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## **Level 5**

### **Man sells firewood to pay dead wife's medical bills**

**25th November, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-5.html>

The Internet has come to the rescue of an 80-year-old man who had to sell firewood on the roadside to pay for his wife's medical bills. Kenneth Smith sold kindling every day for \$5 a bag. He started last year and was helped by his wife of over 30 years, who was dying of cancer. Tragically, she lost her battle in October and Mr Smith was left with a huge hospital bill, which wiped out his life savings. A local woman saw Mr Smith and posted on Facebook to get people to help him. Her post was shared over 9,000 times. Motorists stopped their car to give Mr Smith some cash.

The woman's kindness encouraged Mr Smith's son to set up an online appeal. He created a web page and donations came flooding in from all over the world. The online campaign raised \$20,000. The woman said she had "no clue" her actions would lead to such generosity. She said: "Although it will not lessen the heartache of losing his wife, I am thankful it will at least take a little worry off of his plate and help him make ends meet." Mr Smith said he has been "overwhelmed". He said although his wife wasn't by his side, he feels her presence, "because she's looking down on me," he said.

Sources: <http://www.sunherald.com/news/state/mississippi/article116633298.html>  
<http://www.ksla.com/story/33764148/support-pouring-in-for-widower-selling-firewood>  
<http://blogs.mprnews.org/newscut/2016/11/man-sells-firewood-to-pay-dead-wifes-medical-bills/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38081732>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. come to the          | a. their car          |
| 2. Tragically, she lost | b. savings            |
| 3. left with a huge     | c. over 9,000 times   |
| 4. wiped out his life   | d. cash               |
| 5. A local              | e. her battle         |
| 6. Her post was shared  | f. rescue             |
| 7. Motorists stopped    | g. hospital bill      |
| 8. give Mr Smith some   | h. woman saw Mr Smith |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. donations came                   | a. on me              |
| 2. The online campaign              | b. flooding in        |
| 3. her actions would lead to such   | c. meet               |
| 4. it will not lessen the heartache | d. raised \$20,000    |
| 5. help him make ends               | e. presence           |
| 6. his wife wasn't by               | f. generosity         |
| 7. he feels her                     | g. of losing his wife |
| 8. she's looking down               | h. his side           |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-5.html>

The Internet has come (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of an 80-year-old man who had to sell firewood on the roadside (2) \_\_\_\_\_ wife's medical bills. Kenneth Smith sold kindling every day for \$5 a bag. He started last year and was helped by his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ years, who was dying of cancer. Tragically, she lost her battle in October and Mr Smith was left with a huge hospital bill, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ his life savings. A local woman saw Mr Smith and posted on Facebook (5) \_\_\_\_\_ help him. Her (6) \_\_\_\_\_ over 9,000 times. Motorists stopped their car to give Mr Smith some cash.

The woman's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Smith's son to set up an online appeal. He created a web page and donations came (8) \_\_\_\_\_ all over the world. The online campaign raised \$20,000. The woman said she (9) \_\_\_\_\_ actions would lead to such generosity. She said: "Although it will not lessen the heartache of losing his wife, I am thankful it will at least take (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of his plate and help him (11) \_\_\_\_\_." Mr Smith said he has been "overwhelmed". He said although his wife wasn't by his side, he (12) \_\_\_\_\_, "because she's looking down on me," he said.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-5.html>

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# ONLINE CAMPAIGNS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about online campaigns in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

