

Ivory Coast gets three-word postal addresses

11th December, 2016



Ivory Coast has adopted a revolutionary new system of postal addresses that contain just three words. It means that for the first time ever, everyone

in the country will be able to receive mail to their house or office. Up until now, people had to rely on post office boxes. There were only 150,000 of these nationwide and people had to rent them, which meant poorer people found it difficult to receive mail. The head of Ivory Coast's post office told the BBC: "We have 150,000 PO boxes for a population of nearly 24 million. That means a postal address is a luxury in Ivory Coast. We have to make postal access available to everyone." He said the three-word addresses would move Ivory Coast into the digital age.

The Ivory Coast's new postal system is based on the what3words.com geo-mapping system. Its software has divided the world into a grid of 57 trillion 3m x 3m squares, each assigned a unique 3-word address. The software uses latitude and longitude coordinates to precisely pinpoint a location on a global address network. The 22 numbers from these coordinates are converted into three easy to remember words that replace house numbers, street and city names and zip codes. A what3words.com spokesperson said: "Poor addressing might seem no more than annoying in some countries, but around the world it hampers the growth and development of nations, ultimately costing lives."

Sources: bbc.com / techrepublic.com / what3words.com

Writing

Postal addresses are more important than e-mail addresses. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

revolutionary / system / postal address / post office / mail / luxury / population / age / geo-mapping / software / trillion / unique / coordinates / remember / annoying / lives

True / False

- Ivory Coast's new postal addresses contain just three words. T / F
- Not everyone could get mail delivered to their house in Ivory Coast. T / F
- The Ivory Coast Post Office had 1,500,000 PO boxes. T / F
- The head of the post office said a postal address used to be a luxury. T / F
- Mapping software divided the world into 57 trillion squares / addresses. T / F
- The software did not use latitude and longitude coordinates. T / F
- The new addresses use the house number and zip code in the address. T / F
- A website said the old addresses help boost growth and development. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. adopted | a. at hand |
| 2. revolutionary | b. depend |
| 3. rely | c. identify |
| 4. luxury | d. individual |
| 5. available | e. extravagance |
| 6. grid | f. chosen |
| 7. unique | g. eventually |
| 8. pinpoint | h. network |
| 9. annoying | i. ultra-modern |
| 10. ultimately | j. irritating |

Discussion – Student A

- How useful might the three-word address system be?
- Would you like a three-word address or your current address?
- How will the world change if everyone has an address?
- How might poor addressing hamper growth?
- What's the best address in your country?
- What are the disadvantages of the three-word address system?
- What are the advantages of the three-word address system?
- What questions would you like to ask the three-word address creator?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Ivory Coast has adopted a revolutionary | a. a grid |
| 2. postal addresses that contain | b. on post office boxes |
| 3. for the first time | c. pinpoint a location |
| 4. people had to rely | d. mapping |
| 5. make postal access available | e. just three words |
| 6. geo- | f. growth |
| 7. divided the world into | g. new system |
| 8. coordinates to precisely | h. codes |
| 9. city names and zip | i. to everyone |
| 10. it hampers the | j. ever |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of your postal address?
- Which is more important – an e-mail address or postal address? Why?
- What do you think of the three-word address system?
- What three words would you like for your address?
- How much mail do you get every day?
- How useful are post office boxes?
- Why is it important to be in the digital age?

Spelling

- a unvrlroiaeyto new system
- 150,000 of these aonwietnd
- a ionlotpuap of nearly 24 million
- a postal address is a xluyur
- postal access aaalivelb to everyone
- move Ivory Coast into the atiilgd age
- each gnsdeias a unique 3-word address
- latitude and longitude otdoraesicn
- riecleysp pinpoint a location
- revtcdone into three
- nynioagn in some countries
- limyteuatl costing lives

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. i | 3. b | 4. e | 5. a |
| 6. h | 7. d | 8. c | 9. j | 10. g |

Role Play

Role A – Birthday Card

You think a birthday card is the best thing to receive in the mail. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): an Amazon package, a surprise or a letter from a friend.

Role B – Amazon Package

You think an Amazon package is the best thing to receive in the mail. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a birthday card, a surprise or a letter from a friend.

Role C – A Surprise

You think a surprise is the best thing to receive in the mail. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): an Amazon package, a birthday card or a letter from a friend.

Role D – A Letter from a Friend

You think a letter from a friend is the best thing to receive in the mail. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): an Amazon package, a surprise or a birthday card.

Speaking – Mail

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to receive in the mail at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • photos | • birthday card |
| • flight tickets | • letter from friend |
| • a surprise | • Amazon package |
| • a postcard | • party invitation |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | T | c | F | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.