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Level 3 – 8th May, 2021

Farmer accidentally moves Belgium-France border

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

Governments, army leaders and diplomats spend months, years or even decades creating borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so long. It took him 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. How? He moved a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres inside France. A boundary stone shows where the border between two countries or areas lies. The stone the farmer relocated was laid down in 1819 to mark the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for political reasons. He did it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his field.

Moving the border between two countries could easily create a major diplomatic incident or even lead to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny side of this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly manner. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the defeat of Napoleon. The situation should be resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles. I still have to verify who the landowner is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was right next to a tree." The mayor of the town across the border in France said: "I fully trust my Belgian counterpart, 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/>

WARM-UPS

1. BORDERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about borders. 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?

governments / diplomats / decades / change / minutes / stone / border / countries / major / incident / funny / defeat / tomorrow / troubles / mayor / verify / counterpart

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

3. BORDERLESS: Students A **strongly** believe a borderless world is better than a world with borders; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. BORDERS: What do you know about these borders? Are there any problems? What are the solutions? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	Problems?	Solutions
US-Mexico			
India-China			
North Korea-South Korea			
Ireland-Northern Ireland			
Golan Heights			
East China Sea			

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

6. KIND OF BORDER: Rank these with your partner. Put the best borders at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- River
- Mountain range
- Desert
- Wall / fence
- Road
- Military zone
- Sea
- Hedge

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. diplomat | a. A powerful farm vehicle (usually red in colour) with very big wheels at the back. |
| 2. decade | b. The area of somewhere in m ² . |
| 3. square meters | c. Moved to a new place and establish one's home or business there. |
| 4. boundary | d. Someone who represents his/her country in a different country. |
| 5. relocated | e. Relating to the government or the public affairs of a country. |
| 6. political | f. A period of ten years. |
| 7. tractor | g. A line that marks the limits of an area; a dividing line. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 8. create | h. Firmly determined to do something. |
| 9. major | i. Prevent (stop) from happening. |
| 10. incident | j. Believe in the reliability, truth, ability of someone. |
| 11. resolved | k. Important, serious, or significant. |
| 12. avoid | l. Make sure or demonstrate that something is true. |
| 13. verify | m. An event or occurrence. |
| 14. trust | n. Make; bring something into existence. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. The article says people can spend decades creating borders. **T / F**
- b. The farmer made Belgium 1,000 square kilometres bigger. **T / F**
- c. The border stone the farmer moved was put there in 1918. **T / F**
- d. The farmer moved the border so he could drive his tractor. **T / F**
- e. The farmer moving the stone sparked a major diplomatic incident. **T / F**
- f. A mayor in Belgium said the situation would take months to put right. **T / F**
- g. The Belgian mayor knows who the farmer is. **T / F**
- h. The French mayor trusts the Belgian mayor. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. creating | a. drama |
| 2. just | b. indicate |
| 3. moved | c. after |
| 4. mark | d. purposes |
| 5. reasons | e. believe in |
| 6. incident | f. only |
| 7. luckily | g. confirm |
| 8. following | h. making |
| 9. verify | i. fortunately |
| 10. trust | j. relocated |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Governments, army leaders | a. between two countries |
| 2. It took him just | b. square meters bigger |
| 3. He made Belgium about 1,000 | c. counterpart |
| 4. The stone the farmer | d. incident |
| 5. drive his tractor | e. relocated |
| 6. Moving the border | f. and diplomats |
| 7. create a major diplomatic | g. the landowner is |
| 8. They avoided an international | h. around his field |
| 9. I still have to verify who | i. crisis |
| 10. I fully trust my Belgian | j. a few minutes |

GAP FILL

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

Governments, (1) _____ leaders and diplomats spend months, years or even (2) _____ creating borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so (3) _____. It took him just a few minutes to change the (4) _____ between Belgium and France. He made Belgium about 1,000 square meters bigger and France about 1,000 (5) _____ meters smaller. How? He moved a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres inside France. A boundary stone shows where the border between two countries or (6) _____ lies. The stone the farmer relocated was laid down in 1819 to (7) _____ the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for political reasons. He did it to make it easier to (8) _____ his tractor around his field.

