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Level 3

Christmas cards show nativity in Syria war zone

1st December, 2016

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

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
Gap Fill	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

A charity has released a series of Christmas cards with a difference. The non-profit organization Doctors of the World is selling four different cards showing traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land. However, the pictures also contain images of the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to make people aware that there is still a lot of suffering going on in the world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey through the rubble of modern day, war-torn Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the distance behind him. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes flying overhead.

The Doctors of the World website explained the reason for their alternative Christmas cards. It said: "Rather than making a religious statement, these images seek to remind the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes, and they really need our help." Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and medical equipment for people in Syria and other areas of conflict around the world. The website said: "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 United Nations estimates that 65 million people have fled 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/>

WARM-UPS

1. CHRISTMAS CARDS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Christmas cards. 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?

charity / non-profit / the Holy Land / war / suffering / donkey / modern / missile / reason / alternative / religious / the public / medicine / equipment / vulnerable

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

3. ONLINE: Students A **strongly** believe online Christmas cards are best; Students B **strongly** believe real Christmas cards are best. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. GREETINGS CARDS: How can they be better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Online	Real card
Christmas cards		
Birthday cards		
Exam congratulations		
New baby congratulations		
Valentines		
New job congratulations		

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

6. CHRISTMAS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things about Christmas at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- church
- shopping
- holiday
- presents
- hope
- family
- prayer
- food

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. The charity is selling ten different types of Christmas card. **T / F**
- b. The cards show traditional Xmas scenes, plus images of war. **T / F**
- c. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph riding on a camel. **T / F**
- d. One card shows the three wise men flying warplanes. **T / F**
- e. The charity did not give any explanation about the cards. **T / F**
- f. Money from the cards will go towards medicine and medical equipment. **T / F**
- g. The charity said the most festive feeling is that of hope. **T / F**
- h. The UN estimates that 65 million people have no home because of war. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. series | a. truly |
| 2. traditional | b. particularly |
| 3. aware | c. guesses |
| 4. especially | d. regular |
| 5. overhead | e. things |
| 6. alternative | f. set |
| 7. really | g. above |
| 8. equipment | h. different |
| 9. purchasing | i. conscious |
| 10. estimates | j. buying |

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. a series of Christmas cards | a. war-torn Syria |
| 2. there is still a lot of suffering | b. public |
| 3. through the rubble of modern day, | c. flying overhead |
| 4. a missile is fired in | d. statement |
| 5. the three wise men looking up at warplanes | e. of violence and war |
| 6. making a religious | f. going on in the world |
| 7. remind the | g. with a difference |
| 8. medical | h. most vulnerable |
| 9. provide healthcare to the | i. equipment |
| 10. fled their homes because | j. the distance |

GAP FILL

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

A charity has released a (1) _____ of Christmas cards with a difference. The non-profit organization Doctors of the World is selling four different cards showing (2) _____ Christmas scenes from the Holy Land. However, the pictures also (3) _____ images of the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to make people (4) _____ that there is still a lot of suffering going on in the world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey through the (5) _____ of modern day, war-(6) _____ Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the (7) _____ behind him. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes flying (8) _____.

traditional
rubble
distance
contain
overhead
series
aware
torn

The Doctors of the World website explained the reason for their (9) _____ Christmas cards. It said: "Rather than making a religious statement, these images seek to (10) _____ the public that this year war has (11) _____ millions from their homes, and they really need our help." Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and medical (12) _____ for people in Syria and other areas of conflict around the world. The website said: "By (13) _____ our cards, you are helping us to provide healthcare to the most (14) _____, and together we will [put back] a little of the most festive feeling of all - (15) _____." The United Nations estimates that 65 million people have (16) _____ their homes because of violence and war.

