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**Level 6 – 23rd May, 2019**

## **Billionaire to pay off student debt for class of 2019**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

University students receiving their diplomas at a college in the USA got the surprise of their lives during their commencement ceremony. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were listening to a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, a recipient of an honorary degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended his speech by informing the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be worth about \$40 million.

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he earned an MBA with honors. In the year 2000, he founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which currently manages over \$46 billion in assets. His company made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to commit at least half of their wealth to philanthropic causes. One graduate to benefit from Smith's generosity said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is now no more, added: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college."

Sources: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/billionaire-philanthropist-shocks-morehouse-grads-promising-pay-off/story?id=63137376>  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/who-is-morehouse-billionaire-robert-f-smith/>  
<https://atlantablackstar.com/2019/05/20/billionaire-investor-ceo-robert-smith-shocks-morehouse-graduates-with-promise-to-eliminate-their-student-loan-debt/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. PHILANTHROPISTS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about philanthropists. 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?

diploma / college / surprise / speech / philanthropist / degree / debt / generation / MBA / investment / assets / billionaire / pledge / benefit / generosity / weight / slate

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

**3. GIVING LAW:** Students A **strongly** believe there should be a law that means extremely wealthy people must give to the poor; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. PHILANTHROPY:** Who or what would you pledge money to if you were very rich? Why? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	Who / What?	Why?
The poor		
Medical research		
Charities		
Building renovation		
Local communities		
Education		

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

**6. DEBT:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst kind of debt at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- student loans
- mortgage
- credit card bill
- medical debts
- car loan
- tax debts
- debts to friends
- payday loans

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. diploma        | a. A formal religious or public occasion, typically one celebrating a particular event or anniversary.                      |
| 2. ceremony       | b. A person or thing that receives or is awarded something.   |
| 3. philanthropist | c. Roughly calculated or judged the value, number, quantity, or extent of something.  |
| 4. recipient      | d. A person who helps others by donating a lot of money to good causes.   |
| 5. eliminate      | e. All of the people born and living at about the same time, looked at collectively.  |
| 6. generation     | f. A certificate awarded by an educational establishment to show that someone has successfully completed a course of study. |
| 7. estimated      | g. Completely remove or get rid of something or someone.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. MBA          | h. The action or process of putting money into a project or idea to make a profit.              |
| 9. investment   | i. Property owned by a person or company, regarded as having value and available to meet debts. |
| 10. asset       | j. A fresh start.   |
| 11. pledge      | k. Set yourself on a certain course or policy.  |
| 12. commit      | l. A serious promise to do something.   |
| 13. generosity  | m. Master's (degree) in Business Administration.  |
| 14. clean slate | n. The quality of being kind and giving.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

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

- a. Students at a ceremony were told their loans would be paid off. **T / F**
- b. A philanthropist will pay off the loans of 400 students. **T / F**
- c. The philanthropist said he belonged to the class of 2000. **T / F**
- d. Robert F. Smith's family has been in the USA for eight generations. **T / F**
- e. Robert F. Smith graduated from a business school with an MBA. **T / F**
- f. Robert F. Smith is worth over \$46 billion. **T / F**
- g. The Giving Pledge commits people to give away a tenth of their wealth. **T / F**
- h. A student said he had to put a clean slate on his shoulders. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1. commencement</b>   | a. address     |
| <b>2. philanthropist</b> | b. fresh start |
| <b>3. speech</b>         | c. believed    |
| <b>4. eliminate</b>      | d. set up      |
| <b>5. estimated</b>      | e. benefactor  |
| <b>6. founded</b>        | f. hand over   |
| <b>7. assets</b>         | g. graduation  |
| <b>8. commit</b>         | h. effect      |
| <b>9. impact</b>         | i. property    |
| <b>10. clean slate</b>   | j. get rid of  |

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

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. got the surprise                     | a. and debt                |
| 2. a recipient of an honorary           | b. impact on his life      |
| 3. he would pay off their student loans | c. about \$40 million      |
| 4. On behalf of the eight generations   | d. honors                  |
| 5. estimated to be worth                | e. your shoulders          |
| 6. he earned an MBA with                | f. coming out of college   |
| 7. commit at least half of their wealth | g. of their lives          |
| 8. have an immeasurable                 | h. to philanthropic causes |
| 9. imagine the weight lifted off        | i. degree                  |
| 10. have a clean slate                  | j. of my family            |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

University students receiving their diplomas at a college in the USA got the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of their lives during their commencement ceremony. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of an honorary degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended his speech by (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ about \$40 million.

