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Level 6

Fresh hopes as ceasefire is agreed in Syria

12th September, 2016

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

There is a fresh but tentative hope for a cessation of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to collectively target the group known as ISIS. Their joint declaration will come into effect on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest initiative due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the past few years. Even with the new 10-day truce being literally hours away, the bombs continued to rain down in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held areas reportedly killed at least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo.

Most of the major players in the Syrian conflict responded positively to the new ceasefire, despite the strained relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the most promising way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a reality." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones in which joint "strikes against terrorists" would be conducted. Turkey and the European Union welcomed it but warned that further 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>

WARM-UPS

1. SYRIA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Syria. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

fresh / tentative / hope / agreement / reaction / fighting / truce / air strikes / capital / major players / conflict / ceasefire / promising / opportunity / reality / terrorists / Iran

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

3. PEACE: Students A **strongly** believe peace will come to Syria in the next year; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. MAJOR PLAYERS: What can these countries do to help bring peace to Syria? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they can do	How likely would it work?
Syria		
USA		
Iran		
Russia		
Saudi Arabia		
Turkey		

5. AGREEMENT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "agreement". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. PEOPLE: Rank these with your partner. Put the things most likely to help Syrians at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- an effective ceasefire
- a new leader
- US-Russian intervention
- international aid
- wifi
- asylum in Europe
- international talks
- secure borders

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. People are totally convinced the new ceasefire will work. **T / F**
- b. The ceasefire started at the weekend. **T / F**
- c. The ceasefire is just for 10 days. **T / F**
- d. The fighting killed at least 55 people in Aleppo at the weekend. **T / F**
- e. Most countries involved in the conflict were negative about the truce. **T / F**
- f. An American official called the conflict a terrible situation. **T / F**
- g. Russia's foreign minister agreed on more strikes against ISIS. **T / F**
- h. Iran has not yet commented on the ceasefire. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. tentative | a. deal |
| 2. hostilities | b. tense |
| 3. agreement | c. chance |
| 4. initiative | d. cautious |
| 5. rain down | e. carried out |
| 6. responded | f. fighting |
| 7. strained | g. response |
| 8. opportunity | h. fall |
| 9. conducted | i. reacted |
| 10. reaction | j. plan |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. hope for a cessation | a. rain down |
| 2. collectively target the | b. declaration |
| 3. joint | c. action was needed |
| 4. There is mixed | d. players in the Syrian conflict |
| 5. bombs continued to | e. reaction around the world |
| 6. Most of the major | f. of hostilities in Syria |
| 7. responded positively | g. relations |
| 8. despite the strained | h. would be conducted |
| 9. joint strikes against terrorists | i. group known as ISIS |
| 10. further | j. to the new ceasefire |

GAP FILL

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

There is a fresh but (1) _____ hope for a cessation of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to (2) _____ target the group known as ISIS. Their joint declaration will come into (3) _____ on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the (4) _____ initiative due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the past few years. Even with the new 10-day (5) _____ being literally hours away, the bombs continued to (6) _____ down in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government air (7) _____ on ISIS-held areas (8) _____ killed at least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo.

effect
tentative
strikes
truce
collectively
reportedly
latest
rain

Most of the (9) _____ players in the Syrian conflict responded positively to the new ceasefire, despite the (10) _____ relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the most (11) _____ way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an (12) _____ and not more than that until it becomes a (13) _____." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones in which (14) _____ "strikes against terrorists" would be conducted. Turkey and the European Union (15) _____ it but warned that further action was needed. There has been no official (16) _____ from Iran.

opportunity
strained
welcomed
joint
reaction
reality
major
promising

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) There is a fresh but tentative hope for a cessation _____
 - a. off hostilities
 - b. for hostilities
 - c. if hostilities
 - d. of hostilities
- 2) signed an agreement to collectively target the group _____
 - a. known as ISIS
 - b. known was ISIS
 - c. known has ISIS
 - d. known is ISIS
- 3) There is mixed reaction around the world to _____
 - a. the latest initiative
 - b. the lay test initiative
 - c. the latter initiative
 - d. the lattice initiative
- 4) due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the _____
 - a. passed few years
 - b. past few years
 - c. psst few years
 - d. parsed few years
- 5) air strikes on ISIS-held areas reportedly killed at least 82 people _____
 - a. over that weekend
 - b. over a weekend
 - c. over the weekend
 - d. over then weekend
- 6) Most of the major players in the Syrian conflict _____
 - a. responsive positively
 - b. responded positively
 - c. responds positively
 - d. responding positively
- 7) This remains the most promising way that we see _____
 - a. in front of them
 - b. in front for us
 - c. in front of us
 - d. on front of us
- 8) It is an opportunity and not more than that until it _____
 - a. becomes a realism
 - b. becomes a reality
 - c. becomes a realty
 - d. becomes a royalty
- 9) agreed on zones in which joint "strikes against terrorists" would _____
 - a. been conducted
 - b. bee conduct it
 - c. be conduct it
 - d. be conducted
- 10) the European Union welcomed it but warned that further action _____
 - a. was needed
 - b. was need it
 - c. was knee did
 - d. was kneed did

