

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210418-croissant.html>

People can be afraid of some strange things. There is an actual fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth. The latest thing to have caused fear for people in Poland is a croissant. The French, crescent-shaped roll made of flaky pastry scared some residents in the Polish city of Krakow. They mistook the pastry for a kind of dangerous animal. They called for help to get the "animal" removed from a tree opposite their apartment building. The residents were so worried that they kept their windows closed for a couple of days. The Krakow Animal Welfare Society wrote on its Facebook account that a woman called authorities to report the unidentified "predator" sitting in the tree.

Animal welfare officers phoned residents in the building. They asked them to describe the animal. One resident mistook the croissant for a bird of prey; another said the pastry was a kind of lizard. One welfare officer explained what happened. He said he went to the housing estate where the residents lived to check on the strange animal. He reported that he spotted a "brown creature sitting on a lilac branch," and that its "brown coat was shining in the sun". He added: "The poor little guy had no legs or head." When he discovered that the strange beast was a croissant, he was "almost swept off his feet by a laughing attack". He said it was better to be safe than sorry and to report any sightings of strange animals.

Sources: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/croissant-in-a-tree-brings-fear-to-polish-city/ar-BB1fH4hW>
<https://www.euronews.com/2021/04/16/mystery-animal-sighting-in-krakow-ends-up-being-a-croissant>
<https://www.newsweek.com/mysterious-animal-stuck-tree-revealed-croissant-during-rescue-1583902>

WARM-UPS

1. CROISSANTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about croissants. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

afraid / strange / peanut butter / your mouth / crescent / tree / a couple of days / welfare / animal / bird of prey / pastry / creature / branch / the sun / laughing

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PASTRIES: Students A **strongly** believe croissants are the best pastries; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. FEARS: How might these fears affect someone's life? How can people overcome these fears? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How It Affects Someone's Life	Overcoming It
The dark		
Blood		
Heights		
Flying		
Dentists		
Speaking English		

5. CRESCENT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "crescent". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. DANGEROUS ANIMALS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most dangerous animals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Crocodile
- Puffer fish
- Black mamba
- Tarantula
- Humans
- Mosquito
- Lion
- Great white shark

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. afraid | a. Having a position on the other or further side of something. |
| 2. roof | b. An animal that naturally kills and eats other animals. |
| 3. pastry | c. Feeling fear; being scared. |
| 4. resident | d. The thing that is in top of a building, or the top part of the inside of your mouth. |
| 5. opposite | e. A person who lives somewhere permanently or for a long time. |
| 6. authority | f. A person or organization having power or control. |
| 7. predator | g. An item of food made of a sweet bread. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. mistook | h. Found out something. |
| 9. prey | i. An animal (but not a human). |
| 10. welfare | j. Saw. |
| 11. spotted | k. Wrongly thought someone or something was someone or something else. |
| 12. creature | l. The action of seeing something that doesn't happen often. |
| 13. discovered | m. An animal that is hunted and killed by another for food. |
| 14. sighting | n. The health, happiness, and fortunes of a person or group. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210418-croissant.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. People can fear peanut butter sticking to the roof of their mouth. **T / F**
- b. A croissant is a flaky pastry that is the shape of a crescent. **T / F**
- c. Residents in an apartment building mistook a croissant for an animal. **T / F**
- d. An animal welfare society said the croissant was a predator. **T / F**
- e. One resident thought the croissant was a bird of prey. **T / F**
- f. One resident said she saw a lizard eating the croissant. **T / F**
- g. An animal welfare officer laughed a lot when he saw the croissant. **T / F**
- h. The animal welfare officer said it was better to be sorry than safe. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. afraid | a. creature |
| 2. latest | b. across from |
| 3. residents | c. found out |
| 4. opposite | d. inhabitants |
| 5. authorities | e. sort |
| 6. animal | f. scared |
| 7. kind | g. saw |
| 8. spotted | h. officials |
| 9. discovered | i. unharmed |
| 10. safe | j. most recent |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. sticking to the roof | a. off his feet |
| 2. The latest thing to have caused | b. pastry |
| 3. made of flaky | c. for a bird |
| 4. a tree opposite | d. for a couple of days |
| 5. they kept their windows closed | e. in the sun |
| 6. One resident mistook the croissant | f. of your mouth |
| 7. the housing estate | g. be safe than sorry |
| 8. shining | h. where the residents lived |
| 9. he was almost swept | i. fear for people |
| 10. He said it was better to | j. their apartment building |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210418-croissant.html>

1. What can people be afraid of sticking to the roof of their mouth?
2. What shape does the article say a croissant is?
3. Where was the croissant sitting?
4. For how long did residents keep their windows closed?
5. What kind of society wrote about the "animal" on Facebook?
6. What kind of bird did a resident mistake the croissant for?
7. What kind of branch was the croissant sitting on?
8. What did an animal welfare officer say was shining in the sun?
9. What did an animal welfare officer do when he saw the croissant?
10. What did an animal welfare officer say being safe was better than?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210418-croissant.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'croissant' and 'terror'.

croissant	terror
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• actual• caused• roll• help• kept• report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• phoned• bird• happened• brown• swept• sorry
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CROISSANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'croissant'?
3. What do you know about croissants?
4. What do you think of croissants?
5. Why might a croissant be scary?
6. What are you afraid of?
7. What do you think of peanut butter?
8. What animal are you most scared of?
9. What is the best filling for croissants, and why?
10. When was the last time you were scared?

Croissant terrorizes residents in Poland – 18th April, 2021
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CROISSANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'terror'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Would you like to work as an animal welfare officer?
15. What do you know about birds of prey?
16. What is your favourite animal, and why?
17. Have you ever had a laughing attack?
18. What does, 'It's better to be safe than sorry' mean?
19. Is it better to be safe than sorry?
20. What questions would you like to ask the residents who were scared?