areas
long
drive
decades
square
army
mark
border

Moving the border between two countries could (9) _____ create a major diplomatic incident or even lead to (10) _____. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the (11) _____ side of this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly (12) _____. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the (13) _____ of Napoleon. The situation should be resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can (14) _____ any troubles. I still have to verify who the landowner is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was (15) _____ next to a tree." The mayor of the town across the border in France said: "I (16) _____ trust my Belgian counterpart, who did what was necessary."

manner
right
avoid
easily
funny
war
defeat
fully

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Governments, army leaders and diplomats spend months, years _____
 - a. or evens decades
 - b. or event decades
 - c. or ever decades
 - d. or even decades
- 2) How? He moved a 150-kilogram _____
 - a. boundary stone
 - b. bound dairy stone
 - c. bound try stone
 - d. bound tree stone
- 3) The farmer did not move the stone _____
 - a. four political reasons
 - b. for political reasons
 - c. afore political reasons
 - d. fore political reasons
- 4) The stone the farmer relocated _____
 - a. was layered down
 - b. was late down
 - c. was lei down
 - d. was laid down
- 5) He did it to make it easier to drive his tractor _____
 - a. around his fjord
 - b. around his field
 - c. around his feared
 - d. around his fired
- 6) Moving the border between two countries could easily create a _____
 - a. majors diplomatic incident
 - b. majorly diplomatic incident
 - c. majored diplomatic incident
 - d. major diplomatic incident
- 7) Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny _____
 - a. aside of this
 - b. side of this
 - c. slide of this
 - d. said of this
- 8) The stone was placed there in 1819 following _____ Napoleon
 - a. the defeat of
 - b. the two feet of
 - c. the different of
 - d. the differed of
- 9) We will find the person who moved the stone so we can _____
 - a. avoidance any troubles
 - b. avoid any troubled
 - c. avoid any troubles
 - d. avoid many troubled
- 10) I fully trust my Belgian counterpart, who did _____
 - a. what was necessary
 - b. what was messy scary
 - c. what was messy
 - d. what was necessarily

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Governments, army leaders and diplomats spend months, years (1) _____ creating borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so long. It took him (2) _____ minutes to change the border between Belgium and France. He made Belgium about 1,000 (3) _____ and France about 1,000 square meters smaller. How? He moved a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres inside France. A boundary (4) _____ the border between two countries or areas lies. The stone the farmer relocated was (5) _____ 1819 to mark the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for political reasons. He did it to make it easier to (6) _____ around his field.

Moving the border between two countries (7) _____ a major diplomatic incident or even lead to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the (8) _____ this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly manner. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following (9) _____ Napoleon. The situation should be resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can (10) _____. I still have to verify who the landowner is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was (11) _____ a tree." The mayor of the town across the border in France said: "I (12) _____ Belgian counterpart, who did what was necessary."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who does the article say makes borders besides army leaders?
2. How long did a farmer take to change the Belgium-France border?
3. How much bigger did the farmer make Belgium?
4. When was the boundary stone initially placed on the border?
5. What did the farmer want to drive around his field?
6. What does the article say moving borders can lead to?
7. What did French and Belgian diplomats see?
8. What does the article say was avoided?
9. Who was defeated before the boundary stone was put in place?
10. Who does the French mayor trust?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Who does the article say makes borders besides army leaders?
 - a) local people
 - b) governments and diplomats
 - c) mapmakers
 - d) foreign ministers
- 2) How long did a farmer take to change the Belgium-France border?
 - a) several seconds
 - b) 28 minutes
 - c) hours
 - d) just a few minutes
- 3) How much bigger did the farmer make Belgium?
 - a) 2,000 square metres
 - b) 1,000 square kilometres
 - c) 1,000 square metres
 - d) 2,000 square kilometres
- 4) When was the boundary stone initially placed on the border?
 - a) 1819
 - b) 1918
 - c) 1181
 - d) 1191
- 5) What did the farmer want to drive around his field?
 - a) his car
 - b) his tractor
 - c) his combine harvester
 - d) his quad bike
- 6) What does the article say moving borders can lead to?
 - a) war
 - b) better relations
 - c) fairness
 - d) much discussion
- 7) What did French and Belgian diplomats see?
 - a) nothing
 - b) a field
 - c) the funny side
 - d) a stone
- 8) What does the article say was avoided?
 - a) an international crisis
 - b) days of talks
 - c) endless talks
 - d) a war
- 9) Who was defeated before the boundary stone was put in place?
 - a) two mayors
 - b) a mayor
 - c) a soccer team
 - d) Napoleon
- 10) Who does the French mayor trust?
 - a) the farmer
 - b) the French people
 - c) the Belgian mayor
 - d) the Belgian people

