

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

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

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

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

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 6 – 6th December, 2021**

## **104-year-old woman learns to read and write**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

### **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a state literacy test. Her name is Kuttியമ്മ and she only learned to read and write last year. Despite having just a year's tuition and being somewhat older than the average pupil, Kuttിയമ്മ passed her tests with flying colours. She achieved a score of 89 per cent on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her inspirational achievement, Kerala's education minister congratulated her. He tweeted: "With the utmost love and respect, I wish Kuttിയമ്മ...the best." He uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is grinning from ear to ear. Another person tweeted: "I salute Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It will inspire others for sure."

Kerala state has India's highest literacy rate at 96.2 per cent and invests heavily in education. It has a strong focus on adult education, which Kuttിയമ്മ benefited from. Her endeavours prove that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our minds to it. Kuttിയമ്മ did not have a formal education as she did not go to school. However, her state-assigned tutor called her "a very sharp woman". He said his student was "overjoyed" after she saw her test results. A state official said: "Kuttിയമ്മ is a role model and motivation to all women in adult education". Kuttിയമ്മ said she wants to start writing letters and continue her studies to improve her skills.

Sources: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/104-year-old-kerala-woman-sets-to-inspire-scores-89-out-of-100-in-the-literacy-test-1876854-2021-11-15>  
<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/2021/11/16/indian-woman-104-aces-test-after-learning-to-read-and-write/>  
<https://www.india.com/viral/never-too-late-104-year-old-woman-kuttിയമ്മ-scored-89-100-literacy-exam-joy-on-her-face-is-evident-see-pic-5095984/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. LEARNING TO READ:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about learning to read. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

India / literacy / read / write / tuition / average / pupil / achievement / star / sure / invests / education / focus / endeavours / minds / tutor / state / motivation / skills

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. LITERACY:** Students A **strongly** believe literacy is more important than numeracy; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. TESTS:** How can you study for these things? How effective are these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How to Study	Effectiveness
Vocabulary		
Spelling		
Grammar		
Writing		
Listening		
Speaking		

**5. TUITION:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "tuition". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. SKILLS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- literacy
- numeracy
- coding
- first aid
- mountain survival
- business
- music
- art

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. literacy       | a. The ability to read and write.   |
| 2. tuition        | b. Most extreme; greatest.  |
| 3. pupil          | c. Teaching, especially of individual students or small groups of students. |
| 4. flying colours | d. Having the ability to get others to do something creative or good.       |
| 5. inspirational  | e. A person who is taught by another person.                                |
| 6. utmost         | f. Very successfully.   |
| 7. salute         | g. A gesture of respect made to or by a person.                             |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8. invest      | h. Being able to think quickly; intelligence.                                       |
| 9. endeavour   | i. Appointed by someone.  |
| 10. formal     | j. Put money into financial schemes, shares, property, etc. to get more money back. |
| 11. assigned   | k. Relating to an authority or public body and its activities and responsibilities. |
| 12. sharp      | l. Lots of effort.  |
| 13. official   | m. A reason or reasons for acting or behaving in a particular way.                  |
| 14. motivation | n. Officially recognized.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A 104-year-old woman started learning to read last month. **T / F**
2. The woman was about average age in her class. **T / F**
3. India's education minister congratulated the woman. **T / F**
4. A person on Twitter said the woman was inspirational. **T / F**
5. India's literacy rate is over 96%. **T / F**
6. The woman told reporters that age was a barrier to learning. **T / F**
7. The woman's tutor said she was a sharp woman. **T / F**
8. The woman will now stop studying and enjoy her old age. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>tuition</b>   | a. greatest    |
| 2. <b>utmost</b>    | b. intelligent |
| 3. <b>grinning</b>  | c. emphasis    |
| 4. <b>salute</b>    | d. motivate    |
| 5. <b>inspire</b>   | e. upgrade     |
| 6. <b>focus</b>     | f. instruction |
| 7. <b>prove</b>     | g. ecstatic    |
| 8. <b>sharp</b>     | h. honour      |
| 9. <b>overjoyed</b> | i. demonstrate |
| 10. <b>improve</b>  | j. smiling     |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Despite having just a                     | a. rate               |
| 2. passed her tests with flying              | b. sure               |
| 3. Such was her inspirational                | c. official           |
| 4. she is grinning from                      | d. colours            |
| 5. It will inspire others for                | e. year's tuition     |
| 6. Kerala state has India's highest literacy | f. to it              |
| 7. It has a strong focus                     | g. education          |
| 8. when we put our minds                     | h. ear to ear         |
| 9. have a formal                             | i. on adult education |
| 10. A state                                  | j. achievement        |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a state (1) \_\_\_\_\_ test. Her name is Kuttியമ്മ and she only learned to read and write last year. Despite having (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a year's tuition and being somewhat older than the average (3) \_\_\_\_\_, Kuttിയമ്മ passed her tests with flying colours. She (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a score of 89 per cent on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her (5) \_\_\_\_\_ achievement, Kerala's education minister congratulated her. He tweeted: "With the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ love and respect, I wish Kuttിയമ്മ...the best." He uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ from ear to ear. Another person tweeted: "I salute Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ others for sure."

