

Writing
Something you feel strongly about
Reading

2 Read the letter below and answer the questions.

- 1 **What does the writer feel strongly about?**
- 2 **Who is she writing to?**
- 3 **Why is she writing?**

In response to your article on how the people of Britain feel following 'the country's humiliating defeat in the World Cup', I would like to point out that only England played in the World Cup and other parts of Britain were not represented. This confusion is a constant bugbear of mine and it makes me mad to hear so-called educated people referring to England when they mean Britain and Britain when they mean England.

What really annoys me is how little people know about our country. As you might have guessed, I'm a Scot and proud of it. When people ask me where I'm from, I say Scotland. Of course I have a UK passport. The UK, or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, consists of the island of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain consists of the countries of England, Wales and Scotland.

The problem doesn't just exist here. When I travel abroad people often mistakenly call me English. I have to correct them and tell them that an English person is someone from England. I am Scottish or British but never English. I know you may think this is a trivial point but if you lived here in Scotland you would understand the importance of such a distinction.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to the fact that life does exist in Scotland and that your 'national' newspaper could do more to bridge the gap between our nations by making an effort to include more references to news and events taking place in other parts of the United Kingdom outside London and England.

3 Are the sentences true (*T*) or false (*F*)? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 Britain played in the 2010 World Cup.
- 2 People who should know better use the wrong names.
- 3 Northern Ireland isn't part of Great Britain.
- 4 Someone from Scotland is English.
- 5 She's writing to an English newspaper.
- 6 She thinks the paper should include more news about Scotland.

Writing skills: expressing anger and criticism

A *bugbear* is something that keeps annoying you. The writer uses a lot of phrases to talk about her bugbear.

4 Use the words below to complete the phrases. Read the message again to check your answers.

annoys attention bugbear mistakenly
point out trivial

- 1 I would like to _____ that ...
- 2 This is a constant _____ of mine.
- 3 What really _____ me is ...
- 4 People often _____.
- 5 You may think this is a _____ point but ...
- 6 I'd like to draw your _____ to the fact that ...

5 Complete these other phrases with your own bugbears.

- 1 I can't stand people who _____.
- 2 I really hate it when _____.
- 3 I dislike _____.
- 4 It makes me mad when _____.

Language focus: adding emphasis and sarcasm

Give your arguments emphasis by adding *What ... is* and *really*.

What really annoys me is how little people know about our country.

6 Add *What / is* and *really* to add emphasis to these sentences.

- 1 I dislike queuing in shops.
- 2 It makes me mad when people jump queues.
- 3 I hate it when you stand in the slower queue.
- 4 I can't stand queuing at airports.

7 Read the following sentence from the letter below.

I'd like to draw your attention to the fact that life does exist in Scotland.

Does the writer really think that people in England don't believe that life exists in Scotland? The writer is being sarcastic. Read the definition of *sarcasm*.

Sarcasm (noun, uncountable) saying or writing the opposite of what you mean, in a way intended to make someone else feel stupid or show them that you are angry

Preparing to write

8 Read the writing task below. Before you start writing, make a list of the points you want to make. When you feel strongly about something, it's easy to confuse the reader. You should plan what you want to say carefully.

First paragraph

In response to ...

Second paragraph

What really annoys me is ...

Third paragraph

The problem doesn't just exist ...

Fourth paragraph

Finally, I'd like to ...

Writing

Write an angry letter to a digital or print newspaper in response to a news story or letter you recently read.

Useful language

- I'd like to take this opportunity to ...
- As you might have guessed ...
- When people ask me ...
- If you lived here / If you were in my shoes ...