fleming-books-rewritten-b2289747.html>  
<https://variety.com/2023/film/news/james-bond-novels-edited-racism-1235536164/>  
<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/james-bond-novels-reprinted-racist-language-removed-1234687052/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. More and                 | a. might upset people    |
| 2. worried about upsetting  | b. to be okay            |
| 3. language in older books  | c. "sensitivity readers" |
| 4. Two authors have had     | d. words in books        |
| 5. Publishers are using     | e. language they check   |
| 6. be offensive to          | f. their work edited     |
| 7. A lot of the             | g. more famous novels    |
| 8. the language was thought | h. minorities            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. language about black        | a. with a warning        |
| 2. the language was racist     | b. to edit them          |
| 3. books will now be published | c. characters            |
| 4. the books were written      | d. upset today's readers |
| 5. words that might            | e. term                  |
| 6. People are angry that the   | f. in the 1950s          |
| 7. it was wrong                | g. and sexist            |
| 8. a negative                  | h. books were edited     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ famous novels are being edited. Publishers are worried (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in books. They think language in older books might upset people, especially children. Two authors have had their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ week - Roald Dahl and Ian Fleming. Dahl wrote books like "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory;" Fleming wrote the James Bond books. Publishers are using "sensitivity readers" (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for language that might be (5) \_\_\_\_\_. A lot of the language they check was written more than 50 years ago. Back then, the language was thought (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Edits in the James Bond books are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ about black characters and women. The sensitivity readers decided the language was (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The books will now be published with a warning. This explains that the books were written in the 1950s and 60s, so they used words (9) \_\_\_\_\_ today's readers. People (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the books were edited. The UK's prime minister and its future queen said it was wrong to edit them. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ is the word "fat" being replaced by "enormous". Using the word "fat" for a person is now (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

More and more famous novels are being edited. Publishers are worried about upsetting words in books. They think language in older books might upset people, especially children. Two authors have had their work edited this week - Roald Dahl and Ian Fleming. Dahl wrote books like "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"; Fleming wrote the James Bond books. Publishers are using "sensitivity readers" to check books for language that might be offensive to minorities. A lot of the language they check was written more than 50 years ago. Back then, the language was thought to be okay. Edits in the James Bond books are because of language about black characters and women. These sensitivity readers decided the language was racist and sexist. The books will now be published with a warning. This explains why the books were rewritten in the 1950s and 60s, so they used words that might upset today's readers. People are angry that the books were edited. The UK's prime minister and its future queen said it was wrong to edit them. One example of an edit is the word "fat" being replaced by "enormous". Using the word "fat" for a person is now a negative term.

# JAMES BOND SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about James Bond 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Sensitivity readers edit James Bond and Roald Dahl books – 2nd March 2023*  
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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230302-sensitivity-readers-2.html>

Write about **James Bond** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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