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Wall

You think a wall is the best kind of border. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their borders. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a militarized zone, a hedge or a mountain range.

Role B – Militarized Zone

You think a militarized zone is the best kind of border. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their borders. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a wall, a hedge or a mountain range.

Role C – Hedge

You think a hedge is the best kind of border. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their borders. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a militarized zone, a wall or a mountain range.

Role D – Mountain Range

You think a mountain range is the best kind of border. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their borders. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a militarized zone, a hedge or a wall.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

farmer	border
---------------	---------------

- 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">• army• long• change• smaller• 2.29• mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• major• funny• manner• defeat• avoid• tree
--	--

BORDERS SURVEY

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

BORDERS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'farmer'?
3. What borders does your country have?
4. Are borders a good idea?
5. How did people draw borders in the past?
6. What are the world's most problematic borders?
7. What do you think of the farmer moving the border?
8. How secure are your country's borders?
9. What do you think of border walls?
10. Would the world be better without borders?

Farmer accidentally moves Belgium-France border – 8th May, 2021
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BORDERS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'border'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why do countries have borders?
15. How do you feel when you cross a border into another country?
16. What international crises are there now because of border disputes?
17. What is the most problematic border dispute today?
18. Would you like to change your country's borders?
19. Would you like to be a border guard?
20. What questions would you like to ask the farmer?

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

Governments, army (1) _____ and diplomats spend months, years or even (2) _____ creating borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so long. It took him just (3) _____ 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 (4) _____. How? He moved a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres inside France. A boundary stone shows where the border between two countries or areas (5) _____. The stone the farmer relocated was laid down in 1819 to mark the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for (6) _____ reasons. He did it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his field.

Moving the border between two countries could (7) _____ create a major diplomatic incident or even lead to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny (8) _____ of this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly (9) _____. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the (10) _____ of Napoleon. The situation should be resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles. I still have to (11) _____ who the landowner is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was right next to a tree." The mayor of the town across the border in France said: "I (12) _____ trust my Belgian counterpart, who did what was necessary."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) leadership | (b) leaders | (c) leader | (d) ladders |
| 2. | (a) arcades | (b) decades | (c) escapes | (d) spades |
| 3. | (a) some | (b) the | (c) only | (d) a |
| 4. | (a) smallest | (b) smaller | (c) smalls | (d) small |
| 5. | (a) liars | (b) lice | (c) lines | (d) lies |
| 6. | (a) politically | (b) politics | (c) political | (d) politician |
| 7. | (a) easily | (b) do | (c) crazy | (d) danger |
| 8. | (a) top | (b) bottom | (c) side | (d) inside |
| 9. | (a) behave | (b) etiquette | (c) polite | (d) manner |
| 10. | (a) defeat | (b) beat | (c) winner | (d) victorious |
| 11. | (a) verify | (b) Spotify | (c) nifty | (d) terrify |
| 12. | (a) fully | (b) full | (c) fullest | (d) full up |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. army leaders and atmlsdiop
2. months, years or even eescadd
3. He moved a 150-kilogram rbayodnu stone
4. The stone the farmer teocerald
5. move the stone for iocapltil reasons
6. drive his tcoatrr around his field

