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Level 6

Syrian refugee top student in Australia school

15th December, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 4 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

A Syrian refugee who could hardly speak a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams in Australia with flying colours. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top marks at one of Australia's biggest high schools. His outstanding overall grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in Melbourne. Saad fled the civil war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "Coming to a place where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it just felt unreal." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the opportunity that I've had."

Saad said that he tried to learn English from his cousins for his first two months in Australia. Then he started to watch a popular political programme on television. It is a live broadcast of Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the issues of the day. He explained how the show helped his English. He said: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syrian politicians and parliament, where "all they do is clap". Saad is very appreciative of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's revived me and given me a new life."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/38293680/syrian-refugee-gets-top-results-at-australian-school>
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-12/syrian-refugee-tops-year-12-class-with-96.65-atar/8112424>
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/secondary-education-victoria/it-all-started-with-a-shovel-how-one-vce-dux-escaped-a-bloody-war-20161212-gt97tx.html>

WARM-UPS

1. GRADUATION: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about graduation. 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?

refugee / high school / exams / graduated / grades / a new life / understand / unreal / cousins / politics / television / prime minister / persuasive language / clap / thank you

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

3. ENGLISH: Students A **strongly** believe English is the most important school subject; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. STUDYING : How can these help (or not help) with studying? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Help	Not help
Internet		
Music		
Library		
Exercise		
Parents		
Friends		

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

6. SCHOOL SUBJECTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- language
- IT
- physics
- religion
- maths
- art
- sports
- cookery

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

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

- a. The Syrian refugee wasn't very good at English two years ago. **T / F**
- b. The boy (Saad) attended Australia's biggest high school. **T / F**
- c. Saad was in the top 4% of students in the whole of Australia. **T / F**
- d. Saad is sad when he thinks about his friends in Syria. **T / F**
- e. Saad learnt English from watching a politics programme on TV. **T / F**
- f. Saad said the politicians spoke quickly and that helped him learn. **T / F**
- g. Saad said politicians in Syria clap a lot in the Syrian parliament. **T / F**
- h. Saad thanked Syria for giving him a new life. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. hardly | a. imaginary |
| 2. marks | b. excellent |
| 3. outstanding | c. convincing |
| 4. unreal | d. chance |
| 5. opportunity | e. thankful for |
| 6. live | f. energized |
| 7. persuasive | g. barely |
| 8. clap | h. real-time |
| 9. appreciative | i. applaud |
| 10. revived | j. grades |

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

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. A Syrian refugee who could hardly | a. with flying colours |
| 2. passed his high school exams in Australia | b. language |
| 3. outstanding overall | c. that I've had |
| 4. it just felt | d. of his new beginning |
| 5. have the opportunity | e. issues of the day |
| 6. a live | f. speak a word |
| 7. questioning their prime minister about the | g. given me a new life |
| 8. persuasive | h. unreal |
| 9. Saad is very appreciative | i. grades |
| 10. It's revived me and | j. broadcast |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

A Syrian refugee who could (1) _____ speak a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams in Australia with (2) _____ colours. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top marks at one of Australia's biggest high schools. His (3) _____ overall grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in Melbourne. Saad fled the (4) _____ war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "Coming to a (5) _____ where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it just felt (6) _____." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school (7) _____ in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the (8) _____ that I've had."

place
hardly
back
outstanding
opportunity
flying
unreal
civil

Saad said that he tried to learn English from his (9) _____ for his first two months in Australia. Then he started to watch a (10) _____ political programme on television. It is a (11) _____ broadcast of Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the (12) _____ of the day. He explained how the show helped his English. He said: "They use the best, (13) _____ language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syrian (14) _____ and parliament, where "all they do is (15) _____ ". Saad is very appreciative of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's (16) _____ me and given me a new life."

live
cousins
clap
persuasive
politicians
popular
revived
issues

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

- 1) just passed his high school exams in Australia with _____
 - a. flying colouring
 - b. flying coloured
 - c. flying colours
 - d. flying colour
- 2) His outstanding overall grades put him in the top 4 per cent _____
 - a. of all graduate
 - b. of all graduates
 - c. of all graduation
 - d. of all graduated
- 3) Saad fled the civil war in Syria to start _____
 - a. a newly life
 - b. a new live
 - c. a new life
 - d. anew life
- 4) it was really hard...because it just _____
 - a. felt not really
 - b. felt really
 - c. felt non-real
 - d. felt unreal
- 5) friends in my school back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't _____
 - a. have the opportunity
 - b. have the opportunities
 - c. have an opportunity
 - d. have an opportunities
- 6) he started to watch a popular political programme on television. It is _____
 - a. alive broadcast
 - b. a life broadcast
 - c. an alive broadcast
 - d. a live broadcast
- 7) Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the _____
 - a. issues of a day
 - b. issues off the day
 - c. issues of the day
 - d. issue of the days
- 8) very different to Syrian politicians and parliament, where "all _____"
 - a. they do is chap
 - b. they do is clap
 - c. they do is crap
 - d. they do is cap
- 9) Saad is very appreciative of his _____
 - a. anew beginning
 - b. newly beginning
 - c. news beginning
 - d. new beginning
- 10) thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. _____
 - a. It's revered me
 - b. It's revival me
 - c. It's revived me
 - d. It's revved me