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

There is a fresh but tentative hope (1) _____ of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to collectively target the (2) _____ ISIS. Their joint declaration will come into effect on Monday. There is (3) _____ around the world to the latest initiative due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting (4) _____ years. Even with the new 10-day truce being literally hours away, the bombs continued (5) _____ areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held (6) _____ killed at least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo.

(7) _____ players in the Syrian conflict responded positively to the new ceasefire, despite the (8) _____ between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the most promising way that (9) _____ of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an opportunity and not more (10) _____ it becomes a reality." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones (11) _____ " strikes against terrorists" would be conducted. Turkey and the European Union welcomed it but warned that further action was needed. There has been (12) _____ from Iran.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is there a hope for a cessation of in Syria?
2. What kind of reaction did the world view the ceasefire agreement with?
3. How long is the ceasefire for?
4. What rained down in areas around Syria's capital city before the truce?
5. In which city did at least 45 people die at the weekend?
6. How did most of the major players in Syria respond to the ceasefire deal?
7. How did the article describe US-Russian relations as being?
8. What did John Kerry say the ceasefire was more of than a reality?
9. Which country warned that further action was needed?
10. Which country does the article say has given no official reaction?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What is there a hope for a cessation of in Syria?
 - a) agreements
 - b) declarations
 - c) hostilities
 - d) borders
- 2) What kind of reaction did the world view the ceasefire agreement with?
 - a) mixed
 - b) cool
 - c) negative
 - d) chain
- 3) How long is the ceasefire for?
 - a) 10 days
 - b) 12 days
 - c) 2 weeks
 - d) 20 days
- 4) What rained down in areas around Syria's capital city before the truce?
 - a) missiles
 - b) bombs
 - c) rain
 - d) hail
- 5) In which city did at least 45 people die at the weekend?
 - a) Homs
 - b) Baghdad
 - c) Damascus
 - d) Aleppo
- 6) How did most of the major players in Syria respond to the ceasefire deal?
 - a) tentatively
 - b) positively
 - c) harshly
 - d) slowly
- 7) How did the article describe US-Russian relations as being?
 - a) strained
 - b) strenuous
 - c) strong
 - d) strange
- 8) What did John Kerry say the ceasefire was more of than a reality?
 - a) a terrible situation
 - b) a deal
 - c) an opportunity
 - d) a future
- 9) Which country warned that further action was needed?
 - a) Iran
 - b) Iraq
 - c) Syria
 - d) Turkey
- 10) Which country does the article say has given no official reaction?
 - a) Iran
 - b) Iraq
 - c) Syria
 - d) Turkey

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – A new leader

You think a new leader is what the Syrian people need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as helpful. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): international aid, asylum in Europe or secure borders.

Role B – International aid

You think international aid is what the Syrian people need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as helpful. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): a new leader, asylum in Europe or secure borders.

Role C – Asylum in Europe

You think asylum in Europe is what the Syrian people need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as helpful. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): international aid, a new leader or secure borders.

Role D – Secure borders

You think secure borders is what the Syrian people need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as helpful. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): international aid, asylum in Europe or a new leader.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

fresh	hope
--------------	-------------

- 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">• tentative• target• effect• even• hours• 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• despite• way• reality• agreed• warned• Iran
---	--

SYRIA SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1609/160912-syria-truce.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.

SYRIA DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Syria'?
3. What do you know about the fighting in Syria?
4. How did the war in Syria start?
5. What do you think of the new ceasefire?
6. Why do ceasefires often not last?
7. What will all the sides do during the ceasefire?
8. Who will eventually win in Syria?
9. What advice do you have for the Syrian people?
10. What do you think Syria will be like in 10 years from now?

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SYRIA DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What role has Russia played in the Syria conflict?
13. Should America do more to end the war?
14. What is the danger of America and Russia sending troops to Syria?
15. What do you know about Syria's President Assad?
16. What dangers does Syria present to the rest of the world?
17. Who are the terrorists in Syria and what do they want?
18. What does Iran think of the situation in Syria?
19. How can Iran help end the hostilities?
20. What questions would you like to ask the leaders?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

There is a (1) _____ but tentative hope for a cessation of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to (2) _____ target the group known as ISIS. Their joint declaration will come (3) _____ effect on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest initiative due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the past (4) _____ years. Even with the new 10-day truce being (5) _____ hours away, the bombs continued to rain down in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held areas reportedly killed at least 82 people (6) _____ the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo.

