

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Australia to apologize to Aborigines

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0802/080203-aborigine.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

3rd February, 2008

THE ARTICLE

The Australian government has said it will take the long overdue step of apologizing to the "stolen generation" of Aborigines. The "stolen generation" means the 10,000 Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their parents and adopted by white families. Babies, toddlers and youngsters were often snatched from their mother's arms or secretly kidnapped. The idea was to "breed out" the Aboriginal colour, which was based on the belief that Aborigines were a doomed race. This policy of integrating mixed-race children into white society started in 1910 and only ended in 1969. Forty years after it ended, newly-elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will make the formal apology in a parliament address on February 13. Indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin said it would be a "bridge to the future".

Aborigines were delighted with the historic news. Christine King from the Stolen Generations Alliance said February 13 would be an extremely significant and emotional day. She said: "Older people thought they would never live to see it, so it's very important." The wording of the apology has been agreed with indigenous leaders and is being kept under wraps. It is not known whether Mr Rudd will say the word "sorry", a subject of much controversy. All previous governments refused to make an apology for destroying the lives of so many Aborigine children and families. They believed it was impossible to say sorry for actions of the past. Australia's opposition party leader, Brendan Nelson, echoed the policy of previous governments by saying rising petrol and food prices were more important than the apology.

WARM-UPS

1. AUSTRALIA: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Australia. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

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

government / apologizing / generations / toddlers / kidnapping / mixed race / historic news / emotional days / indigenous leaders / sorry / opposition parties

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

3. APOLOGIES: Talk with your partner(s) about the differences in apologizing to these people. Rank them in order of the most difficult person to apologize to. Share your ideas with others.

- a. _____ your best friend
- b. _____ a younger brother or sister
- c. _____ the school / office bully
- d. _____ your neighbour
- e. _____ the cashier at the checkout counter in the local supermarket
- f. _____ me
- g. _____ your partner
- h. _____ a parent

4. NATIONAL APOLOGY: Make two lists of all the things your country needs to apologize for - the first list contains apologies to your country's citizens, the second contains apologies to other countries. Talk with your partner(s) about the lists. Change partners and share your findings.

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

6. QUICK ROLE PLAY: Student A **strongly** believes that all indigenous populations should receive apologies from colonizers; Student B **strongly** believes that today's governments shouldn't have to apologize for the wrongs of previous generations. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Australia's government will apologize to its indigenous population. | T / F |
| b. Australia stole 10,000 Aborigine children to give to white families. | T / F |
| c. The Australian government thought Aborigines would live forever. | T / F |
| d. The Aussie Prime Minister will make the apology on a TV show. | T / F |
| e. Aborigines were very happy at the landmark decision to apologize. | T / F |
| f. Older Aborigines knew they would live to hear the apology. | T / F |
| g. The wording of the speech has been published in national papers. | T / F |
| h. Australia's opposition leader cares more about food and gas prices. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. overdue | a. taken |
| 2. toddlers | b. overjoyed |
| 3. snatched | c. disagreement |
| 4. doomed | d. speech |
| 5. address | e. secret |
| 6. delighted | f. important |
| 7. significant | g. infants |
| 8. under wraps | h. late |
| 9. controversy | i. mirrored |
| 10. echoed | j. ill-fated |

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

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. take the long overdue step | a. their mother's arms |
| 2. removed from their parents and adopted | b. actions of the past |
| 3. youngsters were often snatched from | c. of apologizing |
| 4. based on the belief that Aborigines | d. to the future |
| 5. it would be a bridge | e. wraps |
| 6. Aborigines were delighted with | f. were a doomed race |
| 7. an extremely significant | g. the historic news |
| 8. being kept under | h. by white families |
| 9. it was impossible to say sorry for | i. of previous governments |
| 10. echoed the policy | j. and emotional day |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Australian government has said it will take the _____ overdue step of apologizing to the "stolen generation" of Aborigines. The "stolen generation" means the 10,000 Aboriginal children who were _____ removed from their parents and adopted by white families. Babies, _____ and youngsters were often snatched from their mother's arms or secretly kidnapped. The idea was to "breed out" the Aboriginal _____, which was based on the belief that Aborigines were a doomed _____. This policy of integrating mixed-race children into white society started in 1910 and only _____ in 1969. Forty years after it ended, newly-elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will make the _____ apology in a parliament address on February 13. Indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin said it would be a "_____ to the future".