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

A Syrian refugee who (1) _____ a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams in Australia (2) _____. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top marks at one of Australia's biggest high schools. His (3) _____ grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in Melbourne. Saad (4) _____ war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "Coming to a place where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it (5) _____." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have (6) _____ I've had."

Saad said that he tried to learn English (7) _____ for his first two months in Australia. Then he started to watch a popular political programme on television. (8) _____ broadcast of Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the (9) _____. He explained how the show helped his English. He said: "They use the best, (10) _____ in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syrian politicians and parliament, where "(11) _____". Saad is very appreciative of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. (12) _____ and given me a new life."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

1. How much English could Saad speak two years ago?
2. With which colours did Saad pass his high school exams?
3. What percentage of top students in Melbourne is Saad in?
4. How did Saad say it felt when he first arrived in Australia?
5. Who is Saad sad for?
6. From whom did Saad try to learn English when he got to Australia?
7. What did Australian politicians ask their prime minister about?
8. How did Saad say the politicians in parliament spoke?
9. What did Saad say politicians in Syria's parliament did?
10. What did Saad say being in Australia has given him?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

- 1) How much English could Saad speak two years ago?
 - a) he was fluent
 - b) he was pre-intermediate level
 - c) 83 words
 - d) hardly a word
- 2) With which colours did Saad pass his high school exams?
 - a) the colours of the rainbow
 - b) flying colours
 - c) red, orange and green
 - d) bright colours
- 3) What percentage of top students in Melbourne is Saad in?
 - a) 14%
 - b) 40%
 - c) 4%
 - d) 0.4%
- 4) How did Saad say it felt when he first arrived in Australia?
 - a) unreal
 - b) unnerving
 - c) unearthly
 - d) uneven
- 5) Who is Saad sad for?
 - a) himself
 - b) other students
 - c) his friends in Syria
 - d) children
- 6) From whom did Saad try to learn English when he got to Australia?
 - a) a kind old lady
 - b) his cousins
 - c) teachers
 - d) children
- 7) What did Australian politicians ask their prime minister about?
 - a) kangaroos and koalas
 - b) his private life
 - c) football
 - d) the issues of the day
- 8) How did Saad say the politicians in parliament spoke?
 - a) slowly
 - b) beautifully
 - c) perfectly
 - d) without an accent
- 9) What did Saad say politicians in Syria's parliament did?
 - a) fought
 - b) danced
 - c) clapped
 - d) cheered
- 10) What did Saad say being in Australia has given him?
 - a) an apartment
 - b) a new life
 - c) a car
 - d) a taste for vegemite

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

Role A – Language

You think language is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so important about their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): religion, sports or cookery.

Role B – Religion

You think religion is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so important about their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): language, sports or cookery.

Role C – Sports

You think sports is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so important about their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): religion, language or cookery.

Role D – Cookery

You think cookery is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so important about their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): religion, sports or language.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

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

flying	colours
---------------	----------------

- 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">• hardly• colours• 4• civil• unreal• good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cousins• day• best• words• clap• thank
--	---

GRADUATION SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

Write five GOOD questions about graduation 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.

GRADUATION 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 'refugee'?
3. Have you ever been the top student in your class?
4. What do you think about what you read?
5. What exams have you passed with flying colours?
6. Why do you think the term 'flying colours' is used to describe success?
7. Why do you think Saad did so well?
8. What is it like being in a place where you can't speak the language?
9. What do you know about the civil war in Syria?
10. What advice do you have for Saad?

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GRADUATION DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What kind of example has Saad set for other students?
13. How did you learn English?
14. What do you think of the way Saad learnt English?
15. What do you think of programmes of politicians discussing things?
16. How important is English in the world today?
17. How can we help more refugees to get a good education?
18. How useful has English been to you?
19. What are you appreciative of?
20. What questions would you like to ask Saad?

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/1612/161215-graduation.html>

A Syrian refugee who could (1) _____ speak a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams in Australia with (2) _____ colours. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top marks at one of Australia's biggest high schools. His outstanding (3) _____ grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in Melbourne. Saad fled the (4) _____ war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "(5) _____ to a place where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it just felt unreal." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the opportunity (6) _____ I've had."