*benefit*  
*recipient*  
*grant*  
*worth*  
*surprise*  
*fuel*  
*listening*  
*informing*

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he (9) \_\_\_\_\_ an MBA with honors. In the year 2000, he (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which currently manages over \$46 billion in assets. His company made him a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ -billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ at least half of their wealth to philanthropic (13) \_\_\_\_\_. One graduate to benefit from Smith's (14) \_\_\_\_\_ said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is now no more, added: "Just imagine the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean (16) \_\_\_\_\_ coming out of college."

*causes*  
*weight*  
*earned*  
*multi*  
*slate*  
*generosity*  
*founded*  
*commit*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

- 1) students receiving their diplomas at a college in the USA got the \_\_\_\_\_ lives
  - a. surprise of their
  - b. surprised of their
  - c. surprise off their
  - d. surprise of them
- 2) a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, a recipient \_\_\_\_\_ degree
  - a. of an honored
  - b. of an honor airy
  - c. of an honor rare
  - d. of an honorary
- 3) This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to \_\_\_\_\_ student loans
  - a. eliminated their
  - b. eliminate their
  - c. eliminates their
  - d. elimination their
- 4) we're going to put a little \_\_\_\_\_ bus
  - a. full in your
  - b. feel in your
  - c. fuel in your
  - d. fool in your
- 5) Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 million
  - a. worth about
  - b. worthy about
  - c. worse about
  - d. worst about
- 6) Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. learned an MBA
  - b. yearned an MBA
  - c. earn an MBA
  - d. earned an MBA
- 7) Vista Equity Partners, which currently manages over \$46 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. billion in assists
  - b. billion in assets
  - c. billion in asserts
  - d. billion in ass sets
- 8) sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to commit at least half \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. off their wealth
  - b. on their wealth
  - c. at their wealth
  - d. of their wealth
- 9) One graduate to benefit from Smith's generosity said it would have an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in measurable impact
  - b. immeasurable impact
  - c. in measure a ball impact
  - d. immeasurably impact
- 10) Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a clean state
  - b. a clean skate
  - c. a clean spate
  - d. a clean slate

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

University students (1) \_\_\_\_\_ at a college in the USA got the surprise of their (2) \_\_\_\_\_ commencement ceremony. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were listening to a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ an honorary degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended his speech by informing the 400 students that he would pay off their student (4) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added: "(5) \_\_\_\_\_ the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 million.

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he earned an MBA with honors. In the year 2000, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ investment company Vista Equity Partners, which currently manages over \$46 (8) \_\_\_\_\_. His company made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ half of their wealth to philanthropic causes. One (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from Smith's generosity said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is (11) \_\_\_\_\_, added: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ coming out of college."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

1. Where were the students when they got the surprise of their lives?
2. What was the philanthropist Robert F. Smith a recipient of?
3. How many students will have their loan paid by Robert F. Smith?
4. For how many generations has Robert F. Smith's family been in the USA?
5. How much will repaying the loans cost Robert F. Smith?
6. Where did Robert F. Smith get his MBA from?
7. When did Robert F. Smith start his company Vista Equity Partners?
8. What initiative did Robert F. Smith sign up to?
9. How much of his wealth did Robert F. Smith sign up to giving away?
10. What did a student say had been lifted from his shoulders?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

- 1) Where were the students when they got the surprise of their lives?
  - a) at home
  - b) in a lecture
  - c) a commencement ceremony
  - d) in Hawaii
- 2) What was the philanthropist Robert F. Smith a recipient of?
  - a) an honorary degree
  - b) a trophy
  - c) thanks
  - d) lots of e-mail
- 3) How many students will have their loan paid by Robert F. Smith?
  - a) 500
  - b) 400
  - c) 300
  - d) 600
- 4) For how many generations has Robert F. Smith's family been in the USA?
  - a) 5
  - b) 6
  - c) 7
  - d) 8
- 5) How much will repaying the loans cost Robert F. Smith?
  - a) well over \$40 million
  - b) exactly \$40 million
  - c) around \$40 million
  - d) just under \$40 million
- 6) Where did Robert F. Smith get his MBA from?
  - a) Harvard Business School
  - b) Columbia Business School
  - c) MIT
  - d) Morehouse College
- 7) When did Robert F. Smith start his company Vista Equity Partners?
  - a) the year 2001
  - b) the year 2002
  - c) the year 1999
  - d) the year 2000
- 8) What initiative did Robert F. Smith sign up to?
  - a) Philanthropy Today
  - b) the Giving Pledge
  - c) Education For All
  - d) End The Loans
- 9) How much of his wealth did Robert F. Smith sign up to giving away?
  - a) at least a quarter
  - b) at least half
  - c) at least a third
  - d) at least three-quarters
- 10) What did a student say had been lifted from his shoulders?
  - a) a weight
  - b) a friend
  - c) stress
  - d) money

