

You are going to read an article about pillar boxes – post boxes in Britain. Some verbs are missing from the text. Your task is to form the correct grammatical forms of the verbs in the brackets. Write the forms that fit in the gaps (1-10) on the dotted lines. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Like double-decker buses, cricket and warm beer, pillar boxes are a symbol of Britain. But did you (0) know (know) Britain got the idea from France, where they (1) (use) them since the 1600s? It was in 1852 that the famous Victorian novelist Anthony Trollope, who (2) (work) for the Post Office then, had the idea of using them in Britain.



The first boxes (3) (introduce) in 1852 in St Helier, on the island of Jersey. As they were a success, the following year the first box (4) (appear) on the mainland, in Carlisle.

In the beginning, different regions developed their own boxes. London's box (5) (replace) because people (6) (complain) it was ugly. Another, designed by the Department of Sciences and Arts, looked great, but had the slot on the top, so the mail (7) (get ruined) when it rained. The first National Standard box appeared in 1859. It (8) (paint) green because they wanted it to fit into the English landscape. As it turned out, it fit too much – people kept walking into them. Red became the standard colour in 1874.

Nowadays around 10 million letters (9) (collect) from post boxes each day. Some pillar boxes are over 100 years old. These boxes have VR painted on them. VR (10) (stand) for Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901.