Saad said that he tried to learn English from his cousins (7) _____ his first two months in Australia. Then he started to watch a popular political programme on television. It is a (8) _____ broadcast of Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the issues of the day. He explained (9) _____ the show helped his English. He said: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different (10) _____ Syrian politicians and parliament, where "all they do is (11) _____". Saad is very appreciative of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for (12) _____ me the opportunity. It's revived me and given me a new life."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) hardly | (b) hard | (c) harder | (d) harden |
| 2. | (a) sailing | (b) driving | (c) flying | (d) gliding |
| 3. | (a) overalls | (b) overall | (c) overarch | (d) overreach |
| 4. | (a) civilize | (b) civilian | (c) civility | (d) civil |
| 5. | (a) Coming | (b) Comes | (c) Come | (d) Came |
| 6. | (a) what | (b) that | (c) much | (d) so |
| 7. | (a) as | (b) that | (c) of | (d) for |
| 8. | (a) life | (b) live | (c) alive | (d) lifer |
| 9. | (a) which | (b) what | (c) how | (d) whoever |
| 10. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) to |
| 11. | (a) cap | (b) chap | (c) crap | (d) clap |
| 12. | (a) given | (b) giving | (c) gave | (d) gives |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

Paragraph 1

1. with ygnfli colours
2. His outstanding loravle grades
3. the top 4 per cent of all dtrgeaaus
4. Saad fled the liicy war in Syria
5. it just felt auelrn
6. have the ttoupioyrnp that I've had

Paragraph 2

7. learn English from his usocnis
8. a popular lioitlacr programme
9. a live abtaocdsr
10. rpeeuiavss language
11. politicians and apetmilran
12. Saad is very iprcaevaepit

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () biggest high schools. His outstanding overall grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in Melbourne. Saad fled
- () clap". Saad is very appreciative of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank
- () the civil war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "Coming to a place
- () in Australia with flying colours. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top marks at one of Australia's
- () his English. He said: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find
- () watch a popular political programme on television. It is a live broadcast of Australia's politicians
- () you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's revived me and given me a new life."
- () felt unreal." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school back in Syria who
- () where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it just
- () questioning their prime minister about the issues of the day. He explained how the show helped
- () were as good as me, but who didn't have the opportunity that I've had."
- () the words." He said it was very different to Syrian politicians and parliament, where, "all they do is
- (**1**) A Syrian refugee who could hardly speak a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams
- () Saad said that he tried to learn English from his cousins for his first two months in Australia. Then he started to

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

1. English hardly word Syrian could a A who speak of refugee .
2. exams with Passed school Australia colours high in flying his .
3. 4% His him outstanding in overall the grades top put .
4. place where you don't know how to speak Coming to a .
5. school Friends good who back in as were in my me as Syria .
6. cousins his from English learn to tried He .
7. started political to programme watch Then a he popular .
8. persuasive use language the in best parliament , They .
9. words you They can speak find slowly the and .
10. Saad beginning new his of appreciative very is .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

A Syrian refugee who could *hardly* / *hardest* speak a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams in Australia with *flying* / *sailing* colours. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top *markings* / *marks* at one of Australia's biggest high schools. His outstanding *overall* / *overalls* grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all *graduation* / *graduates* in Melbourne. Saad fled the *civil* / *civility* war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "*Coming* / *Come* to a place where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it just felt *unreal* / *reality*." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school *back* / *backed* in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the *opportune* / *opportunity* that I've had."

Saad said that he tried to learn English from his cousins for his first two months in Australia. Then he started to watch a *popularity* / *popular* political programme on television. It is a *live* / *lived* broadcast of Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the *issues* / *issuances* of the day. He explained how the *show* / *showing* helped his English. He said: "They use the best, *persuasive* / *pervasive* language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very *difference* / *different* to Syrian politicians and parliament, where "all they do is *clap* / *chap*". Saad is very *appreciative* / *appreciation* of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's *revived* / *revival* me and given me a new *live* / *life*."