equipment
alternative
fled
forced
purchasing
hope
remind
vulnerable

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) A charity has released a series of Christmas cards _____
 - a. with the differences
 - b. with the difference
 - c. with a different
 - d. with a difference
- 2) make people aware that there is still a lot of suffering _____
 - a. going on
 - b. going in
 - c. gone in
 - d. go in on
- 3) travelling on a donkey through the rubble of modern day, _____
 - a. war-tarn Syria
 - b. war-turn Syria
 - c. war-torn Syria
 - d. war-tern Syria
- 4) the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired _____
 - a. in the distances
 - b. in the distant
 - c. in the distance
 - d. in the distances
- 5) The next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes _____
 - a. flying over head
 - b. fly in overhead
 - c. fly in overhead
 - d. flying over a head
- 6) Doctors of the World website explained the reason for their _____ cards
 - a. alternative Christmas
 - b. alternatively Christmas
 - c. alternatives Christmas
 - d. alter native Christmas
- 7) remind the public that this year war has forced millions _____
 - a. from them homes
 - b. from their homes
 - c. from there homes
 - d. from they're homes
- 8) Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and _____
 - a. medical equipped meant
 - b. medicals equipment
 - c. medicals equip meant
 - d. medical equipment
- 9) you are helping us to provide healthcare to the _____
 - a. most vulnerable
 - b. most vulnerability
 - c. mostly vulnerable
 - d. mostly vulnerability
- 10) The United Nations estimates that 65 million people have _____
 - a. friend their homes
 - b. fled their homes
 - c. fried their homes
 - d. flayed their homes

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

A charity has (1) _____ of Christmas cards with a difference. The non-profit organization Doctors of the World is selling four different (2) _____ traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land. However, the pictures also (3) _____ the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to make people aware that there is still a lot of suffering (4) _____ world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey through the rubble of modern (5) _____ Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the distance behind him. The next card (6) _____ wise men looking up at warplanes flying overhead.

The Doctors of the World website explained (7) _____ their alternative Christmas cards. It said: "Rather than making a religious statement, these (8) _____ remind the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes, and they really need our help." Money (9) _____ the cards will help buy medicine and medical equipment for people in Syria and (10) _____ conflict around the world. The website said: "By purchasing our cards, you are helping us to provide healthcare to (11) _____, and together we will [put back] a little of the most festive feeling of all – hope." The United Nations estimates that 65 million people (12) _____ homes because of violence and war.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many different cards is Doctors of the World selling?
2. What do Doctors of the World want to make people aware of?
3. What are Mary and Joseph travelling on in one photo?
4. What is in the sky behind baby Jesus?
5. Who is looking at warplanes in the sky?
6. What did Doctors of the World choose not to make?
7. What will the sale of the cards help to buy?
8. Who will the sale of the cards be helping?
9. What did Doctors of the World say the most festive feeling was?
10. How many people does the UN estimate have fled their homes?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How many different cards is Doctors of the World selling?
 - a) 4
 - b) 5
 - c) 6
 - d) 7
- 2) What do Doctors of the World want to make people aware of?
 - a) images
 - b) cards
 - c) suffering
 - d) Christmas
- 3) What are Mary and Joseph travelling on in one photo?
 - a) a truck
 - b) a donkey
 - c) a camel
 - d) an airplane
- 4) What is in the sky behind baby Jesus?
 - a) a fire
 - b) a tree
 - c) a star
 - d) a missile
- 5) Who is looking at warplanes in the sky?
 - a) the three wise men
 - b) the baby Jesus
 - c) Mary
 - d) Joseph
- 6) What did Doctors of the World choose not to make?
 - a) a fuss
 - b) a set of cards on Afghanistan
 - c) 10 cards
 - d) a religious statement
- 7) What will the sale of the cards help to buy?
 - a) time
 - b) medicine
 - c) houses
 - d) clothes
- 8) Who will the sale of the cards be helping?
 - a) doctors
 - b) aid workers
 - c) the UN
 - d) the most vulnerable
- 9) What did Doctors of the World say the most festive feeling was?
 - a) elation
 - b) healthy
 - c) hope
 - d) sadness
- 10) How many people does the UN estimate have fled their homes?
 - a) 46 million
 - b) 65 million
 - c) 56 million
 - d) 64 million

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Holiday

You think a holiday from work/school is the best thing about Christmas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): going to church, being with family or food.

