IRA ends its armed struggle

URL:  http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0507/050729-ira-e.html

Today’s contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Article</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm-ups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before Reading / Listening</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While Reading / Listening</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Reading</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Gap Fill</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29 July, 2005
IRA ends its armed struggle

BNE: The IRA has taken a huge step forward for peace in Ireland. It formally announced it will lay down its guns and stop fighting against Britain. This ends thirty-five years of bloody violence within the U.K. For over three decades, the IRA bombed the British mainland and killed British soldiers in Northern Ireland. Tony Blair welcomed the bold move as an important moment in history. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said it presented a historic challenge and opportunity.

A former IRA prisoner read the statement the world had been eagerly awaiting. It stated: “All IRA units have been ordered to dump arms. All volunteers have been instructed to assist the development of purely political and democratic programs through exclusively peaceful means. Volunteers must not engage in any other activities whatsoever.” The statement also declared that the goal was still of a united Ireland and “to end British rule”.

The full IRA statement:  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/4724599.stm
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

WARM-UPS

1. HISTORY: In pairs / groups, talk about the big events that are part of your country’s history. What was the most important decision your country has taken? What recent decisions have been made? What would have happened to your country if these decisions had not been made? Who are the important decision makers (alive or dead) in your country’s history?

2. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think terrorist groups around the world will follow the IRA’s example. Students B think terror groups around the world will not follow the IRA’s example. Change partners often.

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

   Decisions / the IRA / arms / violence / British soldiers / moments in history / challenges / Irish freedom / peace / volunteers

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. VIOLENCE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “violence”. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. MY STRUGGLES: Do you have to struggle to do things every day? Is it a struggle to get out of bed in the morning? Is it a struggle to do your homework / the housework. In pairs / groups, brainstorm the things you struggle with every day. Talk about each of these struggles. Do you also struggle with the things brainstormed?

6. BIG DECISIONS: Have you made many big decisions in your life? Talk about the decisions you have made regarding the following:

   a. Career
   b. Family
   c. Shopping
   d. Relationships
   e. English
   f. Studying
   g. Hairstyle
   h. Health
   i. Home
   j. Other

Change partners and compare what you talked about.
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article’s headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

a. The IRA has ended its fight against Britain.  
   b. The IRA fought a decade-long war against the U.K.  
   c. Tony Blair doubted the IRA’s announcement was true.  
   d. A political leader said the announcement presented a challenge.  
   e. Many people around the world were waiting for this announcement.  
   f. All IRA volunteers have been ordered to dump their weapons.  
   g. The IRA ordered its volunteers not to take part in violence.  
   h. The goal of the IRA is still to end British rule in Ireland.

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

a. huge  
   brave  

b. lay  
   anxiously  

c. welcomed  
   massive  

b. bold  
   ex  

e. opportunity  
   throw away  

f. former  
   joined  

g. eagerly  
   greeted  

h. dump  
   only  

i. exclusively  
   chance  

j. united  
   put

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

a. taken a huge  
   of bloody violence  

b. it will lay  
   other activities  

c. thirty-five years  
   eagerly awaiting  

b. Tony Blair welcomed  
   rule  

e. an important moment  
   step forward  

f. A former  
   arms  

g. the world had been  
   in history  

h. ordered to dump  
   the bold move  

i. must not engage in any  
   IRA prisoner  

j. end British  
   down its guns

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com
IRA ends its armed struggle

WHILE READING / LISTENING

WHICH WORD? Strike through the incorrect word from the pairs in bold.

IRA ends its armed struggle

BNE: The IRA has taken a huge / tiny step forward for peace in Ireland. It formally announced it will lay down its guns and start / stop fighting against Britain. This ends thirty-five years of bloody / watery violence within the U.K. For over three decades / centuries, the IRA bombed the British mainland and killed British soldiers in Northern Ireland. Tony Blair welcomed the bald / bold move as an important moment in history / geography. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said it presented a historic challenge and opportunity.

A former IRA prisoner read the statement / state the world had been eagerly awaiting. It stated: “All IRA units / nuts have been ordered to dump legs / arms. All volunteers have been instructed to assist the development of purely political and democratic programs through exclusively peaceful / violent means. Volunteers must not engage in any other activities whatsoever / whoever.” The statement also declared that the goal was still of a united Ireland and “to end British rule / ruler”.

