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Israeli troops kill 20 aid activists

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

Israel is facing a storm of international criticism following its killing of 10 aid volunteers in international waters on May 31st. Israeli commandoes boarded a Turkish ship in the Mediterranean that was filled with aid for Palestinians in Gaza. The troops slid down ropes from helicopters and the fighting that followed led to at least 10 fatalities. The ship was carrying 600 activists from all over the world. Those on board say the activists were largely unarmed civilians. They included Northern Ireland's Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, and politicians from many countries. The ship was part of a flotilla trying to break an Israeli blockade to give Gazans food and aid supplies. The confrontation took place 80 miles off the Gaza coast.

Israel's military was quick to defend its actions. A spokesperson said: "The demonstrators on board attacked the naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally, one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance for this specific purpose." Israel's trade and industry minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer expressed his regret: "The images are certainly not pleasant. I can only voice regret at all the fatalities," he said. Israeli journalist Amos Harel from the Haaretz newspaper went further. He wrote of the seriousness of Israel's actions, saying: "The damage that Israel has caused itself internationally can hardly be exaggerated."

WARM-UPS

1. GAZA: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Gaza. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

storm of criticism / international waters / troops / fatalities / activists / flotilla / military / demonstrators / weaponry / regret / not pleasant / damage / exaggerating

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

3. VIEWPOINT: What do you think different people will think about Israel's action? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Who?	What they think	What they think about the others
Israeli sailor		
Flotilla leader		
A Gazan		
Your leader		
Average Israeli		
World citizen		

4. RESOLVED: Students A **strongly** believe this situation will be resolved quickly; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BLOCKADE: What would you miss? Rate these and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = wouldn't be able to live without this; 1 = not having this is no problem at all. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- your favourite food
- newspapers
- medicine
- electricity
- gasoline / petrol
- the Internet
- wheat, rice, cooking oil, etc.
- other _____

6. AID: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'aid'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Lots of people around the world are angry with Israel. | T / F |
| b. Israeli soldiers boarded the aid ship from their warships. | T / F |
| c. There was a Nobel Peace Prize winner among those injured. | T / F |
| d. The incident took place 80 miles inside Israel's waters. | T / F |
| e. Israel's military hasn't yet commented on its operation. | T / F |
| f. Israel said many of the demonstrators already had guns and rifles. | T / F |
| g. An Israeli politician expressed his regret for what happened. | T / F |
| h. An Israeli journalist believes Israel has caused considerable damage. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. facing | a. campaigners |
| 2. boarded | b. staff |
| 3. fatalities | c. overstated |
| 4. activists | d. protect |
| 5. confrontation | e. deaths |
| 6. defend | f. be sorry for |
| 7. personnel | g. confronting |
| 8. specific | h. encounter |
| 9. regret | i. got on |
| 10. exaggerated | j. precise |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. facing a storm of | a. in advance |
| 2. in international | b. an Israeli blockade |
| 3. troops slid down | c. of Israel's actions |
| 4. the activists were | d. ropes from helicopters |
| 5. a flotilla trying to break | e. waters |
| 6. Israel's military was quick | f. caused itself |
| 7. prepared their weapons | g. at all the fatalities |
| 8. I can only voice regret | h. international criticism |
| 9. He wrote of the seriousness | i. to defend its actions |
| 10. The damage that Israel has | j. unarmed civilians |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Israel is facing a storm of international _____ following its killing of 10 aid volunteers in international waters on May 31st. Israeli commandoes _____ a Turkish ship in the Mediterranean that was _____ with aid for Palestinians in Gaza. The troops _____ down ropes from helicopters and the fighting that followed led to at least 10 fatalities. The ship was carrying 600 _____ from all over the world. Those on board say the activists were largely _____ civilians. They included Northern Ireland's Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, and politicians from many countries. The ship was part of a _____ trying to break an Israeli blockade to give Gazans food and aid supplies. The confrontation took _____ 80 miles off the Gaza coast.

flotilla
activists
slid
boarded
criticism
place
unarmed
filled

Israel's military was quick to _____ its actions. A spokesperson said: "The demonstrators on board attacked the _____ personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally, one of the weapons used was _____ from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly _____ their weapons in advance for this specific purpose." Israel's trade and industry minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer expressed his _____: "The images are certainly not _____. I can only voice regret at all the fatalities," he said. Israeli journalist Amos Harel from the Haaretz newspaper went _____. He wrote of the seriousness of Israel's actions, saying: "The damage that Israel has caused _____ internationally can hardly be exaggerated."

prepared
itself
grabbed
regret
defend
further
pleasant
naval

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

Israel _____ international criticism following its killing of 20 aid volunteers in international waters on May 31st. Israeli commandoes boarded a Turkish ship in the Mediterranean _____ aid for Palestinians in Gaza. The troops slid down ropes from helicopters and the fighting that _____ 20 fatalities. The ship was carrying 600 activists from all over the world. Those _____ activists were largely unarmed civilians. They included Northern Ireland's Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, and politicians from many countries. The ship was part of a flotilla _____ Israeli blockade to give Gazans food and aid supplies. The confrontation _____ the Gaza coast.

Israel's military was _____ actions. A spokesperson said: "The demonstrators on board attacked the naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally, one of the weapons _____ from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance _____." Israel's trade and industry minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer expressed his regret: "The images are _____. I can only voice regret at all the fatalities," he said. Israeli journalist Amos Harel from the Haaretz newspaper went further. He _____ of Israel's actions, saying: "The damage that Israel has caused itself internationally can _____."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

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

aid	activist
------------	-----------------

- 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">• storm• waters• filled• unarmed• prize• 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• quick• live• grabbed• purpose• voice• damage
--	---

STUDENT GAZA SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

Write five GOOD questions about Gaza 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.

