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Level 4

Irish TV station 'forced' to use Queen's English

1st September, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-4.html>

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-4.html>

Broadcasters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are angry at being told to use the Queen's English. RTE staff were given an A-Z of words they had to pronounce in the Queen's English to make sure they are clearly understood. The A-Z has audio clips on how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. RTE said the producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE got complaints from people about how some words were mispronounced.

An Irish linguistics expert called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully...accepted worldwide." He said Irish people don't pronounce the TH in 'birthday' like the English do. He added that the Irish pronunciation of 'news,' "is and always has been 'nooze'".

Sources: <http://www.irishmirror.ie/showbiz/irish-showbiz/rte-staff-forced-use-queens-11074384>
<https://www.thesun.ie/news/1457854/rte-blasted-for-pronunciation-style-guide-which-demands-broadcasters-speak-on-air-using-queens-english/>
<https://www.buzz.ie/news/rte-criticised-forcing-news-broadcasters-speak-queens-english-251830>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ireland's national | a. understood |
| 2. angry at being told to use | b. standards |
| 3. make sure they are clearly | c. broadcaster |
| 4. audio | d. mispronounced |
| 5. the producers issued | e. the Queen's English |
| 6. keep up | f. from people |
| 7. RTE got complaints | g. the guide |
| 8. some words were | h. clips |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. linguistics | a. if they were English |
| 2. internalized | b. worldwide |
| 3. RTE expects its staff to speak as | c. colonialism |
| 4. We have our own | d. do |
| 5. fully accepted | e. expert |
| 6. Irish people don't pronounce the | f. of 'news' |
| 7. like the English | g. form of English |
| 8. the Irish pronunciation | h. TH in 'birthday' |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-4.html>

Broadcasters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE (1) _____
being told to use the Queen's English. RTE staff were
(2) _____ of words they had to pronounce in the Queen's
English to make sure (3) _____ understood. The A-Z
(4) _____ how to "properly" pronounce the "problem"
words. RTE said the producers (5) _____ to keep up
standards. It said RTE (6) _____ from people about how
some words were mispronounced.

An Irish (7) _____ called the RTE's actions "internalized
colonialism". He said: "The (8) _____ RTE expects its staff
to (9) _____ they were English. Why? We have our own
form of English, which is different but (10) _____
worldwide." He said Irish people don't pronounce the TH in 'birthday'
(11) _____. He added that the Irish pronunciation of
'news,' "(12) _____ has been 'nooze'".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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Broadcasters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are angry at being told to use the Queen's English. RTE staff were given an A-Z of words they had to pronounce in the Queen's English to make sure they are clearly understood. The A-Z has a audio clip on how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. RTE said the producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE got complaints from people about how some words were mispronounced. An Irish linguistic expert called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully... accepted worldwide." He said Irish people don't pronounce the TH in 'birthday' like the English do. He added that the Irish pronunciation of 'news', "is and always has been 'nooze'".

PRONUNCIATION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pronunciation 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) _____

