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Level 5 – 27th March 2023

UK charity hopes to 'decolonise' English vocabulary

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-5.html>

The English language has been evolving for centuries. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be difficult to understand today. The meaning of vocabulary is always changing. The charity Oxfam has issued a guide proposing more changes. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the language of a colonising nation". It said English needs to change "to decolonise our ways of working and shift power". Its 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" advises charity workers on the use of language "to feel empowered to be inclusive in their work".

Oxfam began in 1942 to try to reduce poverty. It operates in 80 countries. It says English is the dominant language used by its workers in former British colonies. It issued its guide "to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of a colonial legacy". The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, refugees, and others. It suggested changes like avoiding "colonial" phrases such as "mankind". It said this word could be viewed as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood as only referring to men".

Sources: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/nonprofit-oxfams-inclusivity-guide-calls-english-the-language-colonising-nation>
<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23396055.oxfams-inclusive-language-guide-advises-avoid-mother-youth/>
<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/inclusive-language-guide-621487/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. language has been | a. English |
| 2. Conversations from | b. a guide |
| 3. difficult to understand | c. power |
| 4. Oxfam has issued | d. today |
| 5. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" | e. empowered |
| 6. shift | f. evolving for centuries |
| 7. the use of language to feel | g. in their work |
| 8. be inclusive | h. the Middle Ages |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. try to reduce | a. community |
| 2. It operates | b. legacy |
| 3. English is the dominant | c. colonies |
| 4. workers in former British | d. in 80 countries |
| 5. part of a colonial | e. for the disabled |
| 6. The guide focuses on inclusivity | f. language |
| 7. the LGBTQIA+ | g. being patriarchal |
| 8. this word could be viewed as | h. poverty |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-5.html>

The English language (1) _____ for centuries. Conversations from the Middle Ages would be difficult to understand today. The meaning of vocabulary is always changing. The charity Oxfam has (2) _____ proposing more changes. Oxfam wants to "decolonise" English, which it considers to be, "the (3) _____ colonising nation". It said English needs to change "to decolonise our ways of working (4) _____". Its 92-page "Inclusive Language Guide" (5) _____ on the use of language "to feel empowered to (6) _____ their work".

Oxfam began in 1942 to try (7) _____. It operates in 80 countries. It says English is (8) _____ used by its workers in former British colonies. It issued its guide "to support people who have to work and communicate in the English language as part of (9) _____. The guide focuses on inclusivity for the disabled, the LGBTQIA+ community, migrants, (10) _____. It suggested changes like avoiding "colonial" phrases such as "mankind". It said this word (11) _____ as being patriarchal as "it is often misunderstood as (12) _____ men".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-5.html>

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ENGLISH VOCABULARY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2303/230327-oxfam-language-guide-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about English vocabulary 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) _____