GAZA DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Gaza'?
- c) What did you think when you first heard this news?
- d) Many newspapers are saying Israel's actions are inexcusable. Do you agree?
- e) What should the international community do about this attack?
- f) A tweet on Twitter told Barack Obama he would already have acted if Iran had attacked an aid ship. What do you think of this?
- g) Israeli leaders say the storming of the ship was necessary to protect its own people. What do you think?
- h) What do you want your country to do?
- i) What three adjectives describe this story and why??
- j) Why is Israel banning the delivery of aid to Gaza?

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GAZA DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think this is a turning point in the Israel/Palestine conflict?
- c) Does this event make the conflict an Israeli/wider world one?
- d) Do you have sympathy with the Israeli commandoes if they were met with activists armed with knives and clubs?
- e) The flotilla leaders have said they will redouble their efforts to get the aid through. What do you think of this?
- f) Are you surprised a member of Israel's government expressed regret?
- g) Has this incident changed your opinion of Israel in any way?
- h) Israeli leaders say terrorists were on the ship? What do you think?
- i) Can the damage Israel caused itself internationally "be exaggerated"?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Israel's leaders?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100601-gaza_flotilla.html

Israel is facing a (1) ____ of international criticism following its killing of 10 aid volunteers in international waters on May 31st. Israeli commandoes (2) ____ a Turkish ship in the Mediterranean that was filled with aid for Palestinians in Gaza. The troops slid down ropes from helicopters and the fighting that followed led to at least 10 (3) _____. The ship was carrying 600 activists from all over the world. Those on board say the activists were largely (4) ____ civilians. They included Northern Ireland's Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, and politicians from many countries. The ship was part of a (5) ____ trying to break an Israeli blockade to give Gazans food and aid supplies. The confrontation (6) _____ place 80 miles off the Gaza coast.

Israel's military was quick to defend its actions. A spokesperson said: "The demonstrators on board attacked the naval personnel with (7) ____ fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally, one of the weapons used was (8) ____ from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons (9) ____ advance for this specific purpose." Israel's trade and industry minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer (10) ____ his regret: "The images are certainly not pleasant. I can only voice regret (11) ____ all the fatalities," he said. Israeli journalist Amos Harel from the Haaretz newspaper went further. He wrote of the seriousness of Israel's actions, saying: "The damage that Israel has caused itself internationally can (12) ____ be exaggerated."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) thunder | (b) lightning | (c) weather | (d) storm |
| 2. | (a) boarded | (b) bored | (c) boarding | (d) boards |
| 3. | (a) dies | (b) fatalities | (c) death | (d) kills |
| 4. | (a) cross-eyed | (b) beheaded | (c) unarmed | (d) backed |
| 5. | (a) floating | (b) floated | (c) flotilla | (d) floats |
| 6. | (a) did | (b) took | (c) gave | (d) had |
| 7. | (a) living | (b) alive | (c) lively | (d) live |
| 8. | (a) grabbed | (b) borrowed | (c) bought | (d) made |
| 9. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) at | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) depressed | (b) compressed | (c) pressed | (d) expressed |
| 11. | (a) by | (b) on | (c) at | (d) of |
| 12. | (a) hardly | (b) hardest | (c) heard | (d) had |

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HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the Gaza Flotilla. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. GAZA: Make a poster about Gaza and its history. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DAMAGE: Write a magazine article about the damage Israel has done itself internationally. Include imaginary interviews with the head of Israel's military and an aid activist.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Israel's leader. Ask him three questions about the attack on the ship and the tragic loss of life. Give him three of your opinions on the whole situation. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. F d. F e. F f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. facing | a. confronting |
| 2. boarded | b. got on |
| 3. fatalities | c. deaths |
| 4. activists | d. campaigners |
| 5. confrontation | e. encounter |
| 6. defend | f. protect |
| 7. personnel | g. staff |
| 8. specific | h. precise |
| 9. regret | i. be sorry for |
| 10. exaggerated | j. overstated |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. facing a storm of | a. international criticism |
| 2. in international | b. waters |
| 3. troops slid down | c. ropes from helicopters |
| 4. the activists were | d. unarmed civilians |
| 5. a flotilla trying to break | e. an Israeli blockade |
| 6. Israel's military was quick | f. to defend its actions |
| 7. prepared their weapons | g. in advance |
| 8. I can only voice regret | h. at all the fatalities |
| 9. He wrote of the seriousness | i. of Israel's actions |
| 10. The damage that Israel has | j. caused itself |

GAP FILL:

Israeli troops kill 20 aid activists

Israel is facing a storm of international **criticism** following its killing of 10 aid volunteers in international waters on May 31st. Israeli commandoes **boarded** a Turkish ship in the Mediterranean that was **filled** with aid for Palestinians in Gaza. The troops **slid** down ropes from helicopters and the fighting that followed led to at least 10 fatalities. The ship was carrying 600 **activists** from all over the world. Those on board say the activists were largely **unarmed** civilians. They included Northern Ireland's Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, and politicians from many countries. The ship was part of a **flotilla** trying to break an Israeli blockade to give Gazans food and aid supplies. The confrontation took **place** 80 miles off the Gaza coast.

Israel's military was quick to **defend** its actions. A spokesperson said: "The demonstrators on board attacked the **naval** personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally, one of the weapons used was **grabbed** from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly **prepared** their weapons in advance for this specific purpose." Israel's trade and industry minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer expressed his **regret**: "The images are certainly not **pleasant**. I can only voice regret at all the fatalities," he said. Israeli journalist Amos Harel from the Haaretz newspaper went **further**. He wrote of the seriousness of Israel's actions, saying: "The damage that Israel has caused **itself** internationally can hardly be exaggerated."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a

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