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## **Level 2**

### **'Tom and Jerry' cartoon gets racism warning**

**4th October, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141004-tom-and-jerry-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141004-tom-and-jerry-2.html>

The Internet giant, Amazon, is warning its customers that some Tom and Jerry shows are racist. The series, 'Tom and Jerry: The Complete Second Volume' has an Amazon warning that some scenes are racist. The warning says that some parts of the show have "ethnic and racial prejudices that were once commonplace in American society". It said this wrong when the cartoons were made 70 years ago, and is still wrong today. People say the character of the black maid in the cartoon is racist. Some of the cartoons were changed in the 1960s because of worries about racism.

The cartoonists William Hanna and Joseph Barbera created the rivals Tom and Jerry in 1940. They made 114 Tom and Jerry cartoons from 1940 to 1957. The cartoons won seven Oscars for best Animated Short Film. They are one of the most popular cartoons in animation history. They are on children's TV every day in many countries. Animation expert Steve Abrahart said the quality of the early Tom and Jerry cartoons was "superb". Many people put comments on Twitter to say it was "madness" that Amazon put a warning on the cartoons.

Sources: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/1/amazon-adds-racism-disclaimer-to-tom-and-jerry-car/#ixzz3ExVKKSwh>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-29427843>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom\\_and\\_Jerry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_and_Jerry)

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141004-tom-and-jerry-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Amazon is                         | a. commonplace           |
| 2. an Amazon warning that some       | b. in the 1960s          |
| 3. prejudices that were once         | c. today                 |
| 4. the cartoons were made            | d. about racism          |
| 5. still wrong                       | e. warning its customers |
| 6. the character of                  | f. 70 years ago          |
| 7. Some of the cartoons were changed | g. the black maid        |
| 8. because of worries                | h. scenes are racist     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. the rivals                             | a. in many countries     |
| 2. from 1940                              | b. cartoons was "superb" |
| 3. The cartoons won                       | c. Tom and Jerry         |
| 4. one of the most popular cartoons in    | d. on the cartoons       |
| 5. on children's TV every day             | e. to 1957               |
| 6. the quality of the early Tom and Jerry | f. animation history     |
| 7. comments on Twitter to                 | g. seven Oscars          |
| 8. put a warning                          | h. say it was "madness"  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141004-tom-and-jerry-2.html>

The Internet giant, Amazon, is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that some Tom and Jerry (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The series, 'Tom and Jerry: The Complete Second Volume' has an Amazon warning that some scenes are racist. The warning says that some parts of the show have "(3) \_\_\_\_\_ prejudices that were once commonplace in American society". It (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the cartoons were made 70 years ago, and is still wrong today. People (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the black maid in the cartoon is racist. Some of the cartoons were changed in the 1960s because of (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The cartoonists William Hanna and Joseph Barbera created the rivals Tom and Jerry in 1940. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Tom and Jerry cartoons (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The cartoons won seven Oscars for best Animated Short Film. They are one of the most popular cartoons (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They are on children's TV (10) \_\_\_\_\_ countries. Animation expert Steve Abrahart said the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Tom and Jerry cartoons was "superb". Many people put comments on Twitter to say it was "madness" that Amazon (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the cartoons.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141004-tom-and-jerry-2.html>

TheInternetgiant,Amazon,iswarningitscustomersthatsomeTomand Jerryshowsareracist.Theseries,'TomandJerry:TheCompleteSecond Volume'hasanAmazonwarningthatsomescenesareracist.Thewarnin gsaysthatsomepartsoftheshowhave"ethnicandracialprejudicesthat wereoncecommonplaceinAmericansociety".Itsaidthiswaswrongwhe nthecartoonsweremade70yearsago,andisstillwrongtoday.Peoplesa ythecharacteroftheblackmaidinthecartoonisracist.Someofthecartoo nswerechangedinthe1960sbecauseofworriesaboutracism.Thecarto onistsWilliamHannaandJosephBarberacreatedtherivalsTomandJerr yin1940.Theymade114TomandJerrycartoonsfrom1940to1957.The cartoonswonsevenOscarsforbestAnimatedShortFilm.Theyareoneof themostpopularcartoonsinanimationhistory.Theyareonchildren'sTV everydayinmanycountries.AnimationexpertSteveAbrahartsaidtheq ualityoftheearlyTomandJerrycartoonswas"superb".Manypeopleput commentsonTwittertosayitwas"madness"thatAmazonputawarning onthecartoons.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

---

b)

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c)

---

d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*'Tom and Jerry' cartoon gets racism warning – 4th October, 2014*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

---

f)

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g)

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h)

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