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Level 5

Syrian refugee top student in Australia school

15th December, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-5.html>

A Syrian refugee who could speak just a word of English two years ago has passed his high school exams in Australia. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, graduated with top marks from one of Australia's biggest schools. His outstanding grades put him in the top 4 per cent of graduates in Melbourne. Saad escaped the civil war in Syria to start a new life. He said that it was "really hard" coming to Australia because he could not understand English. He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends...back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the opportunity that I've had."

Saad tried to learn English from his cousins in Australia. Then he started to watch a politics show on television. It was a live broadcast of politicians quizzing their prime minister about different issues. He said the show helped his English because: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syria's parliament, where "all they do is clap". Saad is very thankful. 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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A Syrian refugee who could speak | a. war |
| 2. passed his | b. that I've had |
| 3. graduated | c. grades |
| 4. His outstanding | d. high school exams |
| 5. in the top 4 per cent | e. sad to think |
| 6. escaped the civil | f. with top marks |
| 7. It really makes me | g. of graduates |
| 8. didn't have the opportunity | h. just a word of English |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. learn English | a. broadcast |
| 2. a politics | b. is clap |
| 3. It was a live | c. show on television |
| 4. politicians quizzing | d. different |
| 5. persuasive | e. from his cousins |
| 6. He said it was very | f. given me a new life |
| 7. all they do | g. their prime minister |
| 8. It's revived me and | h. language |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-5.html>

A Syrian refugee who could (1) _____ word of English two years ago has passed his high school exams in Australia. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, graduated (2) _____ from one of Australia's biggest schools. His outstanding grades (3) _____ top 4 per cent of graduates in Melbourne. Saad (4) _____ war in Syria to start a new life. He said that it was "really hard" coming to Australia because he could not understand English. He added: "It (5) _____ sad to think that I have friends...back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have (6) _____ I've had."

Saad tried to learn English (7) _____ in Australia. Then he started to watch a (8) _____ television. It was a live broadcast of politicians (9) _____ prime minister about different issues. He said the show helped his English because: "They use the best, persuasive (10) _____. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syria's parliament, where "all (11) _____". Saad is very thankful. He said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's revived me and (12) _____ life."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-5.html>

A Syrian refugee who could speak just a word of English two years ago has passed his high school exams in Australia. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, graduated with top marks from one of Australia's biggest schools. His outstanding grades put him in the top 4 percent of graduates in Melbourne. Saad escaped the civil war in Syria to start a new life. He said that it was "really hard" coming to Australia because he could not understand English. He added: "It really makes me sad to think that I have friends... back in Syria who were as good as me, but who didn't have the opportunity that I've had." Saad tried to learn English from his cousins in Australia. Then he started to watch a political show on television. It was a live broadcast of politicians quizzing their prime minister about different issues. He said the show helped his English because: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." He said it was very different to Syria's parliament, where "all they do is clap". Saad is very thankful. 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."

GRADUATION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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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) _____