Most of the major players in the Syrian conflict responded positively (7) _____ the new ceasefire, (8) _____ the strained relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the most (9) _____ way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a (10) _____." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones in (11) _____ joint "strikes against terrorists" would be conducted. Turkey and the European Union welcomed it but warned that further action was (12) _____. There has been no official reaction from Iran.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) fissure | (b) flesh | (c) flash | (d) fresh |
| 2. | (a) collected | (b) collection | (c) collect | (d) collectively |
| 3. | (a) over | (b) into | (c) all | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) numerous | (b) yearly | (c) few | (d) annual |
| 5. | (a) literally | (b) literal | (c) literate | (d) literature |
| 6. | (a) over | (b) passed | (c) gone | (d) to |
| 7. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) of | (d) to |
| 8. | (a) despite | (b) spite | (c) spiteful | (d) spitefully |
| 9. | (a) promise | (b) promising | (c) promised | (d) promises |
| 10. | (a) realism | (b) realty | (c) reality | (d) realtor |
| 11. | (a) when | (b) where | (c) which | (d) what |
| 12. | (a) necessitate | (b) needed | (c) needy | (d) kneaded |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. a fresh but tveiatent hope
2. a cessation of sotihtilsei in Syria
3. tlevoecyclil target the group
4. Their joint rlndacateoi will come into effect
5. the latest ittieiavin
6. being eryalitll hours away

Paragraph 2

7. responded sioyvipetl
8. the new esefaecir
9. this lierebrt situation
10. until it becomes a terlaiy
11. strikes against tsisretorr
12. There has been no fiaflico reaction

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the past few years. Even with the new 10-
- () effect on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest initiative due to the failures
- () place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a
- () "strikes against terrorists" would be conducted. Turkey and the European Union welcomed it but
- () capital Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held areas reportedly killed at
- () least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo.
- () warned that further action was needed. There has been no official reaction from Iran.
- () way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better
- () reality." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones in which joint
- () day truce being literally hours away, the bombs continued to rain down in areas around the
- () an agreement to collectively target the group known as ISIS. Their joint declaration will come into
- (**1**) There is a fresh but tentative hope for a cessation of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed
- () Most of the major players in the Syrian conflict responded positively to the new ceasefire, despite the strained
- () relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains...the most promising

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. hope cessation a tentative a is but for There fresh .
2. agreement target known An collectively group ISIS to the as .
3. on will Monday come Their into joint effect declaration .
4. the around latest the initiative world Mixed to reaction .
5. bombs continued to rain down in areas around the capital The .
6. major conflict players Most in of the the Syrian .
7. us The most promising way that we see in front of .
8. not is more an than opportunity that and It .
9. be in strikes would Zones joint terrorists conducted which against .
10. Iran There has been no official reaction from .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

There is a fresh but *tentative / tentatively* hope for a cessation of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have *signed / singed* an agreement to collectively target the group known *was / as* ISIS. Their joint declaration will come into effect on Monday. There is *mixed / mixture* reaction around the world to the latest initiative *dew / due* to the failures of previous attempts *on / at* halting the fighting over the past few years. Even with the new 10-day truce *been / being* literally hours away, the bombs continued to *rain / reign* down in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government air strikes on ISIS-held areas *reportedly / reporters* killed at least 82 people *past / over* the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo.

Most of the *majority / major* players in the Syrian conflict *responsive / responded* positively to the new ceasefire, *spite / despite* the strained relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This *remains / still*...the most promising way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation *on / to* a better place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an opportunity and not *much / more* than that until it becomes a *reality / real*." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones *in / on* which joint "strikes against terrorists" would be *conducted / conducive*. Turkey and the European Union welcomed it but warned that further action was needed. There has been *not / no* official reaction from Iran.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_r_ _s_ fr_sh b_t t_nt t_v_ h_p_ f_r_ c_ss_t__n_ f
h_st_l_t__s_ n Syr__ . Th_ _n_t_d St_t_s, R_ss__ _nd
Syr__ h_v_ s_gn_d_ n_ gr__m_nt t_ c_ll_ct_v_ly t_rg_t
th_ gr__p kn_wn_ s_ S_S. Th__r j__nt d_cl_r_t__n w_ll
c_m__nt_ _ff_ct_ n M_nd_y. Th_r_ _s m_x_d r__ct__n
_r__nd th_ w_rld t_ th_ l_t_st_ n_t__t_v_ d__ t_ th_
f__l_r_s_ f pr_v__s_ tt_mpts_ t h_lt_ng th_ f_gh_t_ng
_v_r th_ p_st f_w y__rs. _v_n w_th th_ n_w 10-d_y
tr_c_b__ng l_t_r_lly h__rs_ w_y, th_ b_mbs c__nt_n__d
t_r__n d_wn_ n_r__s_ r__nd th_ c_p_t_l D_m_sc_s.
Syr__n g_v_rnm_nt __r str_k_s_ n_ S_S-h_ld_ r__s
r_p_rt_dly k_ll_d_ t_l__st 82 p__pl_ _v_r th_ w__k_nd.
_t l__st 45 p__pl_ d__d_ n str_k_s_ n_ l_pp_.