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

## **Role A – Debts to Friends**

You think debts to friends are the worst kind of debts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of debt aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): credit card bills, tax debts or payday loans.

## **Role B – Credit Card Bills**

You think credit card bills are the worst kind of debts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of debt aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): debts to friends, tax debts or payday loans.

## **Role C – Tax Debts**

You think tax debts are the worst kind of debts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of debt aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): credit card bills, debts to friends or payday loans.

## **Role D – Payday Loans**

You think payday loans are the worst kind of debts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of debt aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): credit card bills, tax debts or debts to friends.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

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

student	debt

- 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"><li>• surprise</li><li>• listening</li><li>• ended</li><li>• 400</li><li>• eight</li><li>• fuel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• earned</li><li>• founded</li><li>• assets</li><li>• sign</li><li>• impact</li><li>• clean</li></ul>
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# PHILANTHROPISTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

Write five GOOD questions about philanthropists 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.

# PHILANTHROPISTS 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 'student'?
3. What do you know about philanthropy?
4. What do you think of student loans?
5. What do you remember about your graduation ceremonies?
6. What do you think of Robert F. Smith?
7. What has been the biggest surprise in your life?
8. How will Mr Smith's actions change lives?
9. What philanthropic actions would you take?
10. What advice do you have for Robert F. Smith?

*Billionaire to pay off student debt for class of 2019 – 23rd May, 2019*  
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# PHILANTHROPISTS 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 'debt'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What should billionaires do with their money?
15. How do people become billionaires?
16. Should everyone with money commit to helping the poor?
17. What has had an 'immeasurable impact' on your life?
18. When has a weight been lifted from your shoulders?
19. How can we get more rich people to be philanthropists?
20. What questions would you like to ask Robert F. Smith?

## **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/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

University students (1) \_\_\_\_\_ their diplomas at a college in the USA got the surprise of their lives during their (2) \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were listening to a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of an honorary degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended his speech by (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ about \$40 million.

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he (7) \_\_\_\_\_ an MBA with honors. In the year 2000, he founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which (8) \_\_\_\_\_ manages over \$46 billion in assets. His company made him a (9) \_\_\_\_\_-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to commit (10) \_\_\_\_\_ least half of their wealth to philanthropic causes. One graduate to benefit from Smith's generosity said it would have an "immeasurable impact" (11) \_\_\_\_\_ his life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is now no more, added: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean (12) \_\_\_\_\_ coming out of college."

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

- |     |                  |                 |               |               |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) receive      | (b) receives    | (c) receiving | (d) received  |
| 2.  | (a) commencement | (b) commence    | (c) commences | (d) commenced |
| 3.  | (a) recipient    | (b) aspirant    | (c) competent | (d) lenient   |
| 4.  | (a) informing    | (b) information | (c) informs   | (d) informed  |
| 5.  | (a) grind        | (b) gland       | (c) grand     | (d) grant     |
| 6.  | (a) amount       | (b) cost        | (c) value     | (d) worth     |
| 7.  | (a) earned       | (b) learned     | (c) yearned   | (d) earnestly |
| 8.  | (a) current      | (b) currants    | (c) currency  | (d) currently |
| 9.  | (a) multi        | (b) maxi        | (c) midi      | (d) meta      |
| 10. | (a) up           | (b) at          | (c) as        | (d) to        |
| 11. | (a) to           | (b) on          | (c) of        | (d) as        |
| 12. | (a) slate        | (b) chalk       | (c) debt      | (d) loan      |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. pdolimas at a college in the USA
2. during their commencement ercmenoy
3. a speech from the ilnprthohipast
4. a eiripcent of an honorary degree
5. eight enrgitaoens of my family
6. estimated to be wroth about \$40 million