Role B – Church

You think going to church is the best thing about Christmas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a holiday from work/school, being with family or food.

Role C – Family

You think being with family is the best thing about Christmas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): going to church, a holiday from work/school or food.

Role D – Food

You think food is the best thing about Christmas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): going to church, being with family or a holiday from work/school.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

war	zone
------------	-------------

- 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">• released• traditional• contain• lot• baby• wise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reason• seek• sale• conflict• little• 65
--	---

CHRISTMAS CARDS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161201-christmas-cards.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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 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 'Christmas'?
3. What do you think about what you read?
4. What words and images should be on Christmas cards?
5. Should images of war replace images of snowmen on Xmas cards?
6. What is the best way to celebrate Christmas?
7. Is it better to put images of suffering on Christmas cards?
8. What does Santa Claus have to do with Christmas?
9. What is your favourite celebration of the year?
10. How important are greetings cards?

Christmas cards show nativity in Syria war zone – 1st December, 2016
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CHRISTMAS CARDS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Are online Christmas cards better than real ones?
13. What is the true meaning of Christmas?
14. What are the good and bad things about Christmas?
15. In what ways have some people forgotten the meaning of Christmas?
16. How can we help those who are suffering?
17. Should Xmas cards be about raising awareness of suffering?
18. How can we remind people that Christmas is about hope?
19. What do you think of Christmas?
20. What questions would you like to ask the charity?

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/1612/161201-christmas-cards.html>

A charity has (1) _____ a series of Christmas cards with a difference. The non-profit organization Doctors of the World is selling four (2) _____ cards showing traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land. However, the pictures also (3) _____ images of the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to make people aware that there is still a lot of suffering going (4) _____ in the world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey through the rubble of modern day, war-(5) _____ Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the (6) _____ behind him. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes flying overhead.

The Doctors of the World website explained the (7) _____ for their alternative Christmas cards. It said: "Rather than making a religious statement, these images seek to remind the public that this year war has (8) _____ millions from their homes, and they really need our help." Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and medical (9) _____ for people in Syria and other areas of conflict around the world. The website said: "(10) _____ 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 - (11) _____." The United Nations estimates that 65 million people have (12) _____ their homes because of violence and war.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) releases | (b) release | (c) released | (d) releasing |
| 2. | (a) different | (b) difference | (c) differently | (d) differential |
| 3. | (a) contain | (b) contents | (c) confirm | (d) content |
| 4. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) at | (d) of |
| 5. | (a) tarn | (b) torn | (c) tern | (d) turn |
| 6. | (a) further | (b) far | (c) horizon | (d) distance |
| 7. | (a) why | (b) logical | (c) reason | (d) mind |
| 8. | (a) forged | (b) farce | (c) fierce | (d) forced |
| 9. | (a) equipment | (b) equip | (c) equipped | (d) equips |
| 10. | (a) At | (b) By | (c) Of | (d) To |
| 11. | (a) hopes | (b) hope | (c) hopeful | (d) hoping |
| 12. | (a) shed | (b) sled | (c) fled | (d) slid |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. A ciatyhr has released a series
2. itntoalradi Christmas scenes
3. contain giesma of the war in Syria
4. want to make people aewar
5. a lot of ffiuenrsg going on
6. a missile is fired in the cnsedait behind him

Paragraph 2

7. their enltevtiraa Christmas cards
8. making a ugoirlesi statement
9. war has ocrfde millions from their homes
10. buy medicine and dieaclm equipment
11. helping us to oiedprv healthcare
12. because of coenelvi and war

