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## **Level 1**

### **Christmas cards show nativity in Syria war zone**

**1st December, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-1.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-1.html>

The Doctors of the World charity is selling four Christmas cards with a difference. The cards show traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land with images of the war in Syria. The charity wants to make people aware of the suffering in Syria. One card shows Mary and Joseph in the rubble of war-torn Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep as a missile is fired in the distance. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at a warplane.

The charity's website said: "These images seek to remind the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes....By purchasing our cards, you are helping us to provide healthcare to the most vulnerable, and together we will [put back] a little of the most festive feeling of all – hope." The money from the cards will buy medicine and medical equipment. The UN says that 65 million people have left their homes because of violence and war.

Sources: <http://gizmodo.com/indias-prime-minister-plans-for-cashless-society-1789403344>  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/india-cashless-society-banknotes-narendra-modi-ban-currency-a7442316.html>  
<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/mann-ki-baat-live-updates-narendra-modi-demonetisation-4397510/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The Doctors of the World   | a. war in Syria     |
| 2. Christmas cards with       | b. in the distance  |
| 3. The cards show traditional | c. a difference     |
| 4. images of the              | d. of the suffering |
| 5. make people aware          | e. charity          |
| 6. in the rubble of war-      | f. at a warplane    |
| 7. a missile is fired         | g. torn Syria       |
| 8. three wise men looking up  | h. Christmas scenes |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The charity's                 | a. their homes               |
| 2. These images seek to          | b. healthcare                |
| 3. war has forced                | c. and war                   |
| 4. you are helping us to provide | d. equipment                 |
| 5. the most                      | e. website                   |
| 6. buy medicine and medical      | f. remind the public         |
| 7. 65 million people have left   | g. vulnerable                |
| 8. because of violence           | h. millions from their homes |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-1.html>

The Doctors of the World charity (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Christmas cards (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The cards show  
traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land with images of  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_. The charity wants to make people  
aware of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Syria. One card shows Mary  
and Joseph in the rubble of war-torn Syria. Another shows the  
baby Jesus asleep (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is fired in the  
distance. The next card shows the three wise men  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_ warplane.

The charity's website said: "These (7) \_\_\_\_\_  
remind the public that this year war (8) \_\_\_\_\_  
millions from their homes....By purchasing our cards, you are  
helping (9) \_\_\_\_\_ healthcare to the most  
vulnerable, and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ [put back] a little of  
the most festive feeling (11) \_\_\_\_\_." The  
money from the cards will buy medicine and medical equipment.  
The UN says that 65 million people have left their homes because  
of (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-1.html>

The Doctor of the World charity is selling four Christmas cards with a difference. The cards show traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land with images of the war in Syria. The charity wants to make people aware of the suffering in Syria. One card shows Mary and Joseph in the rubble of war-torn Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus as he sleeps as a missile is fired into the distance. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at a war plane. The charity's website said: "These images seek to remind the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes.... By purchasing our cards, you are helping us to provide healthcare to the most vulnerable, and together we will [put back] a little of the most festive feeling of fall-hope." The money from the cards will buy medicine and medical equipment. The UN says that 65 million people have left their homes because of violence and war.

# CHRISTMAS CARDS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Christmas cards 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Christmas cards show nativity in Syria war zone – 1st December, 2016*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards-1.html>

Write about **Christmas cards** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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