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Level 3

Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence

12th August, 2015

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on Saturday. The tiny nation became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to celebrate. The country has been counting down to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day message to the nation. He said that Singapore could look forward to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "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 after social unrest. The country was very poor back then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there was an empty seat for him at the parade. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth most important global financial centre and is home to the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the pain in my heart."

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>

WARM-UPS

1. SINGAPORE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Singapore. 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?

fiftieth / birthday / independent / celebrations / fireworks / anniversary / message / a long way / social unrest / wealthy / parade / financial centre / definitely / heart

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

3. MY COUNTRY: Complete this table with your partner(s) and share what you wrote. Change partners often.

	Good things	Bad things
History		
Government		
Flag		
Environment		
People		
Lifestyle		

4. INDEPENDENCE: Students A **strongly** believe more people should get their own country and become independent; Students B **strongly** believe this should not happen. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. CELEBRATE: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to celebrate at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Fireworks
- Street party
- National holiday
- Festivals
- Dinner with friends
- Museum exhibition
- Ice cream
- Music concerts

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Singapore celebrated its 50th anniversary on a Sunday. | T / F |
| b. A fireworks display was the biggest the world has even seen. | T / F |
| c. The anniversary countdown started on New Year's Eve. | T / F |
| d. Singapore's leader said the country looked forward to new perks. | T / F |
| e. Singapore was thrown out of a Malaysia-based group. | T / F |
| f. There was an empty seat was for the founding PM of Singapore. | T / F |
| g. Singapore is the world's fourth most important financial centre. | T / F |
| h. A woman said she had a pain in her foot because of the anniversary. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. tiny | a. met |
| 2. climax | b. trip |
| 3. gathered | c. rich |
| 4. journey | d. high point |
| 5. aspire | e. passed away |
| 6. past | f. economic |
| 7. wealthy | g. small |
| 8. died | h. certainly |
| 9. financial | i. aim for |
| 10. definitely | j. previous |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. celebrated its | a. independence |
| 2. Tens of | b. back then |
| 3. fifty years since | c. to do better |
| 4. The journey | d. in the past fifty years |
| 5. we aspire | e. in my heart |
| 6. come a long way | f. fiftieth birthday |
| 7. social | g. thousands of people |
| 8. The country was very poor | h. unrest |
| 9. home to the world's | i. ahead |
| 10. feel the pain | j. second busiest port |

GAP FILL

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

Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on Saturday. The tiny (1) _____ became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks (2) _____ ever seen in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people (3) _____ in the streets to celebrate. The country has been counting (4) _____ to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to (5) _____ the fifty years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day (6) _____ to the nation. He said that Singapore could look (7) _____ to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must (8) _____ on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children."

mark
nation
forward
gathered
display
press
down
message

Singapore has come a long way in the (9) _____ fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia after social (10) _____. The country was very poor back then but the leadership of (11) _____ Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there was an (12) _____ seat for him at the parade. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth most important global (13) _____ centre and is home to the world's second busiest (14) _____. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We (15) _____ feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the (16) _____ in my heart."

unrest
financial
past
definitely
empty
founding
pain
port

Level 3

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LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The tiny nation became an independent _____ 8th, 1965
 - a. country on August
 - b. country in August
 - c. country of August
 - d. country at August
- 2) The climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display _____ Singapore
 - a. ever been in
 - b. ever seen in
 - c. ever being in
 - d. ever seeing in
- 3) Tens of thousands of people gathered in the _____
 - a. streets too celebrate
 - b. streets for celebrate
 - c. streets of celebrate
 - d. streets to celebrate
- 4) The country has been counting down to this anniversary _____ Eve
 - a. from New Year's
 - b. since New Year's
 - c. then New Year's
 - d. before New Year's
- 5) But we must press on, because we aspire _____
 - a. to do better
 - b. to put better
 - c. to my better
 - d. to done better
- 6) Singapore has come a long way in the _____
 - a. past fifteen years
 - b. past fifties years
 - c. past fiftieth years
 - d. past fifty years
- 7) He died earlier this year but there was an empty seat for _____
 - a. him sat the parade
 - b. him at the parade
 - c. him mat the parade
 - d. him that the parade
- 8) the fourth most important global financial centre and is home to the world's _____
 - a. second busy port
 - b. second busiest port
 - c. second busier port
 - d. second busiest sport
- 9) Mr Lee could not live long enough to _____ anniversary
 - a. be on the
 - b. be at the
 - c. be of the
 - d. be that the
- 10) We definitely feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the _____
 - a. pain in my heart
 - b. pain on my heart
 - c. pain to my heart
 - d. pain by my heart

