

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 5**

### **Cambridge University may end handwritten exams**

**13th September, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-5.html>

Cambridge University may abolish handwritten exams after 800 years. The university may ask students to type their exam answers on a computer rather than use a pen. Exam markers are complaining that test papers are becoming increasingly illegible due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students mainly use laptops in lectures instead of pens. Students are losing the ability to write by hand. One academic said hand writing exams actually causes students physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for two to three hours at a time.

A Cambridge lecturer told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting is a "lost art". She said: "Twenty years ago, students routinely [wrote] by hand several hours a day, but now they write virtually nothing by hand, except exams." She said declining handwriting has been a problem and on "a downward trend" for years. She added it is difficult for examiners to read exam scripts. Some students' handwriting is so illegible they had to return to the university over the summer to read out their answers to examiners who could not read their writing.

Sources: <http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/world/2017/09/students-unreadable-handwriting-could-mean-laptops-in-exams.html>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/sep/09/cambridge-considers-typed-exams-as-handwriting-worsens>  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/09/c\\_136597258.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/09/c_136597258.htm)

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. abolish handwritten exams          | a. extensively           |
| 2. increasingly illegible due to poor | b. to write by hand      |
| 3. use laptops in lectures            | c. physical difficulties |
| 4. Students are losing the ability    | d. at a time             |
| 5. causes students                    | e. instead of pens       |
| 6. The muscles in                     | f. handwriting           |
| 7. not used to writing                | g. after 800 years       |
| 8. for two to three hours             | h. their hand            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. handwriting is a lost         | a. nothing by hand      |
| 2. students routinely wrote by   | b. is so illegible      |
| 3. now they write virtually      | c. trend                |
| 4. declining handwriting has     | d. out their answers    |
| 5. on a downward                 | e. hand several hours   |
| 6. it is difficult for examiners | f. been a problem       |
| 7. Some students' handwriting    | g. art                  |
| 8. read                          | h. to read exam scripts |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-5.html>

Cambridge University (1) \_\_\_\_\_ handwritten exams after 800 years. The university (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to type their exam answers on a computer rather than use a pen. Exam markers are complaining that test papers are (3) \_\_\_\_\_ illegible due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in lectures instead of pens. Students are losing the ability to write by hand. One academic said hand writing (5) \_\_\_\_\_ students physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for (6) \_\_\_\_\_ at a time.

A Cambridge lecturer told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting (7) \_\_\_\_\_. She said: "Twenty years ago, students (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by hand several hours a day, but now they (9) \_\_\_\_\_ by hand, except exams." She said declining handwriting has been a problem and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ trend" for years. She added it is difficult for examiners (11) \_\_\_\_\_ scripts. Some students' handwriting is so illegible they had to return to the university over the summer (12) \_\_\_\_\_ answers to examiners who could not read their writing.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-5.html>

CambridgeUniversitymayabolishhandwrittenexamsafter800years.

Theuniversitymayaskstudentstotypetheirexamansweronacomput

erratherthanuseapen.Exammarkersarecomplainingthattestpapers

arebecomingincreasinglyillegibleduetopoorhandwriting.Academics

saytoday'sstudentsmainlyuselaptopsinlecturesinsteadofpens.Stud

entsarelosingtheabilitytowritebyhand.Oneacademicsaidhandwritin

gexamsactuallycausesstudentsphysicaldifficulties.Themusclesinthe

irhandarenottusedtowritingextensivelyfortwotothreehoursatatime.

ACambridgelecturertoldBritain's'DailyTelegraph'newspaperthathan

dwritingisa"lostart".Shesaid:"Twentyyearsago,studentsroutinely[w

rote]byhandseveralhoursaday,butnowtheywritevirtuallynothingby

hand,exceptexams."Shesaiddeclininghandwritinghasbeenaproble

mandon"adownwardtrend"foryears.Sheadeditisdifficultforexamin

erstoreadexamscripts.Somestudents'handwritingissoillegibletheyh

adtoreturntotheuniversityoverthesummertoreadouttheiranswersto

examinerswhocouldnotreadtheirwriting.

# HANDWRITING SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.html>

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

*Cambridge University may end handwritten exams – 13th September, 2017*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

