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Level 4

Rare stamp sells for \$9.5 million

30th June, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140630-stamps-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140630-stamps-4.html>



A new world record was set for the sale of a stamp. The 1856 British Guiana One-Cent Magenta was sold in New York for \$9.48 million. It is the fourth time the stamp has broken the record. The auction house, Sotheby's said: "That price will be hard to beat, and likely won't be exceeded unless the British Guiana itself comes up for sale again in the future." An expert on stamps at the British Library said the sale was like buying the 'Mona Lisa'.

An anonymous buyer bought the stamp. An heir to the du Pont chemical fortune was the last owner. He* is in prison for killing an Olympic wrestler. A 12-year-old stamp collector first found the stamp in 1873. He sold it a few years later for about \$50 in today's money. It has since had a dozen owners. Sotheby's said: "This is the most valuable item in the world by weight. It's just a tiny piece of paper." They were happy a collector bought it.

* Correction - Mr Du Pont died in 2010 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_E._du_Pont

Sources: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/rare-stamp-set-record-nyc-auction-24169833>
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2014/06/18/one-cent-magenta-stamp-sold-millions/10729109/>
<http://money.cnn.com/2014/06/18/luxury/stamp-auction/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140630-stamps-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A new world record | a. for sale again |
| 2. auction | b. hard to beat |
| 3. That price will be | c. was set |
| 4. and likely won't | d. house |
| 5. comes up | e. on stamps |
| 6. An expert | f. be exceeded |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. An anonymous | a. by weight |
| 2. An heir to the du Pont | b. a collector bought it |
| 3. stamp | c. piece of paper |
| 4. the most valuable item in the world | d. buyer |
| 5. It's just a tiny | e. collector |
| 6. They were happy | f. chemical fortune |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140630-stamps-4.html>

A new world record (1) _____ of a stamp. The 1856 British Guiana One-Cent Magenta was sold in New York for \$9.48 million. It is the fourth time the stamp (2) _____ record. The auction house, Sotheby's said: "That price will (3) _____, and likely won't (4) _____ the British Guiana itself comes up for sale again in the future." (5) _____ at the British Library said the sale was like (6) _____.

An (7) _____ bought the stamp. An heir to the du Pont (8) _____ the last owner. He is in prison for killing an Olympic wrestler. A 12-year-old (9) _____ found the stamp in 1873. He sold it a few years later for about \$50 (10) _____. It has since had (11) _____.

Sotheby's said: "This is the most valuable item in the world by weight. It's (12) _____ paper." They were happy a collector bought it.

STAMPS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140630-stamps-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about 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)

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)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140630-stamps-4.html>

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

Blank lined area for writing.