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Singapore (1) _____ birthday on Saturday. The tiny nation became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks (2) _____ in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered (3) _____ celebrate. The country has been counting down to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events (4) _____ years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day message to the nation. He said that Singapore (5) _____ to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because (6) _____ better for ourselves and our children."

Singapore has come (7) _____ the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia (8) _____. The country was very poor back then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there (9) _____ for him at the parade. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth (10) _____ financial centre and is home to the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not (11) _____ to be at the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. On what day of the week was the anniversary?

2. How many people gathered in the streets?

3. When did the countdown to the anniversary begin?

4. What did the Prime Minister say Singapore could look forward to?

5. What did the Prime Minister say about the journey ahead?

6. Where has Singapore come in the last 50 years?

7. Why was Singapore thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia?

8. Where is the world's fourth largest financial centre?

9. Where is the world's second busiest port?

10. Where did a woman say she felt pain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. On what day of the week was the anniversary?
 - a) Monday
 - b) Sunday
 - c) Saturday
 - d) Friday
2. How many people gathered in the streets?
 - a) tens of thousands
 - b) hundreds of thousands
 - c) tens of millions
 - d) hundreds of millions
3. When did the countdown to the anniversary begin?
 - a) Jan 31
 - b) Feb 1
 - c) March 31
 - d) July 1
4. What did the Prime Minister say Singapore could look forward to?
 - a) new parks
 - b) new peaks
 - c) new perks
 - d) new packs
5. What did the Prime Minister say about the journey ahead?
 - a) it was bumpy
 - b) it was exciting
 - c) it would be difficult
 - d) it was uncharted
6. Where has Singapore come in the last 50 years?
 - a) via India
 - b) a long way
 - c) to South-East Asia
 - d) next door
7. Why was Singapore thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia?
 - a) social unrest
 - b) war
 - c) not following rules
 - d) money
8. Where is the world's fourth largest financial centre?
 - a) New York
 - b) Tokyo
 - c) Singapore
 - d) Dubai
9. Where is the world's second busiest port?
 - a) Dubai
 - b) Shanghai
 - c) New York
 - d) Singapore
10. Where did a woman say she felt pain?
 - a) her heart
 - b) her brain
 - c) her foot
 - d) her back

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Fireworks

You think fireworks is the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music concerts, street parties are or a national holiday.

Role B – Music concerts

You think music concerts are the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): fireworks, street parties are or a national holiday.

Role C – Street parties

You think street parties are the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music concerts, fireworks or a national holiday.

Role D – A National holiday

You think a national holiday is the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music concerts, street parties are or fireworks.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

tiny	nation
-------------	---------------

- 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">• 1965• ever• people• since• special• children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• past• poor• earlier• empty• sad• pain
---	--

SINGAPORE SURVEY

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

Write five GOOD questions about Singapore 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.

SINGAPORE DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Singapore'?
- 3) What do you know about Singapore?
- 4) What do you know about your country's independence?
- 5) What happens on your country's national day?
- 6) How proud are you of your country?
- 7) Should there be more countries in the world?
- 8) What important anniversaries are there in your country?
- 9) What is the 'journey ahead' for your country?
- 10) What does your country aspire to do?

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SINGAPORE DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How has your country changed in the past 50 years?
- 13) What social unrest has there been in your country?
- 14) How could your country become more wealthy?
- 15) Who is the greatest leader your country has had?
- 16) Why is your country important in the world?
- 17) How do you feel when you hear the name of your country?
- 18) What are the bad things about your country?
- 19) What is the saddest part of your country's history?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask Singapore's leader?

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

Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on Saturday. The (1) _____ nation became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The (2) _____ of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to (3) _____. The country has been counting down to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to (4) _____ the fifty years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day message to the nation. He said that Singapore could look forward to "new (5) _____" ahead. He added that: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because we (6) _____ to do better for ourselves and our children."

