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**Level 5 – 20th May 2024**

## France issues scratch-n-sniff baguette stamp

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-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/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-5.html>

The French Post Office (La Poste) has issued a special postage stamp to honour the baguette - France's famous bread. The stamp is no ordinary issue. It is coated with tiny capsules that release the fragrance of fresh bread. The stamp shows a baguette decorated with a red, white, and blue ribbon. A Parisian shopkeeper who sells the "scratch-and-sniff" stamp said it had a "bakery smell". The stamp was launched to celebrate the patron saint of bakers. It had an initial print run of 594,000 copies. La Poste said French bakers bake more than six billion baguettes every year.

The baguette is close to the hearts of French people. France's president once described it as being "250 grams of magic and perfection". La Poste called the baguette, "the bread of our daily lives, the symbol of our gastronomy, the jewel of our culture". It explained the baguette's popularity, saying: "It is the promise of a [delicious] sensory experience. On view, it seduces with its golden crust....Fresh from the oven, its toasted scent whets the appetite." The baguette was given UNESCO heritage status in 2022. La Poste called the bread, "an ambassador of the bakery craft".

Sources: <https://www.laposte.fr/pp/timbre-baguette-de-pain-francaise/p/1124031>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/article/2024/may/17/french-post-office-releases-scratch-and-sniff-baguette-stamp>  
<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240517-french-post-office-celebrates-baguette-with-scented-stamp>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a special postage stamp to | a. smell                 |
| 2. It is coated               | b. ribbon                |
| 3. the fragrance              | c. more than six billion |
| 4. a red, white, and blue     | d. honour the baguette   |
| 5. it had a bakery            | e. saint of bakers       |
| 6. celebrate the patron       | f. with tiny capsules    |
| 7. It had an initial print    | g. of fresh bread        |
| 8. French bakers bake         | h. run of 594,000 copies |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. close to the hearts        | a. the oven          |
| 2. 250 grams of magic         | b. status            |
| 3. the symbol                 | c. crust             |
| 4. a delicious sensory        | d. of our gastronomy |
| 5. it seduces with its golden | e. and perfection    |
| 6. Fresh from                 | f. the appetite      |
| 7. its toasted scent whets    | g. experience        |
| 8. UNESCO heritage            | h. of French people  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-5.html>

The French Post Office (La Poste) has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ postage stamp to honour the baguette - France's famous bread. The stamp is (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It is coated with tiny capsules that release (3) \_\_\_\_\_ fresh bread. The stamp shows a baguette decorated with a red, white, and blue ribbon. A Parisian shopkeeper who sells the "scratch-and-sniff" stamp said it had (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The stamp was launched to celebrate the patron saint of bakers. It had an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of 594,000 copies. La Poste said French (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than six billion baguettes every year.

The baguette is close to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ French people. France's president once described (8) \_\_\_\_\_ "250 grams of magic and perfection". La Poste called the baguette, "the bread of our daily lives, the symbol (9) \_\_\_\_\_, the jewel of our culture". It explained the baguette's popularity, saying: "It is the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ [delicious] sensory experience. On view, it seduces with its golden crust...Fresh from the oven, its toasted scent (11) \_\_\_\_\_." The baguette was given UNESCO heritage status in 2022. La Poste called the bread, "an ambassador of (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-5.html>

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# POSTAGE STAMPS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2405/240520-scratch-and-sniff-stamp-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about postage stamps 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*France issues scratch-n-sniff baguette stamp – 20th May 2024*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

