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## **Level 4**

### **Man sells firewood to pay dead wife's medical bills**

**25th November, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

The Internet has rescued an 80-year-old man. He had to sell firewood every day for \$5 a bag to pay for his wife's medical bills. He started last year. His wife of over 30 years helped him. Sadly, she lost her battle against cancer in October. The hospital bill wiped out Mr Smith's life savings. A local woman posted on Facebook to get people to help him. Her post was shared over 9,000 times. People stopped their car to give Mr Smith some money.

Mr Smith's son set up an online appeal. He created a web page and donations came in from all over the world. The online campaign raised \$20,000. The woman said she had no idea people would be so generous. She said: "Although it will not lessen the heartache of losing his wife, I am thankful it will at least take a little worry off of his plate and help him make ends meet." Mr Smith said he is "overwhelmed". He said he feels his wife is looking down on him.

Sources: <http://www.sunherald.com/news/state/mississippi/article116633298.html>  
<http://www.ksla.com/story/33764148/support-pouring-in-for-widower-selling-firewood>  
<http://blogs.mprnews.org/newscut/2016/11/man-sells-firewood-to-pay-dead-wifes-medical-bills/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38081732>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. The Internet has rescued               | a. against cancer     |
| 2. He had to sell                         | b. bills              |
| 3. pay for his wife's medical             | c. life savings       |
| 4. His wife of                            | d. firewood every day |
| 5. Sadly, she lost her battle             | e. on Facebook        |
| 6. The hospital bill wiped out Mr Smith's | f. over 30 years      |
| 7. A local woman posted                   | g. over 9,000 times   |
| 8. Her post was shared                    | h. an 80-year-old man |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr Smith's son set               | a. no idea                 |
| 2. donations came in                | b. raised \$20,000         |
| 3. online campaign                  | c. meet                    |
| 4. The woman said she had           | d. overwhelmed             |
| 5. it will not lessen the heartache | e. up an online appeal     |
| 6. help him make ends               | f. is looking down on him  |
| 7. Mr Smith said he is              | g. from all over the world |
| 8. he feels his wife                | h. of losing his wife      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

The Internet (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 80-year-old man. He had to sell firewood every day for \$5 a bag to pay for his (2) \_\_\_\_\_. He started last year. His wife (3) \_\_\_\_\_ years helped him. Sadly, she (4) \_\_\_\_\_ against cancer in October. The hospital (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Smith's life savings. A local woman posted on Facebook to get people to help him. Her post (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 9,000 times. People stopped their car to give Mr Smith some money.

Mr Smith's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ online appeal. He created a web page and donations (8) \_\_\_\_\_ over the world. The online campaign raised \$20,000. The woman (9) \_\_\_\_\_ people would be so generous. She said: "Although it (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the heartache of losing his wife, I am thankful it will (11) \_\_\_\_\_ little worry off of his plate and help him (12) \_\_\_\_\_." Mr Smith said he is "overwhelmed". He said he feels his wife is looking down on him.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

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# ONLINE CAMPAIGNS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161125-online-campaign-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about online campaigns in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

