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Level 5

Irish TV station 'forced' to use Queen's English

1st September, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-5.html>

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-5.html>

Radio and TV presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are angry at being told to use Queen's English pronunciation. An Irish newspaper says RTE's broadcasters were given an A-Z guide of words, which tells them how to pronounce certain words to make sure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips with lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An RTE official said the producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were mispronounced.

An Irish linguistics expert called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He was surprised that Irish speakers had to use words with an English accent. He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted worldwide." He highlighted some of the words that had to be used with a British English accent. He said Irish people don't pronounce the TH in 'birthday' like the English. He added that the Irish pronunciation of 'news,' "is and always has been 'nooze'".

Sources: <http://www.irishmirror.ie/showbiz/irish-showbiz/rte-staff-forced-use-queens-11074384>
<https://www.thesun.ie/news/1457854/rte-blasted-for-pronunciation-style-guide-which-demands-broadcasters-speak-on-air-using-queens-english/>
<https://www.buzz.ie/news/rte-criticised-forcing-news-broadcasters-speak-queens-english-251830>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ireland's national | a. from the public |
| 2. an A-Z guide | b. broadcaster |
| 3. how to pronounce certain | c. clips |
| 4. audio | d. mispronounced |
| 5. how to "properly" pronounce | e. words |
| 6. keep up | f. the "problem" words |
| 7. received complaints | g. of words |
| 8. certain words were | h. standards |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. internalized | a. worldwide |
| 2. use words with an | b. TH in 'birthday' |
| 3. The basic | c. form of English |
| 4. We have our own | d. of 'news' |
| 5. accepted | e. issue |
| 6. a British English | f. colonialism |
| 7. people don't pronounce the | g. English accent |
| 8. the Irish pronunciation | h. accent |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-5.html>

Radio and TV presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are angry at (1) _____ Queen's English pronunciation. An Irish newspaper says RTE's broadcasters were (2) _____ guide of words, which (3) _____ to pronounce certain words to make sure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips with (4) _____ to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An RTE official said the producers (5) _____ to keep up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from (6) _____ how certain words were mispronounced.

An Irish (7) _____ called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He was surprised that Irish speakers had to use words (8) _____. He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to (9) _____ they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different (10) _____ and accepted worldwide." He highlighted some of the words that (11) _____ with a British English accent. He said Irish people don't pronounce the TH in 'birthday' like the English. He added that the Irish pronunciation of 'news,' "(12) _____ been 'nooze'".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-5.html>

Radio and TV presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are angry at being told to use Queen's English pronunciation. An Irish newspaper says RTE's broadcasters were given an A-Z guide of words, which tells them how to pronounce certain words to make sure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips with lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An RTE official said the producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were mispronounced. An Irish linguistic expert called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He was surprised that Irish speakers had to use words with an English accent. He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted worldwide." He highlighted some of the words that had to be used with a British English accent. He said Irish people don't pronounce the 'th' in 'birthday' like the English. He added that the Irish pronunciation of 'news', "is and always has been 'nooze'".

PRONUNCIATION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pronunciation 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) _____

