

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

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

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

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

www.freeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 1 – 10th September, 2020

Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID'

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-1.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 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-1.html>

Pope Francis said gossip is worse than COVID-19. He said the devil is the "biggest gossiper," who divides communities with his lies. He spoke about the dangers of gossip, saying: "Let's try to not gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope says gossiping is dangerous on social media. He tells people not to listen to Internet trolls. He said: "If something goes wrong, offer...prayer...but never gossip."

The Pope made his first speech since the pandemic started. It is not the first time he talked about gossip. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He said: "If you get an urge...to drop a gossip bomb, bite your tongue." Two years later he talked about gossip again. He said gossip is deadly "because the tongue kills, like a knife". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said gossips were just "scandalmongers and busybodies".

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pope-francis-declares-gossiping-is-a-plague-worse-than-covid/>
<https://www.inforum.com/entertainment/television/6650375-Pope-says-gossiping-is-a-worse-plague-than-coronavirus>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/06/europe/pope-gossip-coronavirus-intl-scli/index.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. He said the devil is the | a. offer prayer |
| 2. divides communities with | b. of gossip |
| 3. He spoke about the dangers | c. effort |
| 4. Gossip is a plague | d. his lies |
| 5. Let's make a big | e. worse than COVID |
| 6. social | f. trolls |
| 7. Internet | g. biggest gossiper |
| 8. If something goes wrong, | h. media |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. first speech since the | a. deadly |
| 2. the first time he | b. tongue |
| 3. fuel the terrorism | c. busybodies |
| 4. bite your | d. talked about gossip |
| 5. Two years later he talked | e. a knife |
| 6. He said gossip is | f. about gossip again |
| 7. the tongue kills, like | g. of gossip |
| 8. scandalmongers and | h. pandemic started |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-1.html>

Pope Francis said (1) _____ than COVID-19. He said (2) _____ the "biggest gossiper," who divides communities with his lies. He spoke about (3) _____ gossip, saying: "Let's try to not gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Let's make (4) _____. No gossiping." The Pope says gossiping is dangerous on social media. He tells people (5) _____ to Internet trolls. He said: "If something goes wrong, (6) _____ never gossip."

The Pope made his (7) _____ the pandemic started. It is not (8) _____ he talked about gossip. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He said: "If you get an (9) _____ a gossip bomb, (10) _____." Two years later he talked about gossip again. He said gossip is deadly "because the tongue kills, (11) _____". A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She (12) _____ just "scandalmongers and busybodies".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-1.html>

PopeFrancissaidgossipisworse thanCOVID-19.Hesaidthedevilisth
e"biggestgossiper,"whodividescommunitieswithhislies.Hespokeabo
utthedangersofgossip,saying:"Let'strytonotgossip.Gossipisaplague
worse thanCOVID.Let'smakeabigeffort.Nogossiping."ThePopesaysg
ossipingisdangerousonsocialmedia.HetellspeoplenottolistentoInter
nettrolls.Hesaid:"Ifsomethinggoeswrong,offer...prayer...butnever
gossip."ThePopemadehisfirstspeechsincethepandemicstarted.Itisn
otthefirsttimehetalkedaboutgossip.In2016,hewarnedpeoplenotto"f
ueltheterrorismofgossip".Hesaid:"Ifyougetanurge...todropagossip
bomb,biteyourtongue."Twoyears laterhetalkedaboutgossipagain.H
esaidgossipisdeadly"becausethetonguekills,likeaknife".Avisitorto
theVaticanagreed.Shesaidgossipswerejust"scandal mongersandbusy
bodies".

GOSSIP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200910-gossip-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gossip 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) _____

Pope says gossiping is 'worse than COVID' – 10th September, 2020
More free lessons at 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) _____