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () hope." The United Nations estimates that 65 million people have fled their homes because of violence and war.
- () than making a religious statement, these images seek to remind the public that this year war has forced millions
- () Land. However, the pictures also contain images of the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to make
- () vulnerable, and together we will [put back] a little of the most festive feeling of all –
- () behind him. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes flying overhead.
- () torn Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the distance
- () Doctors of the World is selling four different cards showing traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy
- () shows Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey through the rubble of modern day, war-
- () and medical equipment for people in Syria and other areas of conflict around the world. The website said: "By
- (**1**) A charity has released a series of Christmas cards with a difference. The non-profit organization
- () The Doctors of the World website explained the reason for their alternative Christmas cards. It said: "Rather
- () from their homes, and they really need our help." Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine
- () purchasing our cards, you are helping us to provide healthcare to the most
- () people aware that there is still a lot of suffering going on in the world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. with series a of difference Christmas Released cards a .
2. Showing Land Holy the from scenes Christmas traditional .
3. of in pictures images war The contain the Syria also .
4. there is still a lot of suffering Make people aware that .
5. overhead up Three at wise warplanes men flying looking .
6. from This war millions homes , forced their year has .
7. sale Money medicine buy help will cards the of from the .
8. areas world of Syria conflict and around other the .
9. healthcare Helping to us the to most provide vulnerable .
10. People violence of because homes their fled have .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

A charity has *released / releasing* a series of Christmas cards with a *difference / different*. The non-profit organization Doctors of the World is selling four different cards *show / showing* traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land. However, the pictures also *contain / contents* images of the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to *make / take* people aware that there is still a lot of *suffer / suffering* going on in the world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph travelling *on / in* a donkey through the rubble of modern *week / day*, war-torn Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his *manager / manger* as a missile is fired in the distance behind him. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes *flying / flight* overhead.

The Doctors of the World website *explanation / explained* the reason for their alternative Christmas cards. It said: "*Rather / Prefer* than making a religious statement, these *images / image* seek to *remind / remember* the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes, and they really *need / needing* our help." Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and *medically / medical* equipment for people in Syria and other *area / areas* of conflict around the world. The website said: "By *purchase / 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 / hopefully*." The United Nations estimates that 65 million people have fled their homes because of *violent / violence* and war.

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/1612/161201-christmas-cards.html>

_ ch_r_ty h_s r_l__s_d _ s_r__s _f Chr_stm_s c_rds
w_th _ d_ff_r_nc_. Th_ n_n-pr_f_t _rg_n_z_t__n
D_ct_rs _f th_ W_rld _s s_ll_ng f__r d_ff_r_nt c_rds
sh_w_ng tr_d_t__n_l Chr_stm_s sc_n_s fr_m th_ H_ly
L_nd. H_w_v_r, th_ p_ct_r_s _ls_ c_nt__n _m_g_s _f
th_ w_r _n Syr___. Th_ D_ct_rs _f th_ W_rld w_nt t_
m_k_ p__pl_ _w_r_ th_t th_r_ _s st_ll _ l_t _f
s_ff_r_ng g__ng _n _n th_ w_rld, _sp_c__lly _n Syr___.
_n Chr_stm_s c_rd sh_ws M_ry _nd J_s_ph tr_v_ll_ng
_n _d_nk_y thr__gh th_ r_bbl_ _f m_d_rn d_y, w_r-
t_rn Syr___. _n th_r sh_ws th_ b_by J_s_s _sl__p _n
h_s m_ng_r _s _m_ss_l_ _s f_r_d _n th_ d_st_nc_
b_h_nd h_m. Th_ n_xt c_rd sh_ws th_ thr__w_s _m_n
l__k_ng _p _t w_rpl_n_s fly_ng _v_rh__d.