M_st_ _f th_ m_j_r pl_y_rs_ _n th_ Syr__n c_nfl_ct
r_sp_nd_d p_s_t_v_ly t_ th_ n_w c__s_f_r_, d_sp_t_
th_ str__n_d r_l_t__ns b_tw__n R_ss__ _nd th_ _S_.
n m_r_c_n_ ff_c__l_s_d: "Th_s r_m__ns...th_ m_st
pr_m_s_ng w_y th_t w_s__ _n fr_nt_ f_s_t_ try t_g_t
th_s t_rr_bl_ s_t__t__n t_ __ b_tt_r pl_c_." _S
S_cr_t_ry_ _f St_t_ J_hn K_rry_ s_d: "_t_ _s_ _n
_pp_rt_n_ty_ _nd n_t m_r_ th_n th_t _nt_l_t b_c_m_s
_r__l_ty." R_ss__n F_r__gn M_n_st_r S_rg__ L_vr_v
s_d th_ _S_ _nd R_ss__ h_d_ gr__d_ n_z_n_s_ n wh_ch
j__nt "str_k_s_ _g__nst t_rr_r_sts" w__ld b_ c_nd_ct_d.
T_rk_y_ _nd th_ __r_p__n_ n__n w_lc_m_d_ t_b_t
w_rn_d th_t f_rth_r_ _ct__n w_s_ n__d_d. Th_r_ h_s
b__n n_ _ff_c__l_r__ct__n fr_m_ r_n.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

there is a fresh but tentative hope for a cessation of hostilities in syria the united states russia and syria have signed an agreement to collectively target the group known as isis their joint declaration will come into effect on monday there is mixed reaction around the world to the latest initiative due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the past few years even with the new 10-day truce being literally hours away the bombs continued to rain down in areas around the capital damascus syrian government air strikes on isis-held areas reportedly killed at least 82 people over the weekend at least 45 people died in strikes on aleppo

most of the major players in the syrian conflict responded positively to the new ceasefire despite the strained relations between russia and the usa an american official said "this remains...the most promising way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better place" us secretary of state john kerry said "it is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a reality" russian foreign minister sergei lavrov said the us and russia had agreed on zones in which joint "strikes against terrorists" would be conducted turkey and the european union welcomed it but warned that further action was needed there has been no official reaction from iran

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

There is a fresh but tentative hope for a cessation of hostilities in Syria. The United States, Russia and Syria have signed an agreement to collectively target the group known as ISIS. Their joint declaration will come into effect on Monday. There is mixed reaction around the world to the latest initiative due to the failures of previous attempts at halting the fighting over the past few years. Even with the new 10-day truce being literally hours away, the bombs continued to rain down in areas around the capital Damascus. Syrian government airstrikes on ISIS-held areas reportedly killed at least 82 people over the weekend. At least 45 people died in strikes on Aleppo. Most of the major players in the Syrian conflict responded positively to the new ceasefire, despite the strained relations between Russia and the USA. An American official said: "This remains... the most promising way that we see in front of us to try to get this terrible situation to a better place." US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "It is an opportunity and not more than that until it becomes a reality." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and Russia had agreed on zones in which joint "strikes against terrorists" would be conducted. Turkey and the European Union welcomed it but warned that further action was needed. There has been no official reaction from Iran.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **Syria** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

There will never be an end to war because humans love fighting. Discuss.

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 conflict in Syria. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SYRIA: Make a poster about Syria. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. AMERICAN/RUSSIAN ACTION: Write a magazine article about America and Russia taking military action in Syria. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on Syria. Ask him/her three questions about Syria. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to end hostilities. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. tentative | a. cautious |
| 2. hostilities | b. fighting |
| 3. agreement | c. deal |
| 4. initiative | d. plan |
| 5. rain down | e. fall |
| 6. responded | f. reacted |
| 7. strained | g. tense |
| 8. opportunity | h. chance |
| 9. conducted | i. carried out |
| 10. reaction | j. response |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Hostilities
2. A mixed reaction
3. 10 days
4. Bombs
5. Aleppo
6. Positively
7. Strained
8. An opportunity
9. Turkey
10. Iran

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)