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## **Level 5**

### **Fresh hopes as ceasefire is agreed in Syria**

**12th September, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160912-syria-truce-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/1609/160912-syria-truce-5.html>

There is a fresh hope for an end to hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to target the group known as ISIS. It will come into effect on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest plan as previous attempts at halting the fighting have failed. Even with the new 10-day truce being hours away, the bombs continued to fall in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held areas killed at least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in Aleppo.

Most of the major players in Syria responded positively to the ceasefire, despite strained relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the most promising way...to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." The US Secretary of State said: "It is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a reality." Russia's Foreign Minister said the US and Russia had agreed on joint "strikes against terrorists". Turkey and the European Union welcomed this but warned that more action was needed. There has been no official reaction from Iran.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37328945>  
<http://www.npr.org/2016/09/10/493436461/new-syria-ceasefire-set-to-begin-monday>  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/syria-scores-killed-air-strikes-truce-deal-160910135209691.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160912-syria-truce-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. fresh                  | a. halting the fighting |
| 2. an end                 | b. as ISIS              |
| 3. target the group known | c. reaction             |
| 4. It will come into      | d. held areas           |
| 5. mixed                  | e. hope                 |
| 6. previous attempts at   | f. to fall              |
| 7. the bombs continued    | g. to hostilities       |
| 8. air strikes on ISIS-   | h. effect on Monday     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Most of the major               | a. reality            |
| 2. Syria responded positively      | b. way                |
| 3. strained                        | c. reaction from Iran |
| 4. This remains the most promising | d. to the ceasefire   |
| 5. get this terrible situation to  | e. relations          |
| 6. until it becomes a              | f. against terrorists |
| 7. agreed on joint strikes         | g. players            |
| 8. no official                     | h. a better place     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160912-syria-truce-5.html>

There is a fresh hope (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria (2) \_\_\_\_\_ agreement to target the group known as ISIS. It will (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest plan as previous (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the fighting have failed. Even with the new 10-day truce being hours away, the bombs continued to fall in areas (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held areas killed at least 82 people (6) \_\_\_\_\_. At least 45 people died in Aleppo.

Most (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Syria responded positively to the ceasefire, despite (8) \_\_\_\_\_ between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the (9) \_\_\_\_\_...to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." The US Secretary of State said: "It is an opportunity and not more (10) \_\_\_\_\_ becomes a reality." Russia's Foreign Minister said the US and Russia had agreed on (11) \_\_\_\_\_ terrorists". Turkey and the European Union welcomed this but warned that more action was needed. There has been no (12) \_\_\_\_\_ Iran.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160912-syria-truce-5.html>

There is a fresh hope for an end to hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to target the group known as ISIS. It will come into effect on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest plan as previous attempts at halting the fighting have failed. Even with the new 10-day truce being hours away, the bombs continued to fall in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government airstrikes on ISIS-held areas killed at least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in Aleppo. Most of the major players in Syria responded positively to the ceasefire, despite strained relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains... the most promising way... to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." The US Secretary of State said: "It is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a reality." Russia's Foreign Minister said the US and Russia had agreed on joint "strikes against terrorists". Turkey and the European Union welcomed this but warned that more action was needed. There has been no official reaction from Iran.

# SYRIA SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1609/160912-syria-truce-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Syria 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) \_\_\_\_\_