Paragraph 2

7. They idodeva an international crisis
8. in a friendly rneamn
9. following the eedfat of Napoleon
10. I still have to reyifyv who the landowner is
11. The yamor of the town across the border
12. did what was cearenyss

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () troubles. I still have to verify who the landowner is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was
- () border between Belgium and France. He made Belgium about 1,000 square meters
- () laid down in 1819 to mark the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for political
- (**1**) Governments, army leaders and diplomats spend months, years or even decades creating borders between
- () bigger and France about 1,000 square meters smaller. How? He moved a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres inside France. A boundary
- () countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so long. It took him just a few minutes to change the
- () Moving the border between two countries could easily create a major diplomatic incident or even lead
- () manner. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the defeat
- () reasons. He did it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his field.
- () of Napoleon. The situation should be resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any
- () in France said: "I fully trust my Belgian counterpart, who did what was necessary."
- () stone shows where the border between two countries or areas lies. The stone the farmer relocated was
- () to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny side of this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly
- () before. It was right next to a tree." The mayor of the town across the border

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. years spend borders . or even creating Diplomats decades
2. farmer A need Belgium so didn't in long .
3. took a change . It him few minutes to
4. for didn't the move He political reasons . stone
5. to his made tractor . easier drive He it
6. in a a friendly They manner . crisis avoided
7. person the who the moved We'll find stone .
8. the verify who is . I have to landowner
9. stone know before . the where We was exactly
10. across border . of the town the The mayor

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Governments, army *leader / leaders* and diplomats spend months, years or even decades creating borders between countries. A farmer *on / in* Belgium did not need so long. It took him just *a / the* few minutes to change the border between Belgium and France. He *did / made* Belgium about 1,000 square meters bigger and France about 1,000 square meters *small / smaller*. How? He *moved / amassed* a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres *inside / inner* France. A boundary stone shows where the border between two countries or areas *liars / lies*. The stone the farmer relocated was laid down in 1819 *to / for* mark the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for political reasons. He did it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his *kingdom / field*.

Moving the border between two countries could easily *unzip / create* a major diplomatic incident or even *steel / lead* to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the *ha-ha / funny* side of this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly *polite / manner*. The mayor *of / off* the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the *defeat / beat* of Napoleon. The situation should *be / being* resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles. I still have to verify who the landowner *be / is*." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was *right / left* next to a tree." The mayor of the town across the border in France said: "I *full / fully* trust my Belgian counterpart, who did what was necessary."

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

G_v_rnm_nts, _rmy l__d_rs _nd d_pl_m_ts sp_nd
m_nths, y__rs _r _v_n d_c_d_s cr__t_ng b_rdr_s
b_tw__n c__ntr__s. _ f_rm_r _n B_lg__m d_d n_t n__d
s_ l_ng. _t t__k h_m j_st _ f_w m_n_t_s t_ ch_ng_
th_ b_rdr_ b_tw__n B_lg__m _nd Fr_nc_. H_ m_d_
B_lg__m _b__t 1,000 sq__r_ m_t_rs b_gg_r _nd Fr_nc_
_b__t 1,000 sq__r_ m_t_rs sm_ll_r. H_w? H_ m_v_d _
150-k_l_gr_m b__nd_ry st_n_ 2.29 m_tr_s _ns_d_
Fr_nc_. _ b__nd_ry st_n_ sh_ws wh_r_ th_ b_rdr_
b_tw__n tw_ c__ntr__s _r _r__s l__s. Th_ st_n_ th_
f_rm_r r_l_c_t_d w_s l__d d_wn _n 1819 t_ m_rk th_
Fr_nch-B_lg__n b_rdr_. Th_ f_rm_r d_d n_t m_v_ th_
st_n_ f_r p_l_t_c_l r__s_ns. H_ d_d _t t_ m_k_ _t
__s__r t_ dr_v_ h_s tr_ct_r _r__nd h_s f__ld.