Th_ D_ct_rs _f th_ W_rld w_bs_t_ _xpl__n_d th_
r__s_n f_r th__r _lt_rn_t_v_ Chr_stm_s c_rds. _t s__d:
"R_th_r th_n m_k_ng _ r_l_g__s st_t_m_nt, th_s_
_m_g_s s__k t_r_m_nd th_ p_b_l_c th_t th_s y__r w_r
h_s f_rc_d m_ll__ns fr_m th__r h_m_s, _nd th_y r__lly
n__d __r h_lp." M_n_y fr_m th_ s_l_ _f th_ c_rds w_ll
h_lp b_y m_d_c_n_ _nd m_d_c_l_ q__pm_nt f_r p__pl_
_n Syr__ _nd th_r _r__s _f c_nfl_ct _r__nd th_ w_rld.
Th_ w_bs_t_ s__d: "By p_rch_s_ng __r c_rds, y__ _r_
h_lp_ng _s t_ pr_v_d_ h__lthc_r_ t_ th_ m_st
v_ln_r_bl_, _nd t_g_th_r w_ w_ll [p_t b_ck] _ lttl_ _f
th_ m_st f_st_v_ f__l_ng _f _ll - h_p_." Th_ _n_t_d
N_t__ns _st_m_t_s th_t 65 m_ll__n p__pl_ h_v_ fl_d
th__r h_m_s b_c__s _f v__l_nc_ _nd w_r.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

a charity has released a series of christmas cards with a difference the non-profit organization doctors of the world is selling four different cards showing traditional christmas scenes from the holy land however the pictures also contain images of the war in syria the doctors of the world want to make people aware that there is still a lot of suffering going on in the world especially in syria one christmas card shows mary and joseph travelling on a donkey through the rubble of modern day war-torn syria another shows the baby jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the distance behind him the next card shows the three wise men looking up at warplanes flying overhead

the doctors of the world website explained the reason for their alternative christmas cards it said "rather than making a religious statement these images seek to remind the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes and they really need our help" money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and medical equipment for people in syria and other areas of conflict around the world the website said "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 united nations estimates that 65 million people have fled their homes because of violence and war

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A charity has released a series of Christmas cards with a difference. Then on-profit organization Doctors of the World is selling four different cards showing traditional Christmas scenes from the Holy Land. However, the pictures also contain images of the war in Syria. The Doctors of the World want to make people aware that there is still a lot of suffering going on in the world, especially in Syria. One Christmas card shows Mary and Joseph traveling on a donkey through the rubble of modern day, war-torn Syria. Another shows the baby Jesus asleep in his manger as a missile is fired in the distance behind him. The next card shows the three wise men looking up at war planes flying overhead. The Doctors of the World website explained the reason for their alternative Christmas cards. It said: "Rather than making a religious statement, these images seek to remind the public that this year war has forced millions from their homes, and they really need our help." Money from the sale of the cards will help buy medicine and medical equipment for people in Syria and other areas of conflict around the world. The website said: "By purchasing our cards, you are helping us to provide health care to the most vulnerable, and together we will [put back] a little of the most festive feeling of fall – hope." The United Nations estimate that 65 million people have fled their homes because of violence and war.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **Christmas cards** 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 news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHRISTMAS CARDS: Make a poster about Christmas cards. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CHRISTMAS: Write a magazine article about too much money being spent on Christmas (food, presents, decorations, etc.). Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against 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 Christmas cards. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what Christmas cards should contain. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. series | a. set |
| 2. traditional | b. regular |
| 3. aware | c. conscious |
| 4. especially | d. particularly |
| 5. overhead | e. above |
| 6. alternative | f. different |
| 7. really | g. truly |
| 8. equipment | h. things |
| 9. purchasing | i. buying |
| 10. estimates | j. guesses |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Four
2. Suffering in the world
3. A donkey
4. A missile
5. The three wise men
6. A religious statement
7. Medicine and medical equipment
8. The most vulnerable
9. Hope
10. 65 million

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. a 6. d 7. b 8. d 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 ;-)