*colour**formal**forcibly**toddlers**long**ended**bridge**race*

Aborigines were delighted with the _____ news. Christine King from the Stolen Generations Alliance said February 13 would be an _____ significant and emotional day. She said: "Older people thought they would never _____ to see it, so it's very important." The _____ of the apology has been agreed with indigenous leaders and is being kept under _____. It is not known whether Mr Rudd will say the word "sorry", a subject of much controversy. All previous governments _____ to make an apology for destroying the lives of so many Aborigine children and families. They believed it was impossible to say sorry for _____ of the past. Australia's opposition party leader, Brendan Nelson, echoed the policy of _____ governments by saying rising petrol and food prices were more important than the apology.

*live**extremely**actions**refused**historic**wording**previous**wraps*

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

The Australian government has said _____ overdue step of apologizing to the "stolen generation" of Aborigines. The "stolen generation" means the 10,000 Aboriginal children _____ from their parents and adopted by white families. Babies, toddlers and youngsters _____ their mother's arms or secretly kidnapped. The idea was to "breed out" the Aboriginal colour, which was _____ Aborigines were a doomed race. This policy of integrating mixed-race children into white society started in 1910 _____. Forty years after it ended, newly-elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will make the formal apology in a parliament address on February 13. Indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin said it would _____.

Aborigines were _____ news. Christine King from the Stolen Generations Alliance said February 13 would be an extremely _____ day. She said: "Older people thought they would never live to see it, so it's very important." The _____ has been agreed with indigenous leaders and is being kept under wraps. It is not known whether Mr Rudd will say the word "sorry", _____ controversy. All previous governments refused to make an apology for destroying the lives of so many Aborigine children and families. They believed it was impossible _____ of the past. Australia's opposition party leader, Brendan Nelson, echoed the policy of previous governments _____ and food prices were more important than the apology.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'say' and 'sorry'.

say	sorry

- 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 exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long • means • mother's • belief • 1969 • bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delighted • live • wraps • destroying • past • food
---	--

STUDENT APOLOGY SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about apologies 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.

DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
 - b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'apology'?
 - c) What are your feelings about the Stolen Generation?
 - d) Do you think all indigenous populations should receive apologies from their governments?
 - e) What do you think indigenous people think about the colonizing races that now govern them?
 - f) What do you think the world thought of Australia's policy of taking Aborigine children and giving them to white families?
 - g) Do you think Australia's policy is ethnic cleansing?
 - h) What do you think the adults who were stolen from their families decades think of the Australian government's apology plans?
 - i) Will the apology really be a "bridge to the future"?
-

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Why do you think it took so long to make an apology to Aborigines?
- c) Are the indigenous people in your country treated fairly or are they disadvantaged?
- d) Do you think the Aborigines should also receive financial compensation?
- e) Have you ever done anything that was tit-for-tat?
- f) Do you agree with Australia's opposition leader that petrol prices are more important than the apology to Aborigines?
- g) What questions would you like to ask one of the Stolen Generation?
- h) What do you think his/her answers would be?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

The Australian government has said it will take the (1) _____ overdue step of apologizing to the "stolen generation" of Aborigines. The "stolen generation" means the 10,000 Aboriginal children who were (2) _____ removed from their parents and adopted by white families. Babies, toddlers and youngsters were often snatched from their mother's arms or secretly kidnapped. The idea was to "breed (3) _____" the Aboriginal colour, which was based (4) _____ the belief that Aborigines were a doomed race. This policy of integrating mixed-race children into white society started in 1910 and only ended in 1969. Forty years after (5) _____ ended, newly-elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will make the formal apology in a parliament (6) _____ on February 13. Indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin said it would be a "bridge to the future".

