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Level 2

Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence

12th August, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-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/1508/150812-singapore-2.html>

Singapore has celebrated its fiftieth birthday. It became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The high point of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in Singapore. Thousands of people gathered in the streets. The country has been counting down since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty-year birthday. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special message to the nation. He said: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children."

Singapore has come a long way in the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia. It was very poor back then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year. There was an empty seat for him at the parade. Singapore is the fourth most important global financial centre. It is the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee did not live long enough to see the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year."

Sources: <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/ndp-2015--50-years-and-counting-143325681.html>
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singaporeans-celebrate-50th-national-day-with-nostalgic-and-touching-parade-at-the-padang>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-33815132>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. celebrated its | a. country |
| 2. It became an independent | b. better for ourselves |
| 3. The high point | c. in the streets |
| 4. the largest fireworks | d. since New Year's Eve |
| 5. Thousands of people gathered | e. fiftieth birthday |
| 6. counting down | f. year birthday |
| 7. mark the fifty- | g. of the celebrations |
| 8. we aspire to do | h. display ever seen |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Singapore has come a long way | a. then |
| 2. It became | b. seat for him at the parade |
| 3. It was very poor back | c. in the past fifty years |
| 4. Lee Kuan Yew made | d. long enough |
| 5. There was an empty | e. independent from Britain |
| 6. important global | f. is missing this year |
| 7. Mr Lee did not live | g. Singapore wealthy |
| 8. definitely feel that something | h. financial centre |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-2.html>

Singapore (1) _____ fiftieth birthday. It became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. (2) _____ celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in Singapore. Thousands (3) _____ in the streets. The country has been counting down since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of (4) _____ fifty-year birthday. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special message to the nation. He said: "The journey (5) _____. But we must press on, because we (6) _____ for ourselves and our children."

Singapore has (7) _____ in the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain (8) _____ out of the Federation of Malaysia. It was very (9) _____ the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He (10) _____ year. There was an empty seat for him at the parade. Singapore is the fourth most important (11) _____. It is the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee did not live long enough to see the anniversary. She said: "We (12) _____ something is missing this year."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150812-singapore-2.html>

Singapore has celebrated its fiftieth birthday. It became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The high point of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in Singapore. Thousands of people gathered in the streets. The country has been counting down since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty-year birthday. Singapore's Prime Minister gave a special message to the nation. He said: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children." Singapore has come a long way in the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia. It was very poor back then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year. There was an empty seat for him at the parade. Singapore is the fourth most important global financial centre. It is the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee did not live long enough to see the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year."

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)

Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence – 12th August, 2015
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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)
