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Level 4

Syrian refugee top student in Australia school

15th December, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

A Syrian refugee who couldn't speak English two years ago has passed his high school exams in Australia. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, graduated with top marks. His grades put him in the top 4 per cent of graduates in Melbourne. Saad escaped civil war in Syria to start a new life. He said it was "really hard" in Australia because he could not understand English. He said he is sad for his friends in Syria who have not had the opportunity he has had.

Saad studied English with his cousins in Australia. He also watched a live show on TV. It was politicians asking their prime minister questions about different issues. The show helped his English because: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." Saad said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's revived me and given me a new life."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/38293680/syrian-refugee-gets-top-results-at-australian-school>
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-12/syrian-refugee-tops-year-12-class-with-96.65-atar/8112424>
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/secondary-education-victoria/it-all-started-with-a-shovel-how-one-vce-dux-escaped-a-bloody-war-20161212-gt97tx.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. couldn't speak English | a. for his friends in Syria |
| 2. graduated with | b. two years ago |
| 3. His grades put him in the | c. life |
| 4. Saad escaped civil | d. he has had |
| 5. start a new | e. war in Syria |
| 6. he could not understand | f. top marks |
| 7. He said is sad | g. top 4% of graduates |
| 8. the opportunity | h. English |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Saad studied English | a. minister questions |
| 2. He also watched a live | b. slowly |
| 3. politicians asking their prime | c. issues |
| 4. about different | d. given me a new life |
| 5. persuasive | e. with his cousins |
| 6. They speak | f. say thank you |
| 7. I just want to | g. show on TV |
| 8. It's revived me and | h. language |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

A Syrian (1) _____ speak English two years ago has passed his high school exams in Australia. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, (2) _____ marks. His grades (3) _____ 4 per cent of graduates in Melbourne. Saad escaped civil war in Syria to start a new life. He said it (4) _____ in Australia because he could not understand English. He said (5) _____ his friends in Syria who have not had (6) _____ has had.

Saad studied English (7) _____ in Australia. He also watched (8) _____ TV. It was politicians asking their prime minister questions about (9) _____. The show helped his English because: "They (10) _____, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and (11) _____ the words."

Saad said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me the opportunity. It's revived me (12) _____ new life."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

A Syrian refugee who couldn't speak English two years ago has passed his high school exams in Australia. Saad Al-Kaab, 19, graduated with top marks. His grades put him in the top 4 percent of graduates in Melbourne. Saad escaped civil war in Syria to start a new life. He said it was "really hard" in Australia because he could not understand English. He said he is sad for his friends in Syria who have not had the opportunity he has had. Saad studied English with his cousins in Australia. He also watched a live show on TV. It was politicians asking their prime minister questions about different issues. The show helped his English because: "They use the best, persuasive language in parliament. They speak slowly and you can find the words." Saad said: "I just want to say thank you so much to Australia for giving me this opportunity. It's revived me and given me a new life."

GRADUATION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about graduation 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) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161215-graduation-4.html>

Write about **graduation** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