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words ‘lay’ and ‘down’.
   - 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. WHICH WORD? 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. STUDENT “BIG DECISIONS” SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about big decisions.
   - Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
   - Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
   - Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:
   - huge
   - lay
   - bombed
   - soldiers
   - bold
   - challenge
   - eagerly
   - dump
   - assist
   - exclusively
   - whatsoever
   - rule

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

DISCUSSION

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

a. What did you think when you read this headline?
b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
c. Do you keep up with news on Northern Ireland?
d. What do you know about Northern Ireland?
e. What do you know about the Northern Ireland peace process?
f. What do you think of the IRA’s decision?
g. Do you think terrorist groups around the world might follow the IRA’s example and lay down their weapons?
h. Are there any lessons to be learned from the Northern Ireland peace process?
i. Do you think there should be a united Ireland?
j. Would you fight for your country?

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

a. Did you like reading this article?
b. What did you think about what you read?
c. What big decisions have you made recently?
d. Do you think there is ever any need for armed struggle?
e. Do you think Britain should end its involvement in other areas or countries around the world?
f. Have there been similar armed struggles in your country?
g. Do you think people who engage in armed struggles are terrorists?
h. What is the biggest decision your country has taken?
i. Do you think all wars around the world will end one day?
j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
c. Was there a question you didn’t like?
d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
e. What did you like talking about?
f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
g. Which was the most difficult question?

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

**SPEAKING**

**DECISIONS:** You have many big decisions do you have to make about your future. What do you have to think about before you make your decisions? Write these things in the table below. Ask your partner(s) for advice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION</th>
<th>THINGS TO THINK ABOUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairstyle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change partners and explain what you discussed with your previous partner(s). Try to get more advice to help your previous partner.

Return to your original partner and give them the new advice.

IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

IRA ends its armed struggle

BNE: The IRA has taken a _____ _____ forward for peace in Ireland. It formally announced it will _____ down its guns and stop fighting against Britain. This ends thirty-five years of ________ violence within the U.K. For over three decades, the IRA bombed the British mainland and killed British ________ in Northern Ireland. Tony Blair welcomed the _____ move as an important moment in history. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said it presented a __________ challenge and opportunity.

A ________ IRA prisoner read the statement the world had been ________ awaiting. It stated: “All IRA units have been ordered to ________ arms. All volunteers have been instructed to assist the development of purely ________ and democratic programs through exclusively peaceful means. Volunteers must not ________ in any other activities whatsoever.” The statement also declared that the goal was still of a ________ Ireland and “to end British rule”.

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

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 more information on Northern Ireland and the IRA. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. ARMED STRUGGLE: Make a poster outlining another armed struggle around the world. Include information about the history, aims, armies, leaders and the future. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all describe similar struggles?

4. LETTER TO THE IRA: Write a letter to the head of the IRA. Tell him/her what you think of the recent announcement to end violence and lay down arms. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?
IRA ends its armed struggle – 29 July, 2005

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. huge  massive
b. lay  put


c. welcomed  greeted
d. bold  brave
e. opportunity  chance
f. former  ex
g. eagerly  anxiously
h. dump  throw away
i. exclusively  only
j. united  joined

PHRASE MATCH:

a. taken a huge step forward
b. it will lay down its guns

c. thirty-five years of bloody violence
d. Tony Blair welcomed the bold move
e. an important moment in history
f. A former IRA prisoner

g. the world had been eagerly awaiting
h. ordered to dump arms
i. must not engage in any other activities
j. end British rule

WHICH WORD?

IRA ends its armed struggle

BNE: The IRA has taken a huge step forward for peace in Ireland. It formally announced it will lay down its guns and stop fighting against Britain. This ends thirty-five years of bloody violence within the U.K. For over three decades, the IRA bombed the British mainland and killed British soldiers in Northern Ireland. Tony Blair welcomed the bold move as an important moment in history. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said it presented a historic challenge and opportunity.

A former IRA prisoner read the statement the world had been eagerly awaiting. It stated: “All IRA units have been ordered to dump arms. All volunteers have been instructed to assist the development of purely political and democratic programs through exclusively peaceful means. Volunteers must not engage in any other activities whatsoever.” The statement also declared that the goal was still of a united Ireland and “to end British rule.”