Aborigines were delighted with the (7) _____ news. Christine King from the Stolen Generations Alliance said February 13 would be an extremely significant and emotional day. She said: "Older people thought they would never (8) _____ to see it, so it's very important." The wording of the apology has been agreed with indigenous leaders and is being (9) _____ under wraps. It is not known whether Mr Rudd will say the word "sorry", a subject of much controversy. All previous governments refused to (10) _____ an apology for destroying the lives of so many Aborigine children and families. They believed it was impossible to say sorry for actions of the past. Australia's opposition party leader, Brendan Nelson, (11) _____ the policy of previous governments by saying (12) _____ petrol and food prices were more important than the apology.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) shallow | (b) short | (c) deep | (d) long |
| 2. | (a) forcibly | (b) forced | (c) forceful | (d) forceps |
| 3. | (a) in | (b) out | (c) by | (d) all |
| 4. | (a) up | (b) out | (c) on | (d) down |
| 5. | (a) they | (b) he | (c) it | (d) policy |
| 6. | (a) envelope | (b) address | (c) label | (d) stamp |
| 7. | (a) historically | (b) historian | (c) history | (d) historic |
| 8. | (a) live | (b) life | (c) lively | (d) lived |
| 9. | (a) keep | (b) kept | (c) keeping | (d) keeps |
| 10. | (a) be | (b) say | (c) do | (d) make |
| 11. | (a) echoing | (b) echo | (c) echoed | (d) echoes |
| 12. | (a) rising | (b) risen | (c) raising | (d) rose |

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 about the apology. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: Make a poster about different indigenous peoples from around the world. Include the problems and disadvantages they face. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. STOLEN: Write a magazine article about one of the Stolen Generation. Include imaginary interviews with him/her and an Australian official who was involved in the "stealing".

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Ask him three questions about the Stolen Generation. Give him three suggestions on what he should do to make a stronger bridge to the future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. overdue | a. late |
| 2. toddlers | b. infants |
| 3. snatched | c. taken |
| 4. doomed | d. ill-fated |
| 5. address | e. speech |
| 6. delighted | f. overjoyed |
| 7. significant | g. important |
| 8. under wraps | h. secret |
| 9. controversy | i. disagreement |
| 10. echoed | j. mirrored |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. take the long overdue step | a. of apologizing |
| 2. removed from their parents and adopted | b. by white families |
| 3. youngsters were often snatched from | c. their mother's arms |
| 4. based on the belief that Aborigines | d. were a doomed race |
| 5. it would be a bridge | e. to the future |
| 6. Aborigines were delighted with | f. the historic news |
| 7. an extremely significant | g. and emotional day |
| 8. being kept under | h. wraps |
| 9. it was impossible to say sorry for | i. actions of the past |
| 10. echoed the policy | j. of previous governments |

GAP FILL:

Australia to apologize to Aborigines

The Australian government has said it will take the **long** overdue step of apologizing to the "stolen generation" of Aborigines. The "stolen generation" means the 10,000 Aboriginal children who were **forcibly** removed from their parents and adopted by white families. Babies, **toddlers** and youngsters were often snatched from their mother's arms or secretly kidnapped. The idea was to "breed out" the Aboriginal **colour**, which was based on the belief that Aborigines were a doomed **race**. This policy of integrating mixed-race children into white society started in 1910 and only **ended** in 1969. Forty years after it ended, newly-elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will make the **formal** apology in a parliament address on February 13. Indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin said it would be a "**bridge** to the future".

Aborigines were delighted with the **historic** news. Christine King from the Stolen Generations Alliance said February 13 would be an **extremely** significant and emotional day. She said: "Older people thought they would never **live** to see it, so it's very important." The **wording** of the apology has been agreed with indigenous leaders and is being kept under **wraps**. It is not known whether Mr Rudd will say the word "sorry", a subject of much controversy. All previous governments **refused** to make an apology for destroying the lives of so many Aborigine children and families. They believed it was impossible to say sorry for **actions** of the past. Australia's opposition party leader, Brendan Nelson, echoed the policy of **previous** governments by saying rising petrol and food prices were more important than the apology.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a