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## Level 2

# Rebels set up new state in Iraq and Syria

**2nd July, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140702-rebels-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140702-rebels-2.html>

Rebels fighting the governments of Iraq and Syria have set up their own state. It is a caliphate (an Islamic nation). The rebels are from the group ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). They are also called ISIL (the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant). The state stretches from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. The rebels have been fighting for that area. ISIL put a postonline announcing the new state. It said ISIL's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would be the head of the new state, and that he would be "leader for Muslims everywhere".

Wikipedia says ISIS thinks the state should be bigger. It wants parts of Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, and Cyprus. It is a Sunni Muslim group and says the governments of Iraq and Syria dislike it. It had links to Al Qaeda when it first started but those links have been cut. Wikipedia said: "ISIS had close links with al-Qaeda until 2014, but in February...al-Qaeda cut all ties with the group." Al Qaeda did not agree with attacks on civilians that have left thousands dead. Iraq has received several military jets from Russia to help fight the rebels.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-28082962>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_State\\_in\\_Iraq\\_and\\_the\\_Levant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_State_in_Iraq_and_the_Levant)  
<http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=170644&heading=Top%20News>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140702-rebels-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Rebels fighting the governments | a. for Muslims everywhere   |
| 2 set up                           | b. Syria                    |
| 3. The rebels are from             | c. their own state          |
| 4. They are also                   | d. announcing the new state |
| 5. northern                        | e. the new state            |
| 6. ISIL put a post online          | f. of Iraq and Syria        |
| 7. the head of                     | g. the group ISIS           |
| 8. he would be leader              | h. called ISIL              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. ISIS thinks the state             | a. ties with the group |
| 2 It wants                           | b. dislike it          |
| 3. the governments of Iraq and Syria | c. to Al Qaeda         |
| 4. It had links                      | d. jets                |
| 5. those links have                  | e. should be bigger    |
| 6. al-Qaeda cut all                  | f. civilians           |
| 7. attacks on                        | g. parts of Jordan     |
| 8. military                          | h. been cut            |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140702-rebels-2.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ governments of Iraq and Syria have set up their own state. It is a caliphate (an Islamic nation). The rebels (2) \_\_\_\_\_ ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). They are also called ISIL (the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant). (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. The rebels (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for that area. ISIL put a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the new state. It said ISIL's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would be the head of the new state, and that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for Muslims everywhere".

Wikipedia says ISIS thinks the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. It wants parts of Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, and Cyprus. It is a Sunni Muslim group and says (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Iraq and Syria dislike it. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Al Qaeda when it first started but those links (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Wikipedia said: "ISIS had close links with al-Qaeda until 2014, but in February...al-Qaeda (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the group." Al Qaeda did not agree with attacks on civilians that have left thousands dead. Iraq has received (12) \_\_\_\_\_ from Russia to help fight the rebels.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140702-rebels-2.html>

Rebels fighting the governments of Iraq and Syria have set up their own state. It is a caliphate (an Islamic nation). The rebels are from the group ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). They are also called ISIL (the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant). The state stretches from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. The rebels have been fighting for that area. ISIL put a post online announcing the new state. It said ISIL's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would be the head of the new state, and that he would be "leader for Muslims everywhere". Wikipedia says ISIS thinks the states should be bigger. It wants parts of Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, and Cyprus. It is a Sunni Muslim group and says the governments of Iraq and Syria dislike it. It had links to Al Qaeda when it first started but those links have been cut. Wikipedia said: "ISIS had close links with al-Qaeda until 2014, but in February ... al-Qaeda cut all ties with the group." Al Qaeda did not agree with attacks on civilians that have left thousands dead. Iraq has received several military jets from Russia to help fight the rebels.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

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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) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140702-rebels-2.html>

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

[illegible]