
Tekst 9

Grammar guerrillas make their mark

- 1 Some people may think that grammar doesn't matter anymore, but there is a quiet army out there of those who disagree. In the wake of a council's decision to remove apostrophes from street signs, an anonymous guerrilla grammarian is going around using a marker pen to correct the punctuation. Signs with missing punctuation, such as that at Scholars' Walk, have seen the correct apostrophe inserted overnight.



- 2 The local authority in Cambridge has been accused of 'dumbing down' in the great university town over its decision to remove punctuation from street signs. The council argues it is simply following guidelines from the National Land and Property Gazetteer, where all new street names are registered. They argue that apostrophes are said to lead to mistakes – particularly among emergency services. Councillor Tim Ward, executive director of planning, said: "I think people would be more unhappy if an ambulance was unable to find their street." He admitted that the decision could be reversed if national guidelines change. But he added that the punctuation of street signs was at present a low priority issue for the local authority following a raft of budget cuts. 36, Cambridgeshire's police and fire services say they have no objections to punctuations in road names.
- 3 Kathy Salaman, director of the Cambridge-based Good Grammar Company, praised the undercover 'repair' work and said: "I have heard that the signs have been vandalised by the marker pen but to me it was the language that has been vandalised by removing the apostrophes. I am very pleased that someone or some people have taken it in their hands to correct this dumbing down. Apostrophes can be key to conveying the meaning of a street name and I am hoping a campaign will be launched to get councils to change their minds. Cambridge is famous for the university and for people coming from other countries, such as scholars or business people. It should be leading by example in this day of trying to improve grammar and educational achievement. The signs without correct punctuation 37."

adapted from an article from *dailymail.co.uk*, 2014

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- 1p 34 What is the function of paragraph 1?
- A to explain why many members of the public ignore council measures
 - B to make clear that city councils do not respect the wishes of their citizens
 - C to show that certain inhabitants are annoyed by recent council policy changes
 - D to warn that some council decisions can provoke acts of vandalism
- “the punctuation of street signs” (paragraph 2)
- 1p 35 What does Tim Ward make clear about this issue?
- A The council acted questionably but will not change its course of action any time soon.
 - B The council does not consider current practice a matter of principle and follows national standards.
 - C The council regrets it is presently unable to prosecute the culprits who damaged public property.
 - D The council was forced to take certain measures because of lack of adequate funding.
- 1p 36 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 2?
- A Meanwhile
 - B Similarly
 - C Therefore
- 1p 37 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A are a minor issue
 - B cause traffic problems
 - C give a very bad impression
 - D illustrate why this is irrelevant