Singapore has come a (7) _____ way in the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia after social unrest. The country was very poor (8) _____ then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew (9) _____ Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there was an empty seat for him at the (10) _____. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth most important global financial centre and is (11) _____ to the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year, and I (12) _____ feel the pain in my heart."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) nano | (b) tiny | (c) micro | (d) beta |
| 2. | (a) relax | (b) climax | (c) apex | (d) maximum |
| 3. | (a) celebration | (b) celebrates | (c) celebrating | (d) celebrate |
| 4. | (a) make | (b) mark | (c) market | (d) Mach |
| 5. | (a) packs | (b) parks | (c) perks | (d) peaks |
| 6. | (a) respire | (b) conspire | (c) aspire | (d) inspire |
| 7. | (a) long | (b) lengthy | (c) longish | (d) longevity |
| 8. | (a) past | (b) after | (c) back | (d) pre |
| 9. | (a) being | (b) had | (c) did | (d) made |
| 10. | (a) parade | (b) charade | (c) unmade | (d) tirade |
| 11. | (a) home | (b) house | (c) resident | (d) accommodation |
| 12. | (a) still | (b) yet | (c) much | (d) many |

Level 3

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SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. an nenpietendd country
2. The climax of the rletanioescb
3. uaohstnsd of people
4. a spiecla National Day message
5. The ueyjorn ahead
6. we peaisr to do better

Paragraph 2

7. ialcos unrest
8. Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore hlewyat
9. inlncfiaa centre
10. the world's second tssuieb port
11. live long gohneu
12. We ltyfdieein feel that

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () nation. He said that Singapore could look forward to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "The journey ahead is
- () seen in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to celebrate. The country has been counting
- () country on August 8th, 1965. The climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever
- () out of the Federation of Malaysia after social unrest. The country was very poor back then but the leadership of
- () most important global financial centre and is home to the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt
- () Singapore has come a long way in the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown
- () empty seat for him at the parade. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth
- () since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day message to the
- (**1**) Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on Saturday. The tiny nation became an independent
- () founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there was an
- () down to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty years
- () feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the pain in my heart."
- () uncharted. But we must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children."
- () sad that Mr Lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We definitely

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. birthday fiftieth its celebrated Singapore Saturday on .

2. in fireworks Singapore display ever The seen largest .

3. of people the Tens of in thousands gathered streets .

4. Events years to since mark independence the fifty .

5. better for ourselves and our children We aspire to do .

6. the in way long a come has Singapore years fifty past .

7. very was country The then back poor .

8. at the parade There was an empty seat for him .

9. centre is most financial It fourth global the important .

10. something that feel definitely We missing is .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Singapore celebrated its *fifty / fiftieth* birthday on Saturday. The tiny nation became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The *climate / climax* of the celebrations was the largest fireworks *display / displayed* ever seen in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to *celebration / celebrate*. The country has been counting down to this anniversary *since / then* New Year's Eve. There have been *hundreds / hundred* of events to *mark / make* the fifty years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong *gave / given* a special National Day message to the nation. He said that Singapore could *looking / look* forward to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press *off / on*, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children."

Singapore has come a long way in the *past / part* fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was *threw / thrown* out of the Federation of Malaysia after social unrest. The country was very poor *past / back* then but the leadership of *founding / finding* Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there was *an / the* empty seat for him at the parade. He made Singapore *into / onto* one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth *most / mostly* important global financial centre and is home to the world's second *busier / busiest* port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not live *long / length* enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We *definitely / definite* feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the pain in my heart."