*utmost*  
*pupil*  
*inspire*  
*literacy*  
*achieved*  
*just*  
*grinning*  
*inspirational*

Kerala state has India's highest (9) \_\_\_\_\_ rate at 96.2 per cent and invests heavily in education. It has a strong (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on adult education, which Kuttിയമ്മ benefited from. Her endeavours (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our minds to it. Kuttിയമ്മ did not have a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ education as she did not go to school. However, her state-assigned tutor called her "a very (13) \_\_\_\_\_ woman". He said his student was "(14) \_\_\_\_\_" after she saw her test results. A state official said: "Kuttിയമ്മ is a role (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and motivation to all women in adult education". Kuttിയമ്മ said she wants to start writing letters and continue her studies to improve her (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*skills*  
*prove*  
*sharp*  
*literacy*  
*model*  
*focus*  
*overjoyed*  
*formal*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

- 1) A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. state literacy test
  - b. state literally test
  - c. state literati test
  - d. state literacies test
- 2) Despite having just a year's tuition and being somewhat older than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the average pew pull
  - b. the average pupil
  - c. the average pew pill
  - d. the average pup all
- 3) I wish Kuttியമ്മ...the best." He uploaded a photo of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the stars student
  - b. the start student
  - c. the star student
  - d. the startled student
- 4) He uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is \_\_\_\_\_ to ear
  - a. grin in from ear
  - b. grin infer ear
  - c. greening from ear
  - d. grinning from ear
- 5) I salute Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. willing spire others
  - b. wheeling spire others
  - c. will inspire others
  - d. wheel inspire others
- 6) Kerala state has India's highest literacy rate at 96.2 per cent and invests \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. heavily in education
  - b. heave all in education
  - c. heave ally in education
  - d. heft ally in education
- 7) Kuttിയമ്മ benefited from. Her endeavours prove that age is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. just a number
  - b. justly a number
  - c. adjust a number
  - d. juice a number
- 8) and that we can achieve anything when we put our \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. binds to it
  - b. rinds to it
  - c. kinds to it
  - d. minds to it
- 9) However, her state-assigned tutor called her "a \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. very sharp woman
  - b. very shape woman
  - c. very chirp woman
  - d. very chap woman
- 10) Kuttിയമ്മ said she wants to start writing letters and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. continue her stud is
  - b. continue her students
  - c. continue her studies
  - d. continue her studios

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ test. Her name is Kuttியമ്മ and she only learned to read and write last year. Despite having just a year's tuition and being somewhat older than (2) \_\_\_\_\_, Kuttിയമ്മ passed her tests with flying colours. She (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of 89 per cent on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her inspirational achievement, Kerala's education minister congratulated her. He tweeted: "With the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ respect, I wish Kuttിയമ്മ...the best." He uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to ear. Another person tweeted: "I salute Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for sure."

