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Level 2 – 8th May, 2021

Farmer accidentally moves Belgium-France border

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

Governments spend months, years or even decades making borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so long. He took just a few minutes to change the border between Belgium and France. He made Belgium about 1,000 square meters bigger and France about 1,000 square meters smaller. He moved a 150-kilogram border stone 2.29 metres inside France. A border stone shows where the border is between two countries. The stone the farmer moved was put there in 1819. The farmer moved it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his field.

Moving a border between two countries can lead to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny side of this. They avoided a crisis in a friendly way. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the defeat of Napoleon....We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles. I still have to verify who [he] is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was right next to a tree." The mayor of the border town in France said: "I fully trust the Belgian mayor, who did what was necessary."

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/belgium-farmer-moves-french-border/index.html>
<https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/04/belgium-gains-territory-after-farmer-moves-french-border>
<https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/167925/belgian-farmer-moves-accidentally-french-border-erquelines-napoleon-boundary-marker-aurelie-welonek-mayor-bousignies-sur-roc-david-lavaux/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. months, years or | a. field |
| 2. making borders | b. few minutes |
| 3. He took just a | c. border is |
| 4. about 1,000 square | d. his tractor |
| 5. He moved a 150-kilogram | e. even decades |
| 6. where the | f. border stone |
| 7. make it easier to drive | g. between countries |
| 8. around his | h. meters |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Moving a border | a. moved the stone |
| 2. lead to | b. a friendly way |
| 3. saw the funny | c. mayor |
| 4. They avoided a crisis in | d. side of this |
| 5. The stone was placed | e. between two countries |
| 6. We will find the person who | f. the stone was |
| 7. We know exactly where | g. war |
| 8. I fully trust the Belgian | h. there in 1819 |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

Governments spend months, years (1) _____ making borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not (2) _____. He took just a few minutes to change the border between Belgium and France. He made Belgium about 1,000 (3) _____ and France about 1,000 square meters smaller. He moved a 150-(4) _____ 2.29 metres inside France. A border stone shows where the border is between two countries. The stone the farmer moved (5) _____ in 1819. The farmer moved it to make it (6) _____ his tractor around his field.

Moving a border between two countries can (7) _____. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny side of this. They (8) _____ in a friendly way. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 (9) _____ of Napoleon....We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles. I still have (10) _____ [he] is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was right next (11) _____." The mayor of the border town in France said: "(12) _____ the Belgian mayor, who did what was necessary."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

Governmentsspendmonths,yearsorevendecadesmakingbordersbetweencountries.AfarmerinBelgiumdidnotneedsolong.HetookjustafewminutestochangetheborderbetweenBelgiumandFrance.HemadeBelgiumabout1,000squaremetersbiggerandFranceabout1,000squaremeterssmaller.Hemoveda150-kilogramborderstone2.29metresinsideFrance.Aborderstoneshowswheretheborderisbetweentwocountries.Thestonethefarmermovedwasputtherein1819.Thefarmermoveditto makeiteasiertodrivehistractoraroundhisfield.Movingaborderbetweentwocountriescanleadto war.Luckily,diplomatsinBelgiumandFrance sawthefunnysideofthis.Theyavoidedacrisisinafriendlyway.ThemayoroftheBelgiantownsaid:"Thestone wasplacedtherein1819followingthedefeatofNapoleon....Wewillfindthepersonwhomovedthestone so we can avoid any troubles.I still have to verify who [he] is."Themayor added:"Weknowexactlywherethestone wasbefore.Itwasrightnextto a tree."ThemayorofthebordertowninFrance said:"I fully trust the Belgian mayor,whodidwhatwasnecessary."

BORDERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about borders 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210508-borders-2.html>

Write about **borders** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