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

S_n_g_p_r_ c_l_b_r_t_d _ts f_ft__th b_rthd_y _n
S_t_r_d_y. Th_ t_ny n_t__n b_c_m_ _n _nd_p_nd_nt
c__ntry _n __g_st 8th, 1965. Th_ cl_m_x _f th_
c_l_b_r_t__ns w_s th_ l_rg_st f_r_w_rks d_spl_y _v_r
s__n _n S_n_g_p_r_. T_ns _f th__s_nds _f p__pl_
g_th_r_d _n th_ str__ts t_c_l_b_r_t_. Th_ c__ntry h_s
b__n c__nt_ng d_wn t_ th_s _nn_v_rs_ry s_nc_ N_w
Y__r's _v_. Th_r_ h_v_ b__n h_ndr_ds _f _v_nts t_
m_rk th_ f_fty y__rs s_nc_ _nd_p_nd_nc_. S_n_g_p_r_'s
Pr_m_ M_n_st_r L__ Hs__n L__ng g_v_ _ sp_c__l
N_t__n_l D_y m_ss_g_ t_ th_ n_t__n. H_ s__d th_t
S_n_g_p_r_ c__ld l__k f_rw_rd t_ "n_w p__ks" _h__d.
H_ _dd_d th_t: "Th_ j__rn_y _h__d _s_nch_rt_d. B_t
w_m_st pr_ss_n, b_c__s_w_ _sp_r_t_d b_tt_r f_r
__rs_lv_s _nd __r ch_ldr_n."

S_n_g_p_r_ h_s c_m_ _ l_ng w_y _n th_ p_st f_fty
y__rs. _t b_c_m_ _nd_p_nd_nt fr_m Br_t__n wh_n _t
w_s thr_wn __t _f th_ F_d_r_t__n _f M_l_ys__ _ft_r
s_c__l _nr_st. Th_ c__ntry w_s v_ry p__r b_ck th_n b_t
th_ l__d_rsh_p _f f__nd_ng Pr_m_ M_n_st_r L__ K__n
Y_w_m_d_ S_n_g_p_r_ w__lthy. H_ d__d __rl__r th_s
y__r b_t th_r_ w_s _n _mpty s__t f_r h_m _t th_
p_r_d_. H_ m_d_ S_n_g_p_r_ _nt__n _f th_ w_rld's
w__lth__st c__ntr__s. _t _s th_ f__rth m_st _mp_rt_nt
gl_b_l f_n_nc__l c_ntr_ _nd _s h_m_ t_ th_ w_rld's
s_c_nd b_s__st p_rt. _ w_m_n s__d sh_f_lt_s_d th_t
Mr L__ c__ld n_t l_v_ l_ng _n_gh t_ b__t th_
_nn_v_rs_ry. Sh_ s__d: "W_ d_f_n_t_ly f__l th_t
s_m_th_ng _s m_ss_ng th_s y__r, _nd _st_ll f__l th_
p__n _n my h__rt."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on saturday the tiny nation became an independent country on august 8th 1965 the climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in singapore tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to celebrate the country has been counting down to this anniversary since new year's eve there have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty years since independence singapore's prime minister lee hsien loong gave a special national day message to the nation he said that singapore could look forward to "new peaks" ahead he added that "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 after social unrest the country was very poor back then but the leadership of founding prime minister lee kuan yew made singapore wealthy he died earlier this year but there was an empty seat for him at the parade he made singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries it is the fourth most important global financial centre and is home to the world's second busiest port a woman said she felt sad that mr lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary she said "we definitely feel that something is missing this year and i still feel the pain in my heart"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on Saturday. The tiny nation became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The climax of the celebrations was the largest fireworks display ever seen in Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to celebrate. The country has been counting down to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day message to the nation. He said that Singapore could look forward to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "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 after social unrest. The country was very poor back then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died earlier this year but there was an empty seat for him at the parade. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth most important global financial centre and is home to the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the pain in my heart."

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **Singapore** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

It is easy for a good leader to make a country wealthy. Discuss.

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 Singapore. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. INDEPENDENCE: Write a magazine article about independence. Include imaginary interviews with people who think there should be more countries in the world.

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 Singapore. Ask him/her three questions about Singapore. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make it more famous. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. tiny | a. small |
| 2. climax | b. high point |
| 3. gathered | c. met |
| 4. journey | d. trip |
| 5. aspire | e. aim for |
| 6. past | f. previous |
| 7. wealthy | g. rich |
| 8. died | h. passed away |
| 9. financial | i. economic |
| 10. definitely | j. certainly |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Saturday
2. Tens of thousands
3. New Year's Eve
4. New peaks
5. It was uncharted
6. A long way
7. Social unrest
8. Singapore
9. Singapore
10. Her heart

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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