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/1612/161215-graduation.html>

Syr__n r_f_g__ wh_ c__ld h_rdlly sp__k _ w_rd _f
_ngl_sh tw_ y__rs _g_ h_s j_st p_ss_d h_s h_gh sch__l
_x_ms _n __str_l__ w_th fly_ng c_l__rs. S__d_l-K__b,
19, h_s j_st gr_d__t_d w_th th_ t_p m_rks _t _n_ _f
__str_l__'s b_gg_st h_gh sch__ls. H_s __tst_ndng
_v_r_ll gr_d_s p_t h_m _n th_ t_p 4 p_r c_nt _f __ll
gr_d__t_s _n M_lb__rn_. S__d fl_d th_ c_v_l w_r _n
Syr__ t_ st_rt _n_w l_f_ _n __str_l__. H_ s__d:
"C_m_ng t_ __pl_c_ wh_r_ y__ d_n't kn_w h_w t_
sp__k, wh_r_ y__ d_n't _nd_rst_nd p__pl_ - _t w_s
r__lly h_rd...b_c__s _t j_st f_lt _nr__l." H_ _dd_d: " _t
r__lly m_k_s m_s_d t_ th_nk th_t _ h_v_ fr__nds _n
my sch__l b_ck _n Syr__ wh_ w_r__s g__d_s m_, b_t
wh_ d_dn't h_v_ th_ __pp_rtn_ty th_t _'v_ h_d."

S__d s__d th_t h_ tr__d t_ l__rn _ngl_sh fr_m h_s
c__s_ns f_r h_s f_rst tw_ m_nths _n __str_l__. Th_n h_
st_rt_d t_ w_tch _ p_p_l_r p_l_t_c_l pr_gr_mm_ _n
t_l_v_s__n. _t_s _l_v_ br__dc_st _f __str_l__'s
p_l_t_c__ns q__st__nng th__r pr_m_ m_n_st_r_b__t
th_ __ss__s _f th_ d_y. H_ _xpl__n_d h_w th_ sh_w
h_lp_d h_s _ngl_sh. H_ s__d: "Th_y _s_ th_ b_st,
p_rs__s_v_l_ng__g_ _n p_rl__m_nt. Th_y sp__k sl_wly
_nd y__ c_n f_nd th_ w_rds." H_ s__d _t w_s v_ry
d_ff_r_nt t_ Syr__n p_l_t_c__ns _nd p_rl__m_nt,
wh_r_ " _ll th_y d_ __s cl_p". S__d_s v_ry _pp_r_c__t_v_
_f h_s n_w b_g_nn_ng. H_ s__d: " _j_st w_nt t_ s_y
th_nk y__ s_ m_ch t_ __str_l__ f_r g_v_ng m_ th_
__pp_rtn_ty. _t's r_v_v_d m_ _nd g_v_n m_ _n_w
l_f_."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

a syrian refugee who could hardly speak a word of english two years ago has just passed his high school exams in australia with flying colours saad al-kaab 19 has just graduated with the top marks at one of australia's biggest high schools his outstanding overall grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in melbourne saad fled the civil war in syria to start a new life in australia he said "coming to a place where you don't know how to speak where you don't understand people - it was really hard...because it just felt unreal" he added "it really makes me sad to think that i have friends in my school back in syria who were as good as me but who didn't have the opportunity that i've had"

saad said that he tried to learn english from his cousins for his first two months in australia then he started to watch a popular political programme on television it is a live broadcast of australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the issues of the day he explained how the show helped his english he said "they use the best persuasive language in parliament they speak slowly and you can find the words" he said it was very different to syrian politicians and parliament where "all they do is clap" saad is very appreciative of his new beginning he said "i just want to say thank you so much to australia for giving me the opportunity it's revived me and given me a new life"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

A Syrian refugee who could hardly speak a word of English two years ago has just passed his high school exams in Australia with flying colours. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, has just graduated with the top marks at one of Australia's biggest high schools. His outstanding overall grades put him in the top 4 per cent of all graduates in Melbourne. Saad fled the civil war in Syria to start a new life in Australia. He said: "Coming to a place where you don't know how to speak, where you don't understand people - it was really hard... because it just felt unreal." He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends in my school back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the opportunity that I've had." Saad said that he tried to learn English from his cousins for his first two months in Australia. Then he started to watch a popular political programme on television. It is a live broadcast of Australia's politicians questioning their prime minister about the issues of the day. He explained how the show helped his English. He said: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syrian politicians and parliament, where, "all they do is clap". Saad is very appreciative of his new beginning. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's revived me and given me a new life."

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161215-graduation.html>

Write about **graduation** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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 this story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. LEARNING ENGLISH: Make a poster about learning English. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TV: Write a magazine article about watching TV being the best way to learn a language. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and disagree with 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 learning English. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on the best way to learn English. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. hardly | a. barely |
| 2. marks | b. grades |
| 3. outstanding | c. excellent |
| 4. unreal | d. imaginary |
| 5. opportunity | e. chance |
| 6. live | f. real-time |
| 7. persuasive | g. convincing |
| 8. clap | h. applaud |
| 9. appreciative | i. thankful for |
| 10. revived | j. energized |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Hardly a word
2. Flying colours
3. 4%
4. Unreal
5. His friends in Syria
6. His cousins
7. The issues of the day
8. Slowly
9. Clap
10. A new life

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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