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Level 2

Letter of the alphabet for 'the' invented

11th July, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet-2.html>

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet-2.html>

An Australian businessman has created a new letter of the alphabet. It is a symbol for the word "the". It looks like a capital "T" and a small "h" joined together. However, it looks like a letter from the Serbian language. The man, Paul Mathis, believes people will like his idea. People can now download it from iTunes. Mr Mathis hopes mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will put the letter on their keyboards. He spent \$35,000 on his app, but Apple isn't so interested. He said: "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But is it something that might be useful for people? I think so."

Mr Mathis thinks the new letter is useful because it replaces the most common English word – "the". He said people will save time typing because they only need one key instead of the three needed for the word "the". He said other words have their own letter. He showed that the word "and" (the fifth most common word) has its own symbol - the ampersand (&). Mathis thinks his new letter will help with Twitter or texting, where there is a limit on characters. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think companies will change their keyboards or operating systems.

Sources: <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/what-th-one-mans-quest-for-a-symbol-solution-20130705-2pgd8.html#ixzz2YaPHVIWn>
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/technology/news/aussie-restaurateur-paul-mathis-invents-new-letter-of-the-alphabet/story-fni0bzod-1226675974506>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a new letter | a. from iTunes |
| 2. a capital "T" | b. to change the world |
| 3. people will | c. of the alphabet |
| 4. download it | d. be useful |
| 5. He spent \$35,000 | e. and a small "h" |
| 6. Apple isn't | f. on his app |
| 7. going | g. so interested |
| 8. something that might | h. like his idea |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. it replaces the most | a. most common word |
| 2. people will save | b. one key |
| 3. they only need | c. time typing |
| 4. other words have | d. on characters |
| 5. the fifth | e. common English word |
| 6. there is a limit | f. systems |
| 7. Not everyone | g. their own letter |
| 8. operating | h. agrees |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet-2.html>

An Australian businessman (1) _____ letter of the alphabet. It is (2) _____ "the". It looks like a capital "T" and a (3) _____. However, it looks like a letter from the Serbian language. The man, Paul Mathis, believes people will like his idea. People can (4) _____ iTunes. Mr Mathis hopes mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will put the letter (5) _____. He spent \$35,000 on his app, but Apple isn't so interested. He said: "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But (6) _____ might be useful for people? I think so."

Mr Mathis thinks the new letter is useful (7) _____ the most common English word - "the". He said people will (8) _____ because they only (9) _____ of the three needed for the word "the". He said other words have their own letter. He showed that the word "and" ((10) _____ word) has its own symbol - the ampersand (&). Mathis thinks his new letter will help with Twitter or texting, where there is a (11) _____. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think companies will change their keyboards (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet-2.html>

An Australian businessman has created a new letter of the alphabet. It is a symbol for the word "the". It looks like a capital "T" and a small "h" joined together. However, it looks like a letter from the Serbian language. The man, Paul Mathis, believes people will like his idea. People can now download from iTunes. Mr Mathis hopes mobile phone, tablet and computer makers will put the letter on their keyboards. He spent \$35,000 on his app, but Apple isn't so interested. He said: "Is this going to change the world? Not really. But is it something that might be useful for people? I think so." Mr Mathis thinks the new letter is useful because it replaces the most common English word – "the". He said people will save time typing because they only need one key instead of the three needed for the word "the". He said other words have their own letter. He showed that the word "and" (the fifth most common word) has its own symbol the ampersand (&). Mathis thinks his new letter will help with Twitter or texting, where there is a limit on characters. Not everyone agrees with Mathis. Computer experts don't think companies will change their keyboards or operating systems.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1307/130711-alphabet-2.html>

Write about **the alphabet** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