M_v_ng th_ b_rdr_ b_tw__n tw_ c__ntr__s c__ld __s_ly
cr__t_ _ m_j_r d_pl_m_t_c _nc_d_nt _r _v_n l__d t_
w_r. L_ck_ly, d_pl_m_ts _n B_lg__m _nd Fr_nc_ s_w
th_ f_nny s_d_ _f th_s. Th_y _v__d_d _n _nt_rn_t__n_l
cr_s_s _n _ fr__ndly m_nn_r. Th_ m_y_r _f th_
B_lg__n t_wn s__d: "Th_ st_n_ w_s pl_c_d th_r_ _n
1819 f_ll_w_ng th_ d_f__t _f N_p_l__n. Th_ s_t__t__n
sh__ld b_ r_s_lv_d t_m_rr_w. W_ w_ll f_nd th_ p_rs_n
wh_ m_v_d th_ st_n_ s_ w_ c_n _v__d _ny tr__bl_s.
_ st_ll h_v_ t_ v_r_fy wh_ th_ l_nd_wn_r _s." Th_
m_y_r _dd_d: "W_ kn_w _x_ctly wh_r_ th_ st_n_ w_s
b_f_r_. _t w_s r_ght n_xt t_ _ tr__." Th_ m_y_r _f
th_ t_wn _cr_ss th_ b_rdr_ _n Fr_nc_ s__d: "_ f_lly
tr_st my B_lg__n c__nt_rprt, wh_ d_d wh_t w_s
n_c_ss_ry."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

governments army leaders and diplomats spend months years or even decades creating borders between countries a farmer in belgium did not need so long it took him just a few minutes to change the border between belgium and france he made belgium about 1000 square meters bigger and france about 1000 square meters smaller how he moved a 150kilogram boundary stone 229 metres inside france a boundary stone shows where the border between two countries or areas lies the stone the farmer relocated was laid down in 1819 to mark the frenchbelgian border the farmer did not move the stone for political reasons he did it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his field

moving the border between two countries could easily create a major diplomatic incident or even lead to war luckily diplomats in belgium and france saw the funny side of this they avoided an international crisis in a friendly manner the mayor of the belgian town said the stone was placed there in 1819 following the defeat of napoleon the situation should be resolved tomorrow we will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles i still have to verify who the landowner is the mayor added we know exactly where the stone was before it was right next to a tree the mayor of the town across the border in france said i fully trust my belgian counterpart who did what was necessary

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Governments, army leaders and diplomats spend months, years or even decades creating borders between countries. A farmer in Belgium did not need so long. It took him 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. How? He moved a 150-kilogram boundary stone 2.29 metres inside France. A boundary stone shows where the border between two countries or areas lies. The stone the farmer relocated was laid down in 1819 to mark the French-Belgian border. The farmer did not move the stone for political reasons. He did it to make it easier to drive his tractor around his field. Moving the border between two countries could easily create a major diplomatic incident or even lead to war. Luckily, diplomats in Belgium and France saw the funny side of this. They avoided an international crisis in a friendly manner. The mayor of the Belgian town said: "The stone was placed there in 1819 following the defeat of Napoleon. The situation should be resolved tomorrow. We will find the person who moved the stone so we can avoid any troubles. I still have to verify who the landowner is." The mayor added: "We know exactly where the stone was before. It was right next to a tree." The mayor of the town across the border in France said: "I fully trust my Belgian counterpart, who did what was necessary."

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **borders** 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 story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BORDERS: Make a poster about borders. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NO BORDERS: Write a magazine article about erasing all borders between countries. 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 borders. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. c 6. e 7. a
8. n 9. k 10. m 11. h 12. i 13. l 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. f	3. j	4. b	5. d
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. g	10. e

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Governments and diplomats
- Just a few minutes
- 1,000 square metres
- 1819
- His tractor
- War
- The funny side
- An international crisis
- Napoleon
- The Belgian mayor

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- Diplomats spend years or even decades creating borders.
- A farmer in Belgium didn't need so long.
- It took him a few minutes to change.
- He didn't move the stone for political reasons.
- He made it easier to drive his tractor.
- They avoided a crisis in a friendly manner.
- We'll find the person who moved the stone.
- I have to verify who the landowner is.
- We know exactly where the stone was before.
- The mayor of the town across the border.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)