## Paragraph 2

7. he earned an MBA with nohors
8. over \$46 billion in sesats
9. ommcit at least half of their wealth
10. benefit from Smith's neorgsetiy
11. have an miasrumaelbe impact on his life
12. have a clean lstae

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) to a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, a recipient of an honorary degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended
- ( ) Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he earned an MBA with
- ( ) honors. In the year 2000, he founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which currently manages over
- ( ) benefit from Smith's generosity said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his
- ( ) his speech by informing the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my
- ( ) life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is now no more, added: "Just imagine the
- ( **1** ) University students receiving their diplomas at a college in the USA got the surprise of their lives
- ( ) \$46 billion in assets. His company made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to
- ( ) in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be worth about \$40 million.
- ( ) during their commencement ceremony. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were listening
- ( ) weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college."
- ( ) sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to commit at least half of their wealth to philanthropic causes. One graduate to
- ( ) family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight
- ( ) generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

1. their receiving college . students at a University diplomas
2. to speech a Listening from the philanthropist .
3. recipient honorary an of degree A from Morehouse .
4. pay their off would He student loans .
5. behalf of eight generations of On my family .
6. founded company investment the Vista He Equity Partners .
7. company made His a him multi-billionaire .
8. of Commit wealth their half to philanthropic causes .
9. graduate to benefit One Smith's from generosity .
10. the Just lifted weight imagine off your shoulders .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

University students receiving their diplomas at a college in the USA got the surprise *of / in* their lives during their commencement *ceremonial / ceremony*. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were *listened / listening* to a speech from the *philanthropist / philanthropy* Robert F. Smith, a recipient of an *honor / honorary* degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended his speech by *informed / informing* the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt. He said: "This is my *class / classification*, 2019, and my family is making a *grant / grand* to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On *half / behalf* of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be *worth / value* about \$40 million.

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he *earned / learned* an MBA with *honors / honorable*. In the year 2000, he *founded / found* the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which *currently / currency* manages over \$46 billion in *asserts / assets*. His company made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to *commit / remit* at least half of their wealth to philanthropic *cause / causes*. One graduate to benefit from Smith's generosity said it would have an "immeasurable *impart / impact*" on his life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is now no more, added: "Just imagine the *wait / weight* lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean *chalk / slate* coming out of college."

**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/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

U n\_v\_r s\_t y s t\_d\_n t s r\_c\_\_ v\_n g t h\_\_ r d\_p  
l\_m\_s \_t \_ c\_l\_l\_g\_ \_n t h\_ U S A g\_t t h\_ s\_r p\_r\_s\_  
\_f t h\_\_ r l\_v\_s d\_r\_n g t h\_\_ r c\_m m\_n c\_m\_n t  
c\_r\_m\_n y . S t\_d\_n t s \_t M\_r\_h\_\_ s\_ C\_l\_l\_g\_ \_n A t  
l\_n t\_ , G\_\_ r g\_\_ w\_r\_ l\_s t\_n\_n g t\_\_ s p\_\_ c h f  
r\_m t h\_ p h\_l\_n t h\_r\_p\_s t R\_b\_r t F . S m\_t h , \_  
r\_c\_p\_\_ n t \_f \_n h\_n\_r\_r y d\_g\_r\_\_ f r\_m M\_r\_h\_\_  
s\_ . M r S m\_t h \_n\_d\_d h\_s s p\_\_ c h b\_y \_n f\_r m\_n  
g t h\_ 4 0 0 s t\_d\_n t s t h\_t h\_ w\_\_ l d p\_y \_f f  
t h\_\_ r s t\_d\_n t l\_\_ n s \_n\_d d\_b t . H\_ s\_\_ d : " T  
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m\_k\_n g \_ g\_r\_n t t\_l\_m\_n\_t\_ t h\_\_ r s t\_d\_n t l\_\_  
n s . " H\_ \_d\_d\_d : " O n b\_h\_l f \_f t h\_ \_\_ g h t  
g\_n\_r\_t\_\_ n s \_f m\_y f\_m\_l\_y w\_h\_ h\_v\_ b\_\_ n \_n t  
h\_s c\_\_ n t r y , w'\_r\_ g\_\_ n g t\_ p\_t \_ l\_t t l\_ f\_\_  
l \_n y\_\_ r b\_s . " M r S m\_t h 's k\_n d n\_s s \_s \_s  
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R\_b\_r t F . S m\_t h , 5 6 , g\_r\_d\_\_ t\_d f r\_m C\_l\_m  
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A w\_t h h\_n\_r s . I n t h\_ y\_\_ r 2 0 0 0 , h\_ f\_\_ n  
d\_d t h\_ \_n v\_s t m\_n t c\_m p\_n y V\_s t\_ E q\_\_ t y  
P\_r t n\_r s , w\_h\_c h c\_r r\_n t l\_y m\_n\_g\_s \_v\_r \$ 4 6  
b\_l l\_\_ n \_n \_s s\_t s . H\_s c\_m p\_n y m\_d\_ h\_m \_  
m\_l t\_ - b\_l l\_\_ n\_\_ r\_ . M r S m\_t h w\_s t h\_ f\_r s t  
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w\_h\_r\_ p\_\_ p\_l\_ p\_r\_m\_s\_ t\_ c\_m m\_t \_t l\_\_ s t h\_l f  
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n\_ g\_r\_d\_\_ t\_ t\_ b\_n\_f\_t f r\_m S m\_t h 's g\_n\_r\_s\_t  
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" \_n h\_s l\_f\_ . D w\_y t t L\_w\_s , 2 1 , w\_h\_s\_ \$ 1 5  
0 , 0 0 0 l\_\_ n \_s n\_w \_n m\_r\_ , \_d\_d\_d : " J\_s t  
\_m\_g\_n\_ t h\_ w\_\_ g h t l\_f t\_d \_f f y\_\_ r s h\_\_ l d\_r  
s w\_h\_n y\_\_ h\_v\_\_ \_ c\_l\_\_ n s l\_t\_ c\_m\_n g \_\_ t \_f  
c\_l\_l\_g\_ . "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

