

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 1**

### **Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence**

**12th August, 2015**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-1.html>

## **Contents**

The Reading	2
Vocabulary Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Writing and Speaking	6
Writing	7

Try Level 0 (easier), Level 2 (harder) & the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-1.html>

Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday. It became independent on August 8th, 1965. The celebrations saw the largest fireworks display ever in Singapore. Thousands of people gathered in the streets. The country has been counting down since New Year's Eve. Hundreds of events marked the fifty-year birthday. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special message to the nation. He said: "We must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves."

Singapore has come a long way in the past fifty years. It got independence from Britain. It was very poor but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made it wealthy. He died earlier this year. Singapore is the world's fourth most important financial centre and the second busiest port. A woman felt sad that Mr Lee did not live long enough to see the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year."

Sources: <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/ndp-2015--50-years-and-counting-143325681.html>  
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singaporeans-celebrate-50th-national-day-with-nostalgic-and-touching-parade-at-the-padang>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-33815132>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Singapore celebrated its                  | a. display ever            |
| 2. It became independent                     | b. on                      |
| 3. the largest fireworks                     | c. on August 8th           |
| 4. Thousands of people gathered              | d. do better for ourselves |
| 5. counting down                             | e. in the streets          |
| 6. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special | f. since New Year's Eve    |
| 7. We must press                             | g. message to the nation   |
| 8. we aspire to                              | h. fiftieth birthday       |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Singapore has come a long way     | a. from Britain            |
| 2. It got independence               | b. financial centre        |
| 3. Lee Kuan Yew made                 | c. is missing this year    |
| 4. He died earlier                   | d. in the past fifty years |
| 5. There was an empty                | e. busiest port            |
| 6. the fourth most important global  | f. seat for him            |
| 7. the world's second                | g. it wealthy              |
| 8. We definitely feel that something | h. this year               |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-1.html>

Singapore (1) \_\_\_\_\_ birthday. It became independent on August 8th, 1965. The celebrations saw the largest (2) \_\_\_\_\_ ever in Singapore. Thousands (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets. The country has been counting down since New Year's Eve. Hundreds (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the fifty-year birthday. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "We must press on, because we (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for ourselves."

Singapore has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the past fifty years. It got independence from Britain. It (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made it wealthy. He (9) \_\_\_\_\_ year. Singapore is the world's fourth most (10) \_\_\_\_\_ centre and the second busiest port. A woman felt sad that Mr Lee did not live (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something (12) \_\_\_\_\_ year."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-1.html>

Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday. It became independent on August 8th, 1965. The celebrations saw the largest fireworks display ever in Singapore. Thousands of people gathered in the streets. The country has been counting down since New Year's Eve. Hundreds of events marked the fifty-year birthday. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special message to the nation. He said: "We must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves." Singapore has come a long way in the past fifty years. It got independence from Britain. It was very poor but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made it wealthy. He died earlier this year. Singapore is the world's fourth most important financial centre and the second busiest port. A woman felt sad that Mr Lee did not live long enough to see the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year."

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

---

b)

---

c)

---

d)

---

e)

---

f)

---

g)

---

h)

---

*Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence – 12th August, 2015*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

---

b)

---

c)

---

d)

---

e)

---

f)

---

g)

---

h)

---