Kerala state has India's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at 96.2 per cent and invests heavily in education. It has a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ adult education, which Kuttിയമ്മ benefited from. Her endeavours prove that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Kuttിയമ്മ did not have a formal education as she did not go to school. However, her (10) \_\_\_\_\_ called her "a very sharp woman". He said his student was "overjoyed" after she saw her test results. A state official said: "Kuttിയമ്മ is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and motivation to all women in adult education". Kuttിയമ്മ said she wants to start writing letters and continue her studies to (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

1. When did Kuttியamma start learning to read and write?
2. What score did Kuttியamma get on the state literacy test?
3. Who congratulated her?
4. What was Kuttியamma doing in a photo?
5. Who saluted Kuttியamma?
6. What's the literacy rate in Kerala?
7. What does Kerala have a strong focus on?
8. What did Kuttியamma's tutor call her?
9. How did Kuttியamma feel when she saw her test results?
10. What does Kuttியamma want to start doing?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

- 1) When did Kuttiyamma start learning to read and write?
  - a) last month
  - b) last year
  - c) in 2017
  - d) a few days ago
- 2) What score did Kuttiyamma get on the state literacy test?
  - a) 86%
  - b) 87%
  - c) 88%
  - d) 89%
- 3) Who congratulated her?
  - a) her family
  - b) India's Prime Minister
  - c) the education minister
  - d) her husband
- 4) What was Kuttiyamma doing in a photo?
  - a) grinning from ear to ear
  - b) studying
  - c) writing
  - d) maths
- 5) Who saluted Kuttiyamma?
  - a) the army
  - b) a Twitter user
  - c) her husband
  - d) India's Prime Minister
- 6) What's the literacy rate in Kerala?
  - a) 96.2%
  - b) 92.6%
  - c) 69.2%
  - d) 69.6%
- 7) What does Kerala have a strong focus on?
  - a) writing
  - b) achievement
  - c) adult education
  - d) reading
- 8) What did Kuttiyamma's tutor call her?
  - a) a sharp woman
  - b) a smart cookie
  - c) one in a million
  - d) Bob
- 9) How did Kuttiyamma feel when she saw her test results?
  - a) disappointed
  - b) numb
  - c) confused
  - d) overjoyed
- 10) What does Kuttiyamma want to start doing?
  - a) learning French
  - b) computer coding
  - c) writing letters
  - d) writing a novel

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

## **Role A – Literacy**

You think literacy skills are most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): numeracy, art or music.

## **Role B – Numeracy**

You think numeracy skills are most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): literacy, art or music.

## **Role C – Art**

You think artistic skills are most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): numeracy, literacy or music.

## **Role D – Music**

You think musical skills are most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): numeracy, art or literacy.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'reading' and 'test'.

<b>reading</b>	<b>test</b>
----------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• only</li><li>• pupil</li><li>• 89</li><li>• minister</li><li>• star</li><li>• salute</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• heavily</li><li>• age</li><li>• minds</li><li>• school</li><li>• sharp</li><li>• skills</li></ul>
--	---

# LEARNING TO READ SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

Write five GOOD questions about learning to read 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.

# LEARNING TO READ DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'reading'?
3. What do you think of reading and writing tests?
4. How do you prepare for English reading tests?
5. What problems do you have with reading English?
6. How important is literacy?
7. How inspirational do you think Kuttiyamma is?
8. What advice do you have to improve your reading skills?
9. What tests are you good at taking?
10. When was the last time you grinned from ear to ear?

*104-year-old woman learns to read and write – 6th December, 2021*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# LEARNING TO READ DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'writing'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How do you prepare for English writing tests?
15. What problems do you have with writing in English?
16. How good is your country's education system?
17. Can we do anything if we put our minds to it?
18. What advice do you have to improve your writing skills?
19. Do you like writing letters?
20. What questions would you like to ask Kuttiyamma?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2021

-----

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ literacy test. Her name is Kuttியമ്മ and she only learned to read and write last year. Despite having just a year's (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and being somewhat older than the average pupil, Kuttിയമ്മ passed her tests with (3) \_\_\_\_\_ colours. She achieved a score of 89 per cent on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her inspirational achievement, Kerala's education minister congratulated her. He tweeted: "With the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ love and respect, I wish Kuttിയമ്മ...the best." He uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from ear to ear. Another person tweeted: "I (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It will inspire others for sure."

