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## **Level 5**

# **Hello Kitty is a girl, not a cat**

**31st August, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creators of a widely-recognised cartoon character have set the record straight. Japanese toymaker Sanrio said the iconic Hello Kitty is not a cat. The bombshell came following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at an American museum. The curator of the exhibition, Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio correcting her script for the show. It said: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend....She's never depicted on all fours. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." Sanrio adds: "Kitty is a bright little girl with a heart of gold."

Hello Kitty has become amazingly popular since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous, used on everything from chopsticks to airplanes. A Japanese carmaker even sold a specially branded Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face on the glass and a Kitty-shaped gear stick. The creators said the character represents cuteness. Sanrio said she has no mouth because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been full of comments on the news that Kitty is a girl. A rapper tweeted: "This is worse than finding out Pluto is not a planet."

Sources: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2014/08/28/newsflash-hello-kitty-has-never-been-a-cat/>  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/28/world/asia/hello-kitty-revelation/>  
<http://nypost.com/2014/08/28/hello-kitty-bombshell-shes-not-a-cat/>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a widely-                      | a. straight            |
| 2. set the record                 | b. the exhibition      |
| 3. the iconic                     | c. legged creature     |
| 4. publicity for an               | d. heart of gold       |
| 5. The curator of                 | e. on all fours        |
| 6. She's never depicted           | f. recognised cartoon  |
| 7. She walks and sits like a two- | g. Hello Kitty         |
| 8. a bright little girl with a    | h. upcoming exhibition |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. amazingly popular since      | a. full of comments         |
| 2. It has become                | b. cuteness                 |
| 3. used on everything from      | c. Pluto is not a planet    |
| 4. a Kitty-                     | d. ubiquitous               |
| 5. the character represents     | e. shaped gear stick        |
| 6. she has no mouth because she | f. chopsticks to airplanes  |
| 7. Social media has been        | g. speaks with her heart    |
| 8. worse than finding out       | h. its introduction in 1974 |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

The creators of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ cartoon character have set the record straight. Japanese toymaker Sanrio said the iconic Hello Kitty is not a cat. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ following publicity for an upcoming exhibition on the character at an American museum. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_, Christine R Yano, said she received a mail from Sanrio (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for the show. It said: "Hello Kitty is not a cat. She is a little girl. She is a friend....She's (5) \_\_\_\_\_ fours. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." Sanrio adds: "Kitty is a bright little girl (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

Hello Kitty has become (7) \_\_\_\_\_ since its introduction in 1974. It has become ubiquitous, used on everything from chopsticks to airplanes. A Japanese carmaker even sold (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Hello Kitty car. It had Kitty upholstery, a speedometer with the character's face on the glass and a Kitty-(9) \_\_\_\_\_. The creators said the character (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Sanrio said she has no mouth because she speaks with her heart. Social media has been (11) \_\_\_\_\_ on the news that Kitty is a girl. A rapper tweeted: "This is worse than finding out (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# HELLO KITTY SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140831-hello-kitty.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Hello Kitty 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)

*Hello Kitty is a girl, not a cat – 31st August, 2014*  
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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)