university students receiving their diplomas at a college in the usa got the surprise of their lives during their commencement ceremony students at morehouse college in atlanta georgia were listening to a speech from the philanthropist robert f smith a recipient of an honorary degree from morehouse mr smith ended his speech by informing the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt he said this is my class 2019 and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans he added on behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country were going to put a little fuel in your bus mr smiths kindness is estimated to be worth about 40 million

robert f smith 56 graduated from columbia business school where he earned an mba with honors in the year 2000 he founded the investment company vista equity partners which currently manages over 46 billion in assets his company made him a multibillionaire mr smith was the first africanamerican to sign the giving pledge where people promise to commit at least half of their wealth to philanthropic causes one graduate to benefit from smiths generosity said it would have an immeasurable impact on his life dwytt lewis 21 whose 150000 loan is now no more added just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist.html>

University students receiving their diplomas at a college in the USA got the surprise of their lives during their commencement ceremony. Students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia were listening to a speech from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith, a recipient of an honorary degree from Morehouse. Mr Smith ended his speech by informing the 400 students that he would pay off their student loans and debt. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus." Mr Smith's kindness is estimated to be worth about \$40 million. Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated from Columbia Business School, where he earned an MBA with honors. In the year 2000, he founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which currently manages over \$46 billion in assets. His company made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge, where people promise to commit at least half of their wealth to philanthropic causes. One graduate to benefit from Smith's generosity said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. Dwytt Lewis, 21, whose \$150,000 loan is now none, added: "Just imagine that weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college."







# 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. PHILANTHROPISTS:** Make a poster about philanthropists. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. FREE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION:** Write a magazine article about all university education being free. 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 philanthropy. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to increase it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. commencement   | a. graduation  |
| 2. philanthropist | b. benefactor  |
| 3. speech         | c. address     |
| 4. eliminate      | d. get rid of  |
| 5. estimated      | e. believed    |
| 6. founded        | f. set up      |
| 7. assets         | g. property    |
| 8. commit         | h. hand over   |
| 9. impact         | i. effect      |
| 10. clean slate   | j. fresh start |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- At a commencement ceremony
- An honorary degree
- Four hundred
- Eight
- Around \$40 million
- Columbia Business School
- The year 2000
- The Giving Pledge
- At least half
- A weight

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- University students receiving their diplomas at a college.
- Listening to a speech from the philanthropist.
- A recipient of an honorary degree from Morehouse.
- He would pay off their student loans.
- On behalf of eight generations of my family.
- He founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners.
- His company made him a multi-billionaire.
- Commit half of their wealth to philanthropic causes.
- One graduate to benefit from Smith's generosity.
- Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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