Kerala state has India's highest literacy (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at 96.2 per cent and invests heavily in education. It has a strong focus (8) \_\_\_\_\_ adult education, which Kuttിയമ്മ benefited from. Her endeavours prove that age is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to it. Kuttിയമ്മ did not have a formal education as she did not go to school. However, her state-assigned tutor called her "a very sharp woman". He said his student was "overjoyed" after she saw her test results. A state official said: "Kuttിയമ്മ is a role (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and motivation to all women in adult education". Kuttിയമ്മ said she wants to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ writing letters and continue her studies to improve her skills.

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |              |               |               |             |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) state    | (b) statute   | (c) statue    | (d) stat    |
| 2.  | (a) fruition | (b) intuition | (c) tuition   | (d) diction |
| 3.  | (a) sailing  | (b) rowing    | (c) flying    | (d) driving |
| 4.  | (a) mostly   | (b) must      | (c) mast      | (d) utmost  |
| 5.  | (a) grinning | (b) groaning  | (c) gleaning  | (d) gunning |
| 6.  | (a) bow      | (b) salute    | (c) proud     | (d) amaze   |
| 7.  | (a) ratio    | (b) rate      | (c) algorithm | (d) stat    |
| 8.  | (a) on       | (b) by        | (c) of        | (d) at      |
| 9.  | (a) justly   | (b) just      | (c) adjust    | (d) justice |
| 10. | (a) things   | (b) brainy    | (c) minds     | (d) effects |
| 11. | (a) scale    | (b) edition   | (c) model     | (d) version |
| 12. | (a) found    | (b) launch    | (c) embark    | (d) start   |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. passed a state clayiret test
2. having just a year's uioittn
3. Such was her rtiionapsnila achievement
4. nriniggn from ear to ear
5. I salute Kuttiyamma for her natiidodce
6. It will nisipre others for sure

## Paragraph 2

7. invests hivayle in education
8. Her ounasverde prove that
9. have a fmloar education
10. her state-gassnide tutor
11. ntoiovtima to all women
12. irmvpoe her skills

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) Kerala state has India's highest literacy rate at 96.2 per cent and invests heavily
- ( ) education". Kuttியമ്മ said she wants to start writing letters and continue her studies to improve her skills.
- ( **1** ) A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a state literacy test. Her name is Kuttിയമ്മ and she only learned
- ( ) assigned tutor called her "a very sharp woman". He said his student was "overjoyed" after she saw her test
- ( ) to it. Kuttിയമ്മ did not have a formal education as she did not go to school. However, her state-
- ( ) a photo of the star student in which she is grinning from ear to ear. Another person
- ( ) on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her inspirational achievement, Kerala's education
- ( ) tweeted: "I salute Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It will inspire others for sure."
- ( ) pupil, Kuttിയമ്മ passed her tests with flying colours. She achieved a score of 89 per cent
- ( ) in education. It has a strong focus on adult education, which Kuttിയമ്മ benefited from. Her endeavours
- ( ) to read and write last year. Despite having just a year's tuition and being somewhat older than the average
- ( ) prove that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our minds
- ( ) results. A state official said: "Kuttിയമ്മ is a role model and motivation to all women in adult
- ( ) minister congratulated her. He tweeted: "With the utmost love and respect, I wish Kuttിയമ്മ...the best." He uploaded

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

1. woman passed state A literacy a has test . 104-year-old
2. than older being somewhat pupil . the average Despite
3. tests colours . Kuttியമ്മ her with passed flying literacy
4. to from ear . is grinning ear She
5. saluted Kuttിയമ്മ said her dedication . he for He
6. literacy highest Kerala India's state has rate .
7. strong on It a adult education . focus has
8. just age is prove Her number . a endeavours
9. put our Succeed we minds to it . when
10. adult motivation education . A women all in to

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a *statute / state* literacy test. Her name is Kuttியമ്മ and she only learned to read and write last year. Despite having just a year's *tutor / tuition* and being somewhat older than the *average / averaged* pupil, Kuttിയമ്മ passed her tests with *sailing / flying* colours. She achieved a score of 89 per cent on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her *inspiration / inspirational* achievement, Kerala's education minister *congratulated / congratulations* her. He tweeted: "With the *adjust / utmost* love and respect, I wish Kuttിയമ്മ...the best." He uploaded a photo of the *comet / star* student in which she is grinning from *nose / ear* to ear. Another person tweeted: "I salute Kuttിയമ്മ for her dedication. It will inspire others for *sure / surely*."

Kerala state has India's highest literacy *ratio / rate* at 96.2 per cent and invests heavily *on / in* education. It has a *strong / strength* focus on adult education, which Kuttിയമ്മ *benefited / beneficial* from. Her endeavours *prove / proof* that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our *mends / minds* to it. Kuttിയമ്മ did not have a formal education as she did not go to school. However, her state-assigned tutor called her "a very *sharp / shape* woman". He said his student was "overjoyed" after she saw her *test / testy* results. A state official said: "Kuttിയമ്മ is a role model and *motivational / motivation* to all women in adult education". Kuttിയമ്മ said she wants to start writing letters and continue her *studies / studios* to improve her skills.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

104-y\_\_r-\_ld w\_m\_n fr\_m K\_r\_l\_, \_nd\_\_ h\_s  
p\_ss\_d \_ st\_t\_ l\_t\_r\_cy t\_st. H\_r n\_m\_ \_s K\_tt\_y\_mm\_  
\_nd sh\_ \_nly l\_\_rn\_d t\_ r\_\_d \_nd wr\_t\_ l\_st y\_\_r.  
D\_sp\_t\_ h\_v\_ng j\_st \_ y\_\_r's t\_\_t\_\_n \_nd b\_\_ng  
s\_m\_wh\_t \_ld\_r th\_n th\_ \_v\_r\_g\_ p\_p\_l, K\_tt\_y\_mm\_  
p\_ss\_d h\_r t\_sts w\_th fly\_ng c\_l\_\_rs. Sh\_ \_ch\_\_v\_d \_  
sc\_r\_ \_f 89 p\_r c\_nt \_n th\_ K\_r\_l\_ St\_t\_ L\_t\_r\_cy  
T\_st. S\_ch w\_s h\_r \_nsp\_r\_t\_\_n\_l \_ch\_\_v\_m\_nt, K\_r\_l\_'s  
\_d\_c\_t\_\_n m\_n\_st\_r c\_ngr\_t\_l\_t\_d h\_r. H\_ tw\_\_t\_d:  
"W\_th th\_ \_tm\_st l\_v\_ \_nd r\_sp\_ct, \_ w\_sh  
K\_tt\_y\_mm\_...th\_ b\_st." H\_ \_pl\_\_d\_d \_ ph\_t\_ \_f th\_  
st\_r st\_d\_nt \_n wh\_ch sh\_ \_s gr\_nn\_ng fr\_m \_\_r t\_  
\_\_r. \_n\_th\_r p\_rs\_n tw\_\_t\_d: "\_ s\_l\_t\_ K\_tt\_y\_mm\_ f\_r  
h\_r d\_d\_c\_t\_\_n. \_t w\_ll \_nsp\_r\_ \_th\_rs f\_r s\_r\_."

K\_r\_l\_ st\_t\_ h\_s \_nd\_\_'s h\_gh\_st l\_t\_r\_cy r\_t\_  
\_t 96.2 p\_r c\_nt \_nd \_nv\_sts h\_\_v\_ly \_n \_d\_c\_t\_\_n.  
\_t h\_s \_ str\_ng f\_c\_s \_n \_d\_lt \_d\_c\_t\_\_n, wh\_ch  
K\_tt\_y\_mm\_ b\_n\_f\_t\_d fr\_m. H\_r \_nd\_\_v\_\_rs pr\_v\_ th\_t  
\_g\_ \_s j\_st \_ n\_mb\_r \_nd th\_t w\_ c\_n \_ch\_\_v\_  
\_nyth\_ng wh\_n w\_ p\_t \_\_r m\_nds t\_ \_t. K\_tt\_y\_mm\_  
d\_d n\_t h\_v\_ \_ f\_rm\_l \_d\_c\_t\_\_n \_s sh\_ d\_d n\_t g\_  
t\_ sch\_\_l. H\_w\_v\_r, h\_r st\_t\_-ss\_gn\_d t\_t\_r c\_ll\_d h\_r  
"\_ v\_ry sh\_rp w\_m\_n". H\_ s\_\_d h\_s st\_d\_nt w\_s  
"\_v\_rj\_y\_d" \_ft\_r sh\_ s\_w h\_r t\_st r\_s\_lts. \_ st\_t\_  
\_ff\_c\_\_l s\_\_d: "K\_tt\_y\_mm\_ \_s \_ r\_l\_ m\_d\_l \_nd  
m\_t\_v\_t\_\_n t\_ \_ll w\_m\_n \_n \_d\_lt \_d\_c\_t\_\_n".  
K\_tt\_y\_mm\_ s\_\_d sh\_ w\_nts t\_ st\_rt wr\_t\_ng l\_tt\_rs  
\_nd c\_nt\_n\_\_ h\_r st\_d\_\_s t\_ \_mpr\_v\_ h\_r sk\_lls.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

a 104yearold woman from kerala india has passed a state literacy test her name is kuttியamma and she only learned to read and write last year despite having just a years tuition and being somewhat older than the average pupil kuttியamma passed her tests with flying colours she achieved a score of 89 per cent on the kerala state literacy test such was her inspirational achievement keralas education minister congratulated her he tweeted with the utmost love and respect i wish kuttിയമ്മathe best he uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is grinning from ear to ear another person tweeted i salute kuttിയamma for her dedication it will inspire others for sure

kerala state has indias highest literacy rate at 962 per cent and invests heavily in education it has a strong focus on adult education which kuttിയamma benefited from her endeavours prove that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our minds to it kuttിയamma did not have a formal education as she did not go to school however her stateassigned tutor called her a very sharp woman he said his student was overjoyed after she saw her test results a state official said kuttിയamma is a role model and motivation to all women in adult education kuttിയamma said she wants to start writing letters and continue her studies to improve her skills

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

A 104-year-old woman from Kerala, India has passed a state literacy test. Her name is Kuttiamma and she only learned to read and write last year. Despite having just a year's tuition and being somewhat older than the average pupil, Kuttiamma passed her tests with flying colours. She achieved a score of 89 percent on the Kerala State Literacy Test. Such was her inspirational achievement, Kerala's education minister congratulated her. He tweeted: "With the utmost love and respect, I wish Kuttiamma... the best." He uploaded a photo of the star student in which she is grinning from ear to ear. Another person tweeted: "I salute Kuttiamma for her dedication. It will inspire others for sure." Kerala state has India's highest literacy rate at 96.2 percent and invests heavily in education. It has a strong focus on adult education, which Kuttiamma benefited from. Her endeavour proves that age is just a number and that we can achieve anything when we put our mind to it. Kuttiamma did not have a formal education as she did not go to school. However, her state-assigned tutor called her "a very sharp woman". He said his student was "overjoyed" after she saw her test results. A state official said: "Kuttiamma is a role model and motivation to all women in adult education". Kuttiamma said she wants to start writing letters and continue her studies to improve her skills.

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211206-learning-to-read.html>

Write about **learning to read** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. LEARNING TO READ:** Make a poster about learning to read. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. LITERACY:** Write a magazine article about investing heavily in achieving 100% literacy rates around the world. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on literacy. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to improve literacy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. a    2. c    3. e    4. f    5. d    6. b    7. g  
8. j    9. l    10. n    11. i    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Last year
2. 89%
3. The education minister
4. Grinning from ear to ear
5. A Twitter user
6. 96.2%
7. Adult education
8. A sharp woman
9. Overjoyed
10. Writing letters

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A 104-year-old woman has passed a state literacy test.
2. Despite being somewhat older than the average pupil.
3. Kuttiyamma passed her literacy tests with flying colours.
4. She is grinning from ear to ear.
5. He said he saluted Kuttiyamma for her dedication.
6. Kerala state has India's highest literacy rate.
7. It has a strong focus on adult education.
8. Her endeavours prove age is just a number.
9. Succeed when we put our minds to it.
10. A motivation